

Jericho Community Forums ahead of voting on Town Meeting Day

Citizens will have opportunities for facilitated idea gathering, moderated review of budget
By Beth Esmond

Jericho residents voted at Town Meeting in 2024 to move votes on the Town budget and other important measures to Australian ballot, rather than continuing their tradition of holding a voice vote on the floor during Town Meeting Day. While those present passed the motion to allow more people to have a voice in the Town's spending and planning, many were reluctant to give up the direct democracy and community spirit they experienced at Town Meeting. With the decision to go to Australian ballot — paper voting with the option to vote early or by mail — they also passed a measure allowing for meetings before Town Meeting Day where community members could get together and share input.

Through the work of a task force created after the measure passed, Jericho residents will have several opportunities before the actual Town Meeting Day vote to come together and make their voices heard. The first will occur on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Mount Mansfield Union High School library and on Zoom.

"It was very important to the residents of Jericho that they could continue the tradition of meeting with their neighbors and talking through important issues like town funding," said Gaye Symington, co-chair (with David Barrington) of the group that dubbed itself the "Town Meeting Reimagined" task force. "Our group tried hard to retain what people really valued about Town Meeting Day in other forums, even as we give everyone the opportunity to vote on the final budget, whether or not they're able to attend meetings," she explained.

The task force was inspired by previous Town Plan sessions when creating the format for the hybrid, interactive idea-generating kick-off with a facilitator. On October 5, Jericho residents can expect an interactive mix of presentations, small group discussion, and community-group tabling (plus baked goods from the Jericho Town Library). The program will include general information about the components of Town Meeting, followed by discussion designed to provide input for the Select Board as they enter budget season. Brief presentations include:

- How to provide input on the annual budget;
- How to develop public questions;
- The "Getting It Done" chapter of the Town Plan.

Children are welcome at this event! The task force will have activities in the room to help entertain, and organizers warmly



Stevensville Cabin update: just a quick note to say that the foundation is coming along well. If the weather holds, it will hopefully be complete in the next few weeks. Feel free to go check it out if you are in the area! Also, if you are interested in supporting the project financially, you can do so at: www.stevensville-cabin.org. All contributions are greatly appreciated. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

appreciate that youthful energy may accompany the conversation about Town business.

October won't be the last time Jericho residents get together before the final Town Meeting Day vote in March. At a January 23 session, the Town will once again get to experience the humor and efficiency with which David Barrington has moderated Town Meetings for many years. At the January meeting, the Select Board will present a budget and questions for discussion that they create with input from the October 5 meeting and Barrington will engage citizens in a line-by-line review and solicit input once again.

"This discussion will mirror what we used to do on Town Meeting Day, but will allow for citizens to participate virtually," Barrington noted. "We hope this meeting will give people in Jericho the chance to discuss town business as a community,

while letting every voice be heard and every vote counted."

At-a-glance schedule for Town Meetings in Jericho, 2024:

- Saturday, October 5 — idea-gathering
- Thursday, January 23 — line-by-line discussion
- Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Australian (paper) ballot vote

Westford October 3 public hearing to consider town charter changes

From Holly Delisle, Westford Town Administrator

The Selectboard of the Town of Westford will hold two public hearings on a petitioned-for proposal to amend Section 3 of the Town of Westford Charter. The Second Public Hearing will be held both in person and via Zoom on Thursday, October 3, beginning at 6:15 – 8:10 PM at Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford. Town officials will again be present to discuss and answer questions regarding the charter amendment proposal. Note that the Selectboard does not have authority to revise a charter amendment proposal made by petition, other than to make technical corrections.

To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88029303094?pwd=PqJbxxKCSw283HbhW41hDwoZEp9bzP.1>, Meeting ID: 880 2930 3094 - Passcode: wgt5Bn; OR dial +1 646 558 8656 – Meeting ID: 880 2930 3094 – Passcode: 231833.

After the two public hearings, the petitioned charter amendment proposal will go to the voters to vote by Australian ballot on Tuesday November 5, 2024, at the Westford Elementary School.

The substantive provisions of the petitioned-for charter proposal would add that the following offices be filled by Selectboard appointment: Town Treasurer, listers or an assessor, Delinquent Tax Collector, cemetery commissioners, and Town Clerk. The petition also specifies guidelines that, for some positions, call for the formation of a nominating committee of one Selectboard member, two justices of the peace, and two residents.

Westford Special Town Meeting October 22

From Holly Delisle, Westford Town Administrator

Westford will hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at the Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford, 6:15 – 8:00 PM, to act on an article from the floor that proposes to use \$150,000 from the unassigned general fund balance to assist in purchasing the roughly 3.2-acre property located at 1705 VT Rt. 128 from the Pigeon Family Living Trust.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mailed ballots to reach voters by October 4

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

This is reminder that the Vermont Secretary of State's office will be automatically mailing ballots to all active voters in Vermont. Ballots should arrive by Friday, October 4.

Please note: if, since September 9, you've moved to a new town, changed your address within the town you currently reside in, or are a new voter, you will need to request a ballot and complete an Affidavit prior to receiving a ballot. The Affidavit states that you have not received a ballot from another town and that you have not cast a ballot anywhere else. To check on the status of where your ballot will be mailed, please visit the My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>) at the Secretary of State's website.

Also, many like to come to the polls to cast their ballot in person, with that, you are required to bring the mailed ballot with you. Please do not destroy the ballot. If you do not bring the ballot, you will be required to sign an Affidavit.

Please contact Sherri Morin with any questions: smorin@underhillvt.gov or 802-899-4434.

Local calendars coming soon

By Julia Blake, Jericho

The 2025 calendar from the Community Center in Jericho (CCJ) will hit the stores the first week of October! The topic this year is Sky and Weather, and there are 17 beautiful photos in color (13 are 8"x11" and four are smaller.) It's a fund-raiser for the CCJ so please consider it for gifts, yourself, a friend, whoever.

The cost is \$20, and it helps keeps the CCJ going full steam. The CCJ committee received over 60 photos from local photographers, and it was very hard to choose only 17. We are very grateful to those who submitted photos, and also to Conor Lahiff who did the technical work for creating the calendar, and also to the places who are willing to handle sales. Look for the beautiful calendar soon.

Two new ways to stay informed — Town of Underhill

By Amanda Bosley, Underhill Assessor

The Town of Underhill wanted to let everyone know that we now have two new ways to notify our residents and neighbors of official town events.

First, we have an email/text notification system. We will be using this primarily for road closures; both planned and unplanned and for emergency situations. To sign up for these alerts, please go to <https://www.underhillvt.gov> — Resources — Notifications. You will need to create an account and then choose if you would like to receive email, texts, or both.

Second, we now have an official Town of Underhill Facebook page! We will be posting information on meetings, hearings, job openings, road closures and much more! Click this link to like our new page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565704899902>.

Please contact Amanda Bosley, abosley@underhillvt.gov or 802-899-4434 ext.3, with any questions or concerns

Westford Selectboard to hold public hearing on zoning October 10

From Holly Delisle, Westford Town Administrator

The Town of Westford Selectboard will hear public comments concerning "Interim Bylaws for the R5 Zoning District" on Thursday, October 10, 6:15 – 7:00 PM at the Westford Town Office, 1713 VT Rt. 128, Westford or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84970039345?pwd=YXVZZTBmb1BuOVh0dmdhajZuYmx3Zz09>, Meeting ID: 849 7003 9345 - Passcode: iT8TNR; OR dial +1 646 558 8656 – Meeting ID: 849 7003 9345 – Passcode: 410760.

The Town is proposing to amend the Westford Land Use & Development Regulations to allow for development "to

protect the general welfare and provide for orderly physical and economic growth of the Town of Westford in the Rural 3 Zoning District," intended to facilitate development requiring approval by the Development Review Board within this district.

The changes would allow for development to meet Planning & Design Standards by attaining points in a scoring system. Copies of the full text of the proposed amendment to the Westford Zoning Regulations are available at the Westford Town Office, or may be viewed on the Town of Westford website at <http://westfordvt.us/documents/planning-zoning>.

Notes from Jericho Town Hall

Neighbors: This month we feature Highway Department Foreman, Jacob Johnson. Click here to read more: <https://jerichovt.org/Celebrating-Each-Other>.

Town Meeting Reimagined: On Saturday, October 5, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the MMU Library, the Town of Jericho will be hold the first of three meetings, this one a community budget/business meeting (childcare provided; remote participation available). The discussion and input generated by the public at this meeting will be used by the Selectboard as they develop the Budget and Public Questions. A second meeting in January will be held to inform the public of the resulting Budget and ballot measures and allow for review and feedback. Finally, for the first time, all registered voters will have an opportunity to vote on the budget and public questions at the ballot box in March. Interested in helping? Get details here: <https://jerichovt.org/jericho-town-meeting-2-0>.

Town wide Reappraisal Process: Starting this fall Jericho will be conducting a town-wide reappraisal for the 2026 Grand List. The Assessor has prepared detailed information on what to expect during your home's reappraisal process. Visit this page for answers to FAQs, and information on your online property review: <https://jerichovt.org/reappraisal>.

Mobbs Farm Committee: Many thanks to the volunteers and Mobbs Farm Committee members who pitched in to repair the

WORSHIP SERVICES

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho. On Sunday, October 20, Calvary worships with St. James Episcopal Church in Essex at 11:00 AM (note the time change as Bishop Shannon will be visiting). All other Sundays in October, Calvary worships at 9:30 AM in the Jericho church building. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it!

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays (October 13, 27) of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

Jericho United Methodist Church welcomes you to grow in Christ with us. We hold dear the United Methodist Church's

News briefs continued from page 1

Meadow side boardwalks. Special thanks to Chris Chivers, Steve and Brad for their efforts creating a new section of a switchback trail on the Mobbs Hillside. Well done everyone! Many thanks.

Conservation Commission: Please remember to keep your garbage cans secured. Bears are entering their pre-hibernation phase of "hyperphagia" — which means they are eating as many calories as possible to gear up for winter. There is plenty of "natural" food out there for bears to eat — berries and nuts make up a big part of their fall diet. What is NOT part of a bear's normal diet is our garbage, yet if given the opportunity (by us) for a quick and easy calorie-dense meal they will take it. If your garbage cans sit outside, consider the "expert tip" of placing an ammonia-soaked rag under the lid to mask the scent and act as a deterrent. For other information on coexisting with bears please visit <https://jerichovt.org/conservation-commission>.

News from Cambridge Community Center

CCC purchase fundraiser — Cambridge 360, a volunteer-run nonprofit, is raising funds to purchase and preserve Cambridge Community Center (CCC) as a vital hub for community activities and support. Cambridge 360 is hosting its first annual Barrel of Bucks Raffle on October 27, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Purchase a ticket for a chance to win the \$2000 grand prize as well as other cash prizes. Tickets are \$100 and all proceeds go to the purchase of CCC. Tickets online at <https://givebutter.com/C360barrelofbucks>.

Fairfax programming collaboration — CCC welcomed our neighbors from Fairfax Recreation to CCC as its home base for summer camp. This Fall/Winter, CCC is continuing to partner with Fairfax Rec to bring local programming to the community. Check out CCC's page dedicated to this collaboration online at https://cambridgeccvt.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30927. Programs include Kids Night Out, corn hole tournaments, and much more to come.

Kick It! — New Session of Kick it with Amy starts Wednesday, October 16 and runs for six Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. This six-week class is sure to get you moving. Check out details and sign up online at https://cambridgeccvt.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30921.

Tai Chi Chung — Tai Chi Chung runs continuously Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. \$15 per class or \$100 for the month.

Learn to play Pickleball — Need a new activity for the winter? Always wanted to learn to play? Join Amanda on Tuesdays, October 1 and 8, 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Paddles available. \$10 per person.

Sports, gardening, and harvest music on MMCTV

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

New from Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV):

Our MMU crew streamed the MMU girls varsity soccer games on September 23 and 25 at youtube@mmctv. You can see the soccer and football we've covered at that site too.

Richmond gardener Mary Houle has recorded some new tips in the series *No Nonsense Gardening* (also on youtube@mmctv).

Finally, MMCTV — for the first time — streamed music live from the Old Fashioned Harvest Market LIVE on our Youtube channel. Stop by our spot at that event to learn about our upcoming Low Power Radio station!

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in person or on Zoom. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT

Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson

Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages

Fellowship time at 9:30 AM

Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery care provided

Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building
802-899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

Calvary Episcopal Church

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

St. Thomas Catholic Church

"Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass"

On Green Street in Underhill Center

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 8:30 AM

Weekday Masses: Wednesday 6:30 PM, Friday 8:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. Domenico Pizzonia; Deacon: Peter Brooks

Religious Ed. Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells, 802-899-4770

Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras, 802-899-4632

email: office@stthomasvt.com; website: www.stthomasvt.com

Waterville Union Church

We meet in person at 9:30 AM at the church; masks recommended. Zoom is only available when there is bad weather or illness of a speaker. We do not post our recorded services to Facebook. But information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>, watervilleunionchurchvt@gmail.com; 32 Church St., Waterville.

COLLEGE NEWS

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

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

COMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events

Jeffersonville Farmers' and Artisan Market — rain or shine on Wednesdays through October 16, 4:00 – 6:00 PM, 49 Old Main St., Jeffersonville, across from the painted silos. Visit this local marketplace of farmers, specialty food producers, and artisan crafts. More information on the Farmers' Market — vendors and family events — is available at www.jeffersonvillefarmmarket.com, where you can sign up for their newsletter.

Jericho Farmers' Market — Mills Riverside Park, Jericho, Thursdays through October 5, 3:00 – 6:30 PM. This wonderful community market supports local farmers, artisans, and musicians and serves as a community gathering space with access to fresh food and Vermont crafts. Information is online at <https://www.jerichofarmersmarket.com/> where you can sign up for their weekly newsletter.

Richmond Farmers' Market — Volunteers Green, Richmond, Fridays through October 11, 3:00 – 6:30 PM. The Richmond Farmers' Market strives to strengthen the direct connection between producers and consumers by providing an inclusive space for all members of the community to convene over and celebrate local food, artisanal crafts, music, and more. The music and events schedule at <https://richmond-farmers-market.square.site/entertainment>. More information on the market and parking is available online at <https://richmond-farmers-market.square.site/>.

Square Dancing — Tuesdays, September-May, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Tuttle Middle School, S. Burlington. Tuttle Middle School, S. Burlington. If you can walk to music, you can learn to square dance! Join the Lake Champlain Squares every Tuesday, September-May, to exercise bodies and minds through square dancing. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Mountainsong Community Chorus — Thursdays. 6:30 – 8:00 PM, at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). If you love to sing, come join Mountainsong! We are a volunteer-run community singing group which harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings! Whether you sing in the shower, sing karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a "great" singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing. We have almost no performances, except maybe to sing a few songs for a local assisted living facility and one short event for family and friends at the end of the season. We sing most weeks, although you can come as often as you are able, and if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week for using the space. We also ask for a small contribution for purchasing music (to be announced when we have our first meeting). Questions? Contact: Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219 if you have questions, or just show up on a Thursday evening! We look forward to singing together!

The Underhill-Jericho Walking Club meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5:30 PM, at the United Church of Underhill on Park St., Underhill. We walk for 30-45 minutes; we don't walk if it is raining or snowing. Please bring yak tracks and a headlamp. Join us whenever you like!

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (October 10) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

The Underhill Historical Society meets at the Old Schoolhouse, 32 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill Center, on the second Wednesday (October 9) of each month. Everyone is welcome. Visit our website for more information about the Underhill Historical Society: <https://underhillhistoricalsociety.org/>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (October 3, 17), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehehir@comcast.net.

Waterville Country Church hosts a Community Meal the first Thursday of each month (October 3). Come enjoy a relaxing homemade meal with neighbors at the church, or pick up meal(s) to go. Donations accepted. All donations will be given to a local nonprofit, charity, or community service organization. For information contact Susan Schill or Kim Pitt, watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com. Ask about delivery to shut-ins!

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

Bone Builders Class: at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center, on Mondays/Wednesdays/most Fridays, 9:00 – 10:15 AM; first Friday of the month, 9:45 AM. Sponsored by the United Way of Northwest VT, RSVP Bone Builders is a free exercise program for men and women, designed to prevent the negative effects of osteoporosis. For more information contact Danielle Schwer, 802-861-7821 or danielle@unitedwaywvvt.org.

RSVP Bone Builders program, Westford Common Hall, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Free! Please wear comfortable clothing and bring water. This program focuses on balance and light weight training to protect against fractures caused by osteoporosis. Per studies by Tufts University published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, those who participated in the program just twice a week, gained muscular strength, balance, and increased bone density. Contact Jocelyn Chauvin, 802-999-6387.

Coming events continued on page 3

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

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Coming events continued from page 2

The Power of Perspective art show at the Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Open every week on Wednesday-Sunday, May-October, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The Museum’s 2024 community art exhibit is for visitors to explore, examine, and delight in art that speaks to both humans’ and birds’ perspectives and experiences. How might a change in perspective alter our understanding of the lives and needs of the birds who share our world? website, Exhibiting artists and poets include Alison Forest (Huntington), Ashley Orton (Jericho), Elizabeth Spinney (Huntington), Gretchen Alexander (Jericho), Jo Marsan (Johnson), John Hadden (Huntington), Judy Bush (Richmond), Lynn Butler-Dube (Huntington), Marrin S (Huntington), and Steve Farrar (Richmond). The Power of Perspective art show is included with museum admission, no registration necessary. For more information, 802-434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org; online at <https://www.birdsofvermont.org>.

Coming Events

Thursday, October 3

Vermont 109 Community Meal, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Waterville Country Church, 440 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. Open to the public.

Friday-Saturday, October 4-5

Rummage Sale, Friday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. For information, contact 802-434-2053.

Saturday, October 5

Jericho Town Budget and Business Kick Off Meeting, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMUHS) library, Browns Trace, Jericho. An opportunity to share your ideas and concerns with the Selectboard *before* they build the Town Budget. Let them know what you want to see reflected in your town budget. This is also an opportunity to discuss ideas and initiatives with your neighbors and learn about how to develop them into public questions and get them on the ballot. The discussion and input generated by the public at this meeting will be used by the Selectboard as they develop the Budget and Public Questions. A second meeting in January will be held to inform the public of the resulting Budget and ballot measures and allow for review and feedback. For the first time, all registered voters will have an opportunity to vote on the budget and public questions at the ballot box in March. If you are interested in running for elected office, want to advocate for an initiative, and/or need to collect signatures, the October 5 meeting is a great opportunity to do just that!

Case Studies Continued... Names Lost in Vermont, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, in person at the library and on Zoom. Anyone who has researched their American French-Canadian heritage back to Canada knows how original names have been changed. In this presentation, Michael Dwyer draws on 40 years of case studies of French names lost in Vermont and the research steps and resources he took to rediscover them. He will draw upon new research studies since his last presentation. The cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for details, to register. The VT Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd. (VT Rt. 117), Essex Junction, VT 05452 is open Tuesdays 3:00 – 9:00 PM and

Saturdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Green Mountain Woodcarvers Carve-In and Annual Meeting, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. The Green Mountain Woodcarvers will be carving in the workshop. Stop in to watch a wood carver at work, ask a question, or learn about this carving club. Carvers are always happy to explain how they carve and to share their expertise with others. Included with museum admission (free for members).

Thursday, October 10

CCJ Coffee Hour, 10:00 AM, Community Center in Jericho (CCJ), Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Ahoy Neighbors, Mark your calendars. The monthly Coffee Hours sponsored by the Community Center in Jericho are resuming. We will be offering coffee and tea. Feel free to bring anything you’d like to eat. The purpose? Just to gather with neighbors, some we know, some we don’t, and spend an hour visiting, or, as a friend said, “setting a spell.” We hope to meet at different places and/or different days of the week, as chosen by the folks who show up. Join the conversation and camaraderie.

Saturday, October 12

Jericho Families in Nature walk, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Old Mill Park, behind Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. This family-friendly walk is free and open to all. Rain or shine. For more information and to register, go online to <https://bit.ly/4aCN1wf>.

Vermont Genealogy Library Annual Conference, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, St. John Vianney Parish Hall, South Burlington. Presented in collaboration with Genealogical Society of Vermont. Open to the public. Presentations include: “*Smarter Research: What’s Already Been Done and How Good Are Your Online Records?*” by Scott Andrew Bartley; “*The Material World of the French Army in North America in the 18th Century*” by Dr. Matt Keagle; “*Land Records: An Underutilized Genealogical Resource*” by Jonathan Stevens; and “*Vermont Loyalists and the Settlement of the Eastern Townships*” by Dr. Jim Manson. To see lecture descriptions and speakers’ bios, and to register: www.vtgenlib.org. Cost is \$42 for members, \$52 for non-members. An option to order lunch for \$14 is available.

Sunday, October 13

The Big Sit! dawn to dusk, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. How many birds can we identify... but only from a 17-foot diameter circle between sunrise and sunset? This is a great long-running community science project. Pledges and donations welcome. Outdoors at the Museum. Call or email to ask about joining the observation team; only some observers stay the whole time. The Museum is open 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Annual Harvest Ham Dinner, pick up 4:00 – 5:30 PM, St. Thomas Parish, Underhill Center. Take-out meals only. Menu: ham, baked potatoes, butternut squash, carrots, coleslaw, rolls, and homemade desserts. Tickets are \$17 per meal; please purchase or reserve tickets ahead of time, after all Masses at St. Thomas Church, at Wells Corner Market in Underhill Center, or at Snowflake Chocolates in Jericho. For more information or to place a ticket order, please call Teri at the church rectory, 802-899-4632.

Tuesday, October 15

37th annual MMU Academic Boosters lasagna takeout dinner, 3:30 – 6:30 PM, pick up at the front entrance of Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU), Browns Trace, Jericho. Servers will bring your dinner directly to your vehicle: lasagna (meat, veggie, GF), green salad and dressing, bread and butter, and a delicious dessert (apple pie, pumpkin pie, chocolate cake, or GF dessert). Dinners are \$15 each. Final orders and payment must be received by Tuesday, October 8, 5:00 PM. Please see our MMU Booster webpage here: https://mmu.mmuusd.org/families/academic_boosters for further information. If you want to donate or volunteer for the event please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4FA4A82CA1F49-academic/>. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact us at mmuacademicboosters@mmuusd.org.

Friday-Saturday, October 18-19

Cambridge Area Rotary Ski Ride & Winter Sports Sale, consignment drop-off Friday 4:00 – 6:00 PM, sale Friday 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, consignment pick-up Saturday 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Cambridge Community Center, Jeffersonville. Vendors from Vermont and New Hampshire will be there with alpine skis, snow boards, cross country skis, boots of all kinds, socks, jackets, snow pants, snow shoes, helmets, goggles, skins, bindings, ski poles, and more. Details, more instructions, and consignment forms on the CAR event website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4785/page/ski-ride-and-winter-sports-sale>.

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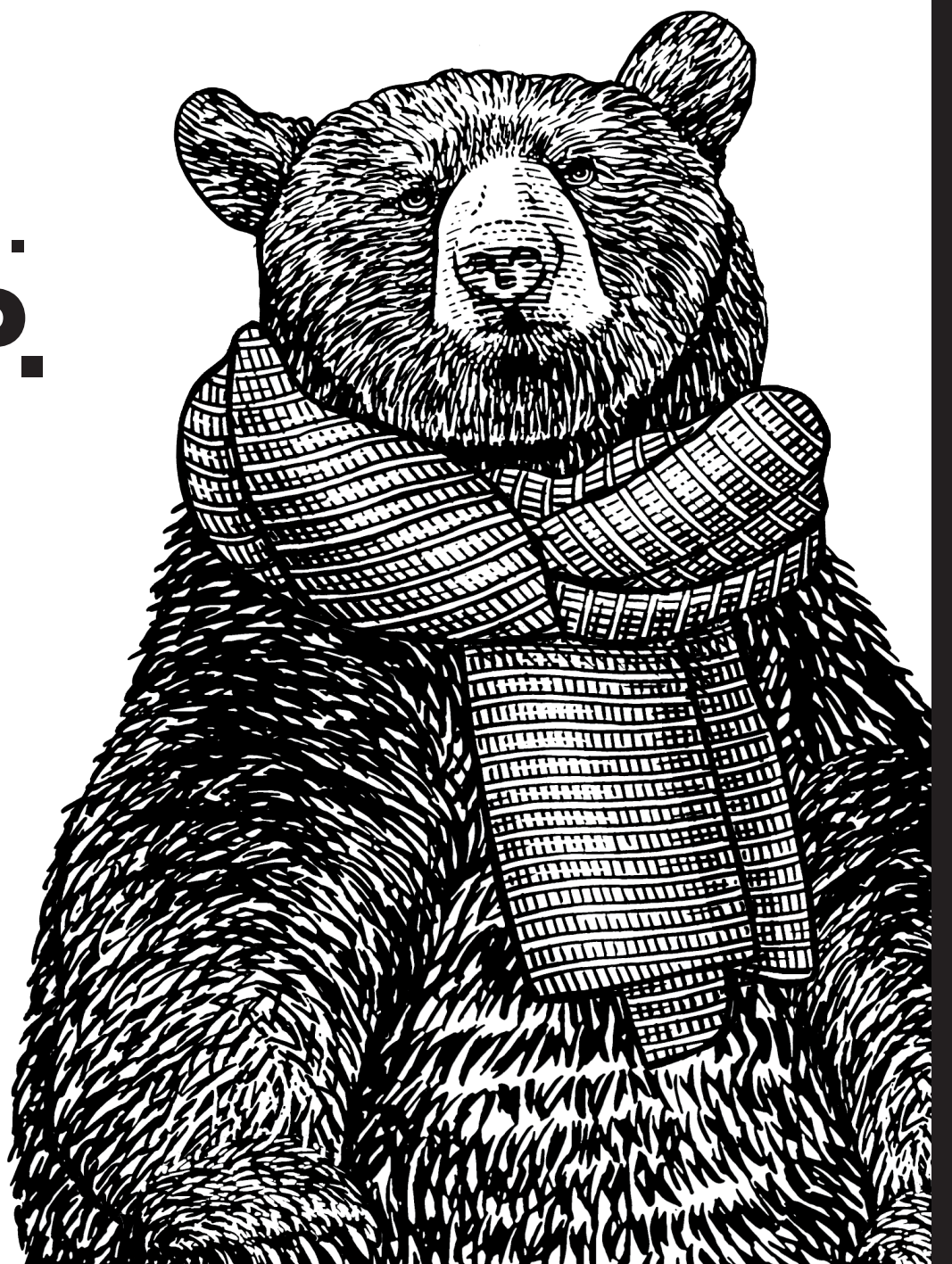
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HEALTH NEWS

Lions' Club Blood Drive October 10

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, October 10, 1:00 – 6:00 PM at the Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., Jericho. Please consider helping your neighbors and donate a pint of blood.

To schedule an appointment, go to <http://redcrossblood.org> and type in 05465 for a zip code or JULIONS in the search bar.

Another round of free at-home COVID-19 tests, available now

As of late September 2024, residential households in the U.S. are eligible for another order of free at-home COVID tests from <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

Each order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests.

More details about at-home tests, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates, is available at <https://covidtests.gov/>.

Copley welcomes Ethan Harlow, MD and Michael Silverberg, DO



Copley Hospital is pleased to welcome Ethan Harlow, MD, to the Mansfield Orthopaedics team and Michael Silverberg, DO, to The Women's Center. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Copley Hospital is pleased to welcome Ethan Harlow, MD, to the Mansfield Orthopaedics team and Michael Silverberg, DO, to The Women's Center.

Dr. Harlow, who is no stranger to Vermont, is a fellowship-trained, board-eligible orthopaedic surgeon specializing in the treatment of all shoulder disorders. He has specific interests in the treatment of rotator cuff tears, shoulder fractures, shoulder arthritis, and complex shoulder instability through arthroscopic techniques. Dr. Harlow will be working closely with John Macy, MD, Copley's Chief of Surgery, in offering patients with shoulder disorders excellent quality care.

Dr. Harlow attended Essex High School and earned his Bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University before attending the Larner College of Medicine at University of Vermont. He did his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Case Western in Cleveland, OH, and then completed the Cincinnati Shoulder and Elbow Fellowship. He received specific training in rotator cuff-sparing total shoulder replacement and arthroscopic bone augmentation procedures for complex shoulder instability. Additionally, he trained in shoulder surgery in France with Drs. Valenti and Boileau.

Actively involved in clinical and biomechanics research related to the shoulder and sports medicine, Dr. Harlow has been awarded multiple grants to conduct his research, has written several peer-reviewed publications, and has given presentations on his research throughout the country. Dr. Harlow is also the Chief Medical Officer for a Cleveland-based start-up, Notus Labs, which develops wearable technology to improve the safety and performance of athletes.

On September 23, Dr. Michael Silverberg joined OB/GYN Robin Leight, MD, and certified nurse midwives Kipp Bovey, Mary Lou Kopas, and April Vanderveer of The Women's Center.

As a board-eligible OB/GYN physician, Dr. Silverberg offers a full range of education and preventative women's health services, family planning and contraception counseling, high risk obstetrics and postpartum care, abnormal uterine bleeding and menopause management, and full scope gynecologic surgeries with a focus on minimally invasive procedures.

He received a dual Medical and Masters of Business

Administration degree from Kansas City University and Rockhurst University. He went on to complete an Obstetric and Gynecology residency at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. Following his residency, Dr. Silverberg joined Southwestern Vermont Medical Center for two years. His desire to be closer to family has brought him to the Copley community.

Dr. Silverberg is looking forward to building relationships with his patients while providing them at every stage of life with the opportunity to understand their options and manage their care.

He resides in Hyde Park with his wife, two children, a dog, and two cats. When not working, he enjoys traveling and being outside hiking, biking, camping, and skiing with his family.

Please join Copley in welcoming Drs. Harlow and Silverberg to our community and family.

Age Well-sponsored Tai Chi classes

Falls Prevention Tai Chi classes

This Falls Prevention Tai Chi class at the United Church of Underhill, VT Rt. 15/Park St., Underhill will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:15 PM, beginning Wednesday, October 2. Registration is required, and the class is limited to 15 people.

During 16 class sessions over eight weeks you will learn the basic forms of Sun Style Tai Chi. The benefits of this Falls Prevention program include increased balance and agility, upper and lower body strength, mindfulness of our body movements in time and space, and learning stress relief techniques.

Age Well offers this free program for adults 60 and over; donations are always appreciated and accepted. To register and for additional information, contact instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Seated Tai Chi classes

Seated Tai Chi for Health and Balance will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho starting Monday, September 30. The class is offered in person or on Zoom. (A computer with camera capabilities is needed to attend class in the Zoom format.) This is a starter level course for older adults interested in improving or maintaining strength, balance, agility, and flexibility while increasing pain-free range of motion for persons with inflammatory joint conditions.

This seated form is also beneficial for people with chronic conditions such as Lupus, Parkinson's, MS, and fibromyalgia. The combined slow, continuous movement, deep breathing techniques, positive visualization and mindfulness exercises reduce stress and help maintain an overall sense of well being. There is no charge for classes, but donations to sustain the program are most welcome and can be mailed directly to Age Well.

For information and to register contact instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Vaccine myths

Parents nowadays are reading lots about vaccinations — some of it factual and some less so. I shall take my best shot at doing some myth-busting when it comes to separating the vaccine facts from the vaccine fiction.

First, I want to remind everyone of the key fact that vaccines help prevent many serious infectious diseases, and save lives.

Many parents are concerned because they've heard that a child's immune system will be weaker if they get vaccinated or get multiple vaccines at one visit.

This is not true. Many studies show that the body's immune system stays strong after a vaccine and can rev up to keep your child healthy if the germ we have vaccinated your child against invades their body.

In addition, being vaccinated to one disease does not weaken your child's ability to respond to another disease. So, if you can immunize to multiple diseases at once, the sooner and more effectively your child will be protected against life-threatening infections.

Another myth is that a child will get the disease from a vaccine that is supposed to prevent that disease. If the vaccine is made with killed parts of the germ we are trying to protect your child from, but not the whole germ itself, then it is impossible for your child to get the disease.

This is also true for the COVID vaccine, which contains mRNA or parts of the virus but not the live virus itself.

If a vaccine is made from a weakened or mild live form of a virus (like the chicken pox or measles vaccines), then it's extremely rare to get the disease but, if so, and your child's immune system is otherwise normal, it will be a very mild form of measles or chicken pox, much less severe than getting a full-blown case of those viruses.

Getting the disease to build immunity is not the answer either as you have likely seen or heard how sick adults and even some children have gotten with illnesses such as COVID-19, flu, measles, and mumps in the absence of a vaccine.

Some parents feel they need not vaccinate their child since their children are healthy and since other children vaccinated in the community will protect them.

This is also not true. Each child who goes unvaccinated increases the chance that a life-threatening germ will be able to spread to others in your community.

Hopefully, tips like these (and not just sharp needle tips) will de-myth-tify you so you have a better understanding of why vaccinations are one of the most important things you can do to keep your children healthy.

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

New England Collaborative Health Network adds two new members

On Thursday, September 12, Cottage Hospital of Woodsville, NH and Adirondack Health of Saranac Lake, NY became the newest members of the New England Collaborative Health Network (NE-CHN) based out of St. Albans, VT that was founded in May 2024 by Copley Hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, and Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

NE-CHN offers independent hospitals and their community care partners a structure, similar to large network systems, enabling them to achieve cost savings related to group purchasing and shared administrative functions without giving up control to a large health system that can often create challenges for rural patient care, local community focus, and cultural alignment.

"In addition to saving money, one of the more attractive features of being a New England Collaborative Health Network member is having a seat on the NE-CHN Board to drive meaningful change and align the network priorities for the benefit of rural community needs," said Holly McCormack, CEO of Cottage Hospital.

Both Cottage Hospital and Adirondack Health have identified immediate cost savings and recognize future opportunities to improve operational performance through a shared purpose, vision, and urgency to address issues that are common to rural hospitals, and not limited by state boundaries.

"The healthcare industry is changing and transforming at an unbelievable pace," states Aaron Kramer, Adirondack Health CEO. "As frustrating and unpredictable as that may seem at times, there are really only two options available to us: we can adapt, or we can be left behind. NE-CHN will provide the structure that helps us adapt."

A recently released report from Chartis concluded that 50% of rural hospitals in America lost money this past year and identified 418 of them as "vulnerable to closure."

"You've got three to five years to get this figured out. You don't have five years to talk about it," explained Dr. Bruce Hamory, the State of Vermont consultant from Oliver Wyman and Associates. Dr. Hamory states that hospitals will not be able to solve these problems alone and recently highlighted the New England Collaborative as one of his potential solutions to share services and reduce the costs of care for unaligned hospitals.

"We are thrilled to welcome Cottage Hospital and Adirondack Health," said Joseph Woodin, CEO of Copley Hospital and Chair of the NE-CHN Board of Directors. "Their addition will strengthen our growing network, enabling us to provide enhanced shared service solutions for our collective independent hospitals and health systems."

For more information, visit <https://mechnetwork.com/>.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

VT education funding: where it is now, how to move forward

By Senator Rich Westman (Lamoille) and Representative Lucy Boyden (Cambridge and Waterville)
How it is structured now

Overview:

Vermont's Education spending formula funds local budgets and spending. The State and the Legislature may set the tax rate

each year but school spending is the single largest driver of tax rates.

Education is a basic responsibility of the state. Vermont's Constitution was one of the first in the country to call for public education. The Constitution states that "schools ought to be maintained in each town unless the general assembly permits other provisions for the convenient instruction of youth." The question for all of us is: How do we ensure high quality education for all students at a price we can afford to meet that constitutional requirement?

Education Fund Spending:

From fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025, total education spending is budgeted to increase from \$1.71 billion to \$1.89 billion. This is an approximate year-over-year increase of \$181 million, a growth of 11%. In addition, the Education fund supports another \$430+ million in education related spending. Teachers' retirement, special education, and school lunches are examples of these additional expenditures. The "Education Fund Outlook," which is the balance sheet, tells that story.

Here's a link to the Ed Fund Outlook: https://lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Subjects/Education-Fund-Outlooks-for-2024-Session/EBoard-EF-Outlook_073024_V2.pdf.

Education Fund Revenues:

Total revenues to the Education Fund increased this year by \$219 million, from \$2058.9 billion in FY 2024 to \$2278.1 billion in FY 2025.

The Education Property tax is the single largest source of funds supporting Education spending. The Homestead and Non-Homestead property taxes are estimated this year to produce \$1.648 billion in revenue to support education and the property rebate system. Property taxes, although the largest revenue source for education, is only part of the picture. Non-property revenues that make up the FY 2025 revenues include:

1. Sales Taxes: \$897.3 million — included in this number is

the new Cloud Tax;

2. One-quarter of the Rooms and Meals tax: \$72.1 million — included in this number is the new 3% tax on short term rentals;

3. One-third of the Purchase and Use Tax on cars: \$49.4 million;

4. Lottery: \$36.5 million;

5. Medicaid matches and Transfers: \$11.2 million;

6. Interest from the Wind and Solar Fund: \$7.8 million;

7. A one-time General Fund Transfer for surplus: \$25 million.

In total, non-property tax sources are predicted to produce just short of \$1.1 billion.

Local Budgets:

School budgets are crafted, discussed, and voted on locally by every district across the state. There were a number of cost drivers of school spending that were outlined in the December 1 Education Tax Rate Letter and further explored in AOE's testimony and a school district survey during the legislative session. While some cost drivers overlap and may vary by school/school district, some of the primary cost drivers include:

1. The ending of one-time Federal ESSER funds and replacement with state Education Funds;

2. Some school districts used the one-time Federal ESSER funds to add new ongoing services and personnel. With the ending of the federal funding, school districts must replace those one-time federal funds with state education funds to maintain those services;

3. VEHI health insurance increase of 16.4% from fiscal year 2024-2025, because most school employees receive health benefits; this increase impacts the amount needed to be raised in the Education Fund;

4. Growth in the cost of special education;

5. Increases in personnel for mental and behavioral health. In a number of school districts we heard about how contracts

Legislative report continued on page 5

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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

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

Vermont Reads — Join us for the 22nd year of Vermont Reads, with events centered around Kenneth M. Cadow's novel *Gather*. Adults and teens may pick up a free book at the library beginning Tuesday, October 8, and read it for the November 12 discussion led by Vermont Reads facilitator Rachael Cohen.

Adults

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Health and Balance [Registration required] In person or on Zoom (you need a computer with camera capabilities to attend via Zoom.) This starter-level course is for older adults and people with chronic health conditions. For more information and to register, email instructor Jo Osborne at joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Thursdays, October 3, 17, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters' Group. Bring a craft you're working on, and join the camaraderie and conversation. For more information, please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinv@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Saturday, October 6, 2:00 – 3:45 PM: 25th Annual Sunday Afternoon Music Series: Jeff Salisbury and Friends. One of the incredibly talented Jericho residents, Jeff returns to the music series with an ensemble of equally talented musicians to regale us with Blues, R&B, and original music. Jeff has played with Albert King, Chuck Berry, and Bo Diddley. He taught drums at the University of Vermont for 20 years.

Tuesdays, October 8, 15, and 22, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: French Conversation Chez Henry. All levels of French speakers, as well as the French curious, are welcome to this informal conversation group, named in honor of its founder.

Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers. Hilary Mantel's Booker Prize-winning *Wolf Hall* is a fictional account of the rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell, the English statesman who served King Henry VIII from 1534-1540. Reserve the book online, or by calling or visiting the library. For more information, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Thursday, October 10, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Mah-Jongg. Come join the fun of our monthly Mah-Jongg games.

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 PM: Library Board of Trustees Meeting. The meeting is open to all. Those who wish to attend remotely may email Holly at drawsonmemlib@gmail.com to receive a link.

Thursday, October 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: The History of Underhill Flats. An Underhill Historical Society presentation by historian Gary Irish.

Saturday, October 26, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Marbled Pumpkins [Registration required] Adults and teens are invited to make marbled mini pumpkins. The library will provide one mini pumpkin per person. Participants are asked to bring one bottle of nail polish, any color, to share. You may also bring additional mini pumpkins (with a stem) to dye. White is best, but orange pumpkins will also work. Please register when you call or visit the library.

Saturday, October 26, 7:00 PM: Murder Mystery Night: *Bannocks and Blood* by Ann Cleeves. Join us for a thrilling night where you, the audience, are the detectives. Free admission. Donations appreciated. The person who solves the mystery wins a Phoenix Books gift card.

Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group: *Fade Away* by Harlan Coben. Call or visit the library for the book title, and to reserve the book. To attend the book discussion via Zoom, email Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com for the link.

Youth

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby-Toddler Story Time [Birth to Pre-K] Meet other parents, caregivers, and little ones, as we play finger games, lap bounce, sing, dance, and read a story or two.

Fridays, 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London [Birth to age 5] The Londons are back every Friday with lots of fun.

Tuesday, October 8, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Spooky STEM: Build a Bone Bridge [Ages 6+] Using only Q-tips, craft sticks, clothespins, and pipe cleaners, attempt to build a bridge that is the longest and strongest.

Thursdays, October 10 and 24, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [Ages 8+] [Registration required] Whether you're a veteran of the program or newly interested in animating, the library has everything you need to create short stop-motion videos. Sign up when you visit, call, or email the library.

Fridays, October 11 and 25, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [Ages 8+] [Registration required]

There is no wrong way to LEGO, when you sign up to join us for open build time.

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 AM: Jericho Families in Nature Walk. Meet at the Old Red Mill in Jericho. [Registration requested] Take an observation walk through the woods with other families. Have a snack and a special story time, and tell us all about what you saw. Please sign up at this link to let us know you're coming: <https://bit.ly/jfin24>.

Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Why Your Kids Read Comics and You Should Too! [Parents, Caregivers, and Educators] Not convinced about comics? Frustrated that your kid doesn't want to read anything else? Mz. Abbey will discuss all the literacy skills it takes to read a graphic novel, and how these skills grow a reader's brain.

Thursday, October 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Wings of Fire Club [Ages 8+] Join other fans of the Wings of Fire series to talk about your favorite characters and story moments, and make a dragon craft.

Friday, October 18, 6:00 – 9:00 PM: Black Light Bowling [Families] You, our amazing community, read well over 700 hours this summer. As promised, we are thrilled to celebrate with black-light bowling in the library. Wear your neon colors and come bowl a few frames in the library aisles. A huge thank you to Grant Allendorf of SuperSounds Entertainment for helping us make this possible.

Wednesday, October 23, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt [All ages] [Registration required] Practice your skills by reading a story or two to the goodest boy, Wyatt, the Bernese Mountain Dog.

Tuesday, October 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Spooky Slime [Ages 6+] [Registration required] It's messy craft time as we make slime with spooky mix-ins. Please sign up for this popular craft when you visit, call, or email the library.

Teens

First Time Voter Registration: Vermont teens who will be age 18 on or before Tuesday, November 5, can register to vote in the General Election. Registration is available at your town or city clerk's office during normal business hours on days preceding the election, and during polling hours on Election Day. You may also register to vote online. See details and register online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>.

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Please visit drml.org or call 802-899-4962 for the most up-to-date information. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml.org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 12:00 – 6:00 PM; Saturdays 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM.

Weekly events

Tuesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 AM: Gentle Yoga, a donation-based class for adults taught by local instructor Deanna Bartlett. Donations are optional. Second floor.

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Story Explorers Playgroup, a

Library news continued on page 6

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Bruce Roy for VT Senate

To the Editor,

Who is Bruce Roy? A fair question as Bruce asks us to elect him to be our Senator from the Chittenden Southeast district. Bruce graduated from UVM with a degree in mathematics, making him uniquely qualified for serving us in Montpelier. He understands the complexity of the numbers that are discussed and how they impact our property taxes, school budgets, the numerous climate change scenarios and the potential devastating impact on many peoples as they heat their homes or drive their vehicles. Fortunately, Bruce can explain those numbers to us in clear terms so we can understand the financial impact they have. Bruce has had a distinguished 30-year career with both the VT Air Guard and with IBM. In both careers he rose through the ranks by leading others in a team effort to accomplish the mission they were given, realizing it takes a team effort to achieve change and accomplish goals. Bruce is also the guy who you'll see in his jeans and work shirt out mowing his lawn, visiting with neighbors, and enjoying sunset views with his wife and family dog. Bruce is the dad taking his daughter off to college and getting her settled. You'll see Bruce in local businesses and eating at local restaurants. Yes, Bruce is one of us and he had been enjoying his retirement, but his sense of duty to others has awoken again. He sees a need to help his fellow Vermonters who are struggling financially due to Montpelier's heavy-handed control over our lives with onerous taxes, fees, and regulations placed upon us. Bruce feels to have change; to make progress, we need to have two-way conversations in Montpelier, something not possible with the super majority governance we now have. We need a seat at the table in Montpelier to exchange ideas and evaluate problems and solutions for the benefit of all Vermonters. Vermont has become very unaffordable and that can't change if we only keep raising more "revenue," meaning taxes and fees. Continuing to do the same things, electing the same people and expecting different results, is not working — just ask your wallet. We need new approaches: where can we save money, are there old programs that need to be retired, are there programs which we just can't afford? We need someone to ask the questions, help craft alternatives, offer new ideas, keep us informed, and the answer is just down the road at your neighbor Bruce Roy's. Let's give him a nice indoor job this winter in Montpelier and a return to serving his fellow Vermonters.

John Marcotte
Williston

Legislative report continued from page 4

have been reduced with local mental health agencies as the mental health staff has been added in schools. The concern is that districts may be missing available federal Medicaid match with all of the cost ending up on the Education Fund;

6. Increasing costs of debt service to new capital projects and/or renovations; and

7. Overall inflation increasing prices and thus costs to the Education Fund.

State:

Under the present Education funding formula, the Legislature totals the cumulative expense of local school budgets from across the state (plus things like special ed, school lunches, teachers' retirement, and transportation costs) as mentioned above and then adjusts tax rates to match all spending.

The Legislature is required to pass a bill, generally referred to as the "Yield Bill," which sets the homestead and non-homestead tax rate to yield enough property tax revenue to meet the sum of school budgets approved by voters after all other non-property sources of revenue to the education fund are accounted for.

In the last legislative session the Legislature added two new taxes and general fund surplus to reduce the effects of increased spending. Approximately \$95.6 million was used to buy down property tax rates. The two new on-going revenue streams included:

1. Repealing the sales tax exemption for prewritten software accessed remotely (also referred to as "Cloud Tax"). This change is estimated to generate \$14.7 million in additional revenue for the Education Fund in fiscal year 2025 (Line 3b of EF Outlook);

2. A 3% surcharge on short-term rentals that specifically goes toward the Education Fund. This surcharge is estimated to generate \$11.8 million for the Education Fund in fiscal year 2025 (Line 5b of EF Outlook).

The Legislature also used \$25 million in one-time General Fund surplus dollars to buy down the rate. In addition \$44 million in one-time statutory reserves were used to reduce rates this year. In total that \$69 million will have a big impact next year. Since these are one-time funds, we will be starting the next year \$69 million down which will have to be accounted for.

All of this new revenue, surplus monies, and reserve spending means the Legislature bought down the education spending increase this year by \$95.6 million before the education property tax rates were calculated.

How to move forward

Senator Rich Westman (RaWestman@gmail.com):

I've for a very long time thought that the funding formula for education has been flawed. The public's disconnect between local school spending and property tax rates creates an unrealistic situation. Although I agree that we need to equalize communities' ability to pay, the lack of connection in the formula creates a

situation that isn't realistic and doesn't focus the community on results for students.

The Legislature did this year, in H.887 (the "Yield Bill" or the bill that sets the property tax rate) put in place a spending cap for districts spending over 118% of the state per pupil spending average. The excess spending threshold is a provision that adjusts tax rates so that districts spending above it are taxed a second time on the excess spending amount. Section 18 amends the excess spending threshold so that it is calculated as the statewide average per pupil spending in fiscal year 2025, increased for inflation, multiplied by 120%. You can find a summary of the spending cap and the property tax Yield Bill online at <https://bit.ly/3ZAHJIE> (short for https://ljo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2023-2024-House-Bills/6d967e65b2/GENERAL-376316-v4-Yield_Bill_FN_AsPassedHouse.pdf).

This provision "stick approach" hits 11 districts for excess spending statewide and although I agree with the approach for high-spending districts it does nothing for lower-spending communities. We should offer districts with spending below the state average with good student test scores a "carrot" or a reduced rate.

For example, right here in Lamoille County: The spending in the Morrystown/Elmore School District is 16% below the state per pupil spending average and their student test scores are above the state average. Why wouldn't we give school districts a carrot or reduced property tax rates for their reduced spending as long as the results are coupled with student performance? Why wouldn't we incentivize good outcomes? I'd couple student performance with a district's spending and if you have good results let's reward the district. If we don't do something like this, why wouldn't districts just increase spending without having to question what students need to perform well?

If we can't fundamentally change the present funding formula in the short term, let's create a system with a true carrot and stick approach. Let's connect student performance and test scores with a district's spending. We could do something like this in the short term. We could in concept mirror what we do with high-spending communities and that would better connect our local spending to our rates and results.

In the long term do we really need over 50 supervisory unions, each with superintendents and staff? Hawaii has one supervisory union and cities like Baltimore have one supervisory district. Are our administrative costs appropriate — or could we do better?

I voted "no" this year on the Yield Bill because I think we need change. I believe we need to better connect local budgets to results and spending, while not compromising equity in our funding system.

Representative Lucy Boyden (LucyMBoyden@gmail.com):

School funding in Vermont is a combination of local control

and state legislative action. Many people do not couple school spending and its direct effect on property tax rates. School budgets are crafted, discussed, and voted on locally by every district across the state. The Legislature then totals the cumulative expense of local school budgets and adjusts the tax rates to match all spending.

Despite ongoing challenges and cost drivers, our community schools are doing vital work to educate the next generation. There are a number of cost drivers of school spending, the leading ones including the end of Federal ESSER funds and VEHI health insurance rates. The increase in spending across the state leaves many wondering how resources can be shared to cut back on costs, how new ongoing services could be outsourced to reduce costs or how supervisory union districts can be adjusted.

The Legislature is required to pass a bill generally referred to as the "Yield Bill." In the last legislative session the Yield Bill, H.887, set the property tax rate based on the cumulative local school budgets that were approved across the state. H.887 also bought down property tax rate increases using one-time funds and new revenue, as well as set up the commission on the future of public education to make recommendations by December 2024 on necessary policy changes to Vermont's education system and formula.

Throughout the legislative process I was grateful to hear from many community members who reached out to share their thoughts. We are all experiencing real pressures in increased costs of living and increased property values/taxes. Our schools are also experiencing unique challenges in staying nimble to rising costs. Next year the Legislature will face hard decisions, including: how many schools does the state operate, what should standard class sizes consist of, what should the education fund stop funding and will that stabilize the fund.

I initially voted 'no' on H.887 during the legislative session as an appeal to the Administration and the Legislature to collaboratively provide actionable solutions and an adjustment in the formula that would drive property tax rates below statewide average double digits while still adequately funding our schools. This is an issue where adjustments are urgently needed but change must be made cautiously to ensure impactful solutions can support Vermonters without adverse effects.

My final 'yes' vote was in support of funding the budgets that voters approved for our public schools across the state and working towards education reform that addresses affordability and supports the future of public education. I am committed to collaborating on transforming Vermont's education system into a right-sized, strong public education system that supports all students and uses our statewide resources sustainably and efficiently. Looking forward we must ensure a high-quality education for all kids at a price we can all afford. Your involvement and voice can help drive meaningful development.

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read aloud and loosely structured playgroup for kids ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. Second floor.

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Embodied Wisdom Women's Group. Please join Project All Together Now (ATN) and Deanna Bartlett for a weekly multi-generational Women's Yoga Circle! This group grew out of ATN youth intern work and ideas, and is meant to serve women of all ages in building connection with themselves and each other. Gather up your friends, moms, aunts, grandmothers, mentors, and any female-identifying people in your life that could use some more spaciousness in their weeks and explore how restorative yoga can support you in rest and connection. Second floor.

Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:00 AM: Move and Groove, a movement-based storytime for kids ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. We'll sing, play with scarves and shaker eggs, pretend to be animals as we practice some yoga poses, and read a story together before ending with a bubble dance party. First floor.

Fridays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Restorative Yoga, a donation-based class taught by local instructor Deanna Bartlett. Donations are optional. Second floor.

Saturdays, 9:00 – 9:30 AM: Romp and Rhyme, a storytime for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers. First floor.

Monthly or twice-a-month

First and third Wednesdays (October 2, 16), 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Comic Capers, an after-school club for graphic novel enthusiasts in grades 2 and up. First floor.

Early Release Days in Jericho (usually the second Wednesday of the month): 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Crafternoon, followed by a movie screening. Registration is required due to limited space: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1005405995397?aff=oddtcreator>.

Third Thursday (October 17), 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Speculative Fiction Book Club. September 19: [The Memory Police](#). First floor.

Fourth Thursday (October 24), 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Around the World in 2024, a geography program for homeschoolers. Email catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org for more information.

Fourth Saturday (October 26), 2:30 – 3:30 PM: Beginning Spanish Conversation Group for adults.

Second Thursday (October 10), 1:30-2:30 PM: Robotics for Homeschoolers. Email catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org for more information.

Second Thursday (October 10), 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Fiber Arts Circle, a space for adults to craft and converse. First floor.

Building accessibility note: We are working hard on a project to make our library accessible to all, but our historic building is not yet fully accessible; a set of steps leads up to our front entrance. Please reach out to discuss accessibility needs; we may be able to offer programs in a hybrid format or move them to an alternate location with advance notice.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Please note that the Varnum has modified Saturday hours and they are now 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

We have an abundance of un-expired COVID tests (no limit) and free gun locks for distribution.

Hours: Sunday/Monday: closed; Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Please check our website for details regarding these and other programs: www.varnumlibrary.org.

We're always happy to see you at the library! www.varnumlibrary.org, 802-644-2117.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. Patrons of all ages are welcome; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. If you feel you need curbside service, for whatever reason, please email Bree at the library (westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (October 2), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (October 19), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards — a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Thursdays, 11:25 AM: Early Literacy Storytime in the Library. (Note the new time, 11:25 AM, to accommodate WES preschool schedule.) We know the transition from summer to back to school can be tough, going from outside to inside can be different — we will take it slow and get used to our new format this month. Don't worry! We sing songs, read stories, move, and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome!

Save the dates for these new offerings! Starting in October: Writer's Group and Shakespeare Study Group (still working on day and time for both); Saturday, October 5, 10:30 – 11:30 AM, Storytime with some Spanish (first Saturday of every month); Zentangles are coming back: for adults (October 16) and for kids (October 8, 15).

The Westford Public Library, 1717 VT Rt. 128, Westford, 802-878-5639; www.westfordpubliclibrary.org; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com, Bree Drapa, Librarian. Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/WestfordVTpl).

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Now that the community has some limited access to the school building, the library will be hosting our Wednesday programs in the school again! While we still cannot use the library space, we will be hosting the programs in room 260. The programs are scheduled directly after school, so kiddos can come right to the program as soon as they are let out of class. Pickup will be in the back parking lot. The school will need a list of the students still in the building after school so registration for all Wednesday programs is required.

This will be for Wednesday programs only. The library is still located at 1151 Ethan Allen Hwy, and all other programs will be taking place there.

Please sign up at least one week before the program date! All

events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required. Call or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

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

Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Friday, 1:00 – 4:15 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Library hours: open for in-person browsing and pick-up at the circulation desk on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. *Children*

Ongoing construction — thanks to Town of Richmond ARPA funding, the Richmond Free Library will be “under construction” in September to paint the entire building. While we won't need to close the library there may be a brief time when one or both handicapped parking spots or the sidewalk on Bridge Street are blocked or are within the construction area. The construction crew will work to minimize any disruptions. If handicapped access is unavailable, the staff is happy to meet you in the parking lot to provide materials or pick up items that can't go in the book drop — please call us. 802-434-3036. The beautiful murals on the library were saved and returned to Radiate!

Covid tests: pick up your free tests at the circulation desk. It is wise to have them on hand prior to needing them, so stock up.

Adults

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Knitting and Stitching Group. Drop in to knit, embroider or otherwise needlecraft with your neighbors.

Seed Library — Our new seed library is officially open for (free) business. Stop in to “check out” some of our seeds generously donated by High Mowing, FedCo, Annie's, and Seed Savers Exchange. If possible, plan to save and bring back some of your harvested seeds for next year! Stop in or email skrohn@richmondvt.gov for more information.

Trustees Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (October 14) via Zoom until further notice. All meetings are open to the public.

Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

All month: KCR Display: Essex Historical Society Community Puzzle: Spend some time working on a puzzle in the Main Reading Room. Puzzles rotate as they are completed.

Pattern Swap: Bring in sewing, cross stitch, knitting, crochet, and more patterns and take a few!

Puzzle Swap: Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle. Adult and kid friendly puzzles welcome! Only puzzles that have all the pieces. Drop your puzzle off in the bookcase across from the main desk.

Magazine Swap: Need some new reading material? Check out the magazine swap!

Coupon Swap: Do you coupon? Bring in coupons that you don't use and swap them out for ones you do use! Alternatively, donate coupons or come in for coupons to cut down on your grocery bill. Please check coupon expiration dates.

Community Loom: Collaborate on our community loom!

October 1-November 26: Smokey Bear Challenge. Celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday. Pick up a challenge sheet and join Smokey in learning about wildfire prevention and the environment. Read books, take action, earn stickers and bookmarks, and have fun! We will offer a program on Friday, October 18 to accomplish some of the tasks. Remember... only you can prevent wildfires.

Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Current Events Discussion Group, in-person and online. This discussion group will attempt to look at, reflect on, and analyze daily events and try to discern trends and understand the national picture and the larger world, basing the discussion on factual information in a non-judgmental framework. Please fill out the online form to receive information on joining this program via GoToMeeting.

Tuesday, October 1, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Games Galore. Play board and card games with people of all ages. Will repeat every first Tuesday of the month.

October 1-16: STEM Challenge Skeletal Sensations. Stop by the Winnie Bell Maker Space in Youth Nonfiction to try our October STEM Challenge. Explore animal skeletons and then create your own hybrid skeleton. What would the creature with this skeleton look like? Where would it live? How would its skeleton help it thrive? Let us take a picture of your skeletal sensation to share with future challenge takers. This program is made possible with support from the Winnie Bell Learned Fund, and it is open to all ages.

Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Play Time. Read one story together and play! We have giant blocks and other creative play materials. Best for ages 0-5.

Thursdays, October 3, 10, 17; 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Story Time. Picture books, songs, rhymes, and crafts. Come read and play with us. In the picture book area. Best for ages 2-5.

Friday, October 4, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Music Time! Sing and dance with Linda Bassick! Best for ages 0-5.

Friday, October 4, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: TAG-TEEN Advisory Group. Students in grades 6-12 can join our Teen Advisory Group! Help us plan teen programs and decor while hanging out, playing games, and eating snacks. This month, we'll make some new decorations for the YA Room and finish planning for our Teen Costume Workshop on October 26.

Fridays, October 4, 11, 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Knitting Club. Are you working on a knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlepoint, or similar project? Join us every Friday evening for knitting club! No sign up required, just stop by.

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Read and Play. Read a story, sing a song, and play with our blocks, hoops, and other creative play materials! Best for ages 0-5.

October 7-18: Costume Swap Drop-off. Help make this Halloween affordable and eco-friendly by donating gently used costumes and costume pieces for our upcoming Costume Swap. Before October 18, drop off costume pieces you are willing to part with, then come back to select your new-to-you costume(s) during the Costume Swap on October 19. All sizes of costumes are welcome. Any pieces remaining by the end of swap day will be donated to Goodwill.

Monday, October 7, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Tech Help with Clif.

Offering one-on-one technology help. Reservation required. Please call 802-878-6955 at least 48 hours in advance.

Monday, October 7, 7:30 – 9:00 PM: Vermont Astronomical Society. Delineation of a Marvelous New Blazing Star by Lawrence Garrett. Time travel back to the days when Astronomy, Theology, and Astrology walked hand and hand together, with today's views of years long past. Ask for the Zoom link via info@vtaastro.org.

Tuesday, October 8, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: TEEN Book Club. Discuss your favorite books and authors with other teens! This month's genre: your favorite book with a mystery! Best for grades 6-12.

Wednesday, October 9, 5:00 – 6:00 PM: Chess Time. Come play chess in our informal setting! Whether you're just learning or already a pro, you're invited to play this ancient game of strategy. All ages welcome. In the youth nonfiction area.

Friday, October 11, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Owls & Their Calls with VINS. Did you know that not all owls hoot? VINS, the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, will host this program, which includes two live owls and an audible demonstration of local owl sounds. This encounter enables participants to understand the defining characteristics and adaptations for life as a nocturnal predator on the wing. Touchable artifacts and hands-on materials round out this special experience. In the main reading room, for all ages.

Saturday, October 12, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Mason Jar Herb Garden. Build your own herb garden to take home! Limited supplies. Sign-up Required.

Saturday, October 12, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: TEEN Anime Club. Watch one or two episodes of an anime while eating snacks. Best for teens grades 6-12.

The library is closed on Monday, October 14 for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Tuesday, October 15, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Red Clover Award Book Group. Each month, students in grades K-4 will read two titles from this year's Red Clover book list and complete an activity. Voting takes place in March. Please register online.

Tuesday, October 15, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Golden Dome Award Book Group. Each month, registered students in grades 4-8 will gather in the library to discuss a book from this year's Vermont Golden Dome Book List. Voting takes place in March. Please register online.

Tuesday, October 15, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: GMBA Group. Each month, registered students in grades 9-12 will gather in the library to discuss a book from this year's Green Mountain Book Award list. Please register online.

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Brownell Library Trustees Meeting.

Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Be Prepared for an Emergency. Join Essex Police Chief Ron Hoague and Harry Schoppmann from Vermont Emergency Management to discuss emergency planning for your family and the community.

Week of Thursday, October 17: Art Lab: Goblin Garland. Stop by the Winnie Bell Maker Space in Youth Nonfiction to participate in this month's Art Lab: Collage paper goblin heads and string them into a festive garland. Give your goblins names and tell us a sentence or two about their merry mischief. This program is made possible with support from the Winnie Bell Learned Fund and it is open to all ages.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main Desk 802-878-6955, Youth Desk 802-878-6956, Reference Desk 802-878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

Closed Monday, October 14th, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

We still have free COVID tests and gun locks!

All library programs are free and open to the public.

All ages

Explore Essex Passport Events, through October 5. “Leaf” us a note about why you love the library! Fill out a leaf at the front desk or kid's exploration station and we'll add it to the tree in the lobby. Be a leaf peeper — stop by to see your neighbors' answers! You can also attend a library program, enjoy our backyard Storywalk®, or borrow an item.

Attention Crafters — there are still spots available for the Cozy Nook Craft Fair, Saturday, November 2, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Memorial Hall, 5 Towers Rd., Essex and Essex Free Library. For more information: essexfreefriends@gmail.com.

Cozy Nook Craft Fair, Saturday, November 2, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Memorial Hall, 5 Towers Rd., Essex and Essex Free Library. Original art, prints, knits, jewelry, cards, unique gifts, yummy baked goods, and more! Sponsored by Friends of the Essex Free Library. Proceeds benefit the library. (The Library will not be open for regular business.)

Children and Teens

Mondays except October 14, 11:00 AM: Musical Storytime. Rock'n'read with Miss Noreen!

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

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. For grades 1-5; kids in grades 4 and younger need to come with an adult.

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Pokémon Club. For grades 1-8. Decks available for card games. Themed crafts. Participants may bring gaming devices for Pokémon Go and other Pokémon games.

Fridays: Grab'n'Go Craft Kits, while supplies last.

Exploration Station: ongoing. Check out the blue table for this week's challenge.

Saturdays, October 12 and 26, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons. For grades 9-12. Do you yearn for adventure? And free food? The Essex Free Library wants you to join our new program! Every other Saturday starting October 12.

Thursday, October 17, 4:30 – 6:30 PM: Perler Bead Open Studio. Come and hang out in the community room to make a perler bead creation! No registration needed, ages 7 and up.

Tuesday, October 29, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Read to Chewy the Therapy Dog! Kids and families can sign up for a 15-minute slot and choose a book to read to Chewy and his human. Sign up on the website.

Adults

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

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appointment needed.

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

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

Thursday, October 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group: The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. Winner of the 2024 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. A compassionate and inventive novel about the power of community.

Saturday, October 5, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Zentangle with Julia Davenport. For adults. This art form welcomes slowing down, taking your time, and seeing what happens. No prior art experience required. Sign up on the website.

Tuesday, October 8, 2:00 – 3:30 PM and 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Noreen’s Creative Card Class. For adults. Come and learn how to make two different cards. Register on website.

Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Zentangle with Julia Davenport. For adults. This art form welcomes slowing down,

taking your time, and seeing what happens. No prior art experience required. Sign up on the website.

Thursday, October 17, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Trivia Night. For adults and teens. Join us at the library for some fun and friendly trivia competition. Light refreshments provided.

Thursday, October 24, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Board Games for ages 18+. Bring your friends and enjoy the library’s growing board game collection (or bring your own to share with the group). Light refreshments provided.

Thursday, November 7, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group: Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips. Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. A mesmerizing story about a mother and daughter seeking refuge in the chaotic aftermath of the Civil War — and a brilliant portrait of family endurance against all odds.

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

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

DRML Youth Services Librarian named to Library Leadership Program

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) youth services librarian Abbey Heimlich has been selected for the 2024 Strategic Library Leadership Development Program, organized by Library Leaders in New England (LLINE).

“I’m honored to be selected for this program, and deeply grateful to Deborah Rawson Library’s Board of Trustees for sponsoring my participation,” Heimlich said. “I’m excited to bring back what I learn and apply it to make our library even greater.”

Heimlich began her tenure at DRML in 2020, after working for more than three years as a librarian at Burlington High School. She has a Master’s of Library and Information Science from Kent State.

Heimlich will join a cohort of 25 librarians representing New England’s six states of Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, who were

selected for their leadership potential and commitment to the library profession. Their year-long training includes a three-day in-person event followed by 11 months of virtual learning opportunities, including discussions, keynote presentations, and leadership-focused activities designed to extend the in-person experience.

“We established this program to equip future library leaders with essential strategic thinking and leadership skills, and train library staff at all levels to proactively navigate the evolving landscape of libraries,” said Maureen Sullivan, one of the program’s distinguished facilitators and a former president of both the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Mary Danko, director of Fletcher Free Library in Burlington, and Deb Hoadley, a library consultant with Hoadley Consulting in New Hampshire, are also facilitators. Together, these

three library professionals bring decades of experience and expertise, ensuring that participants receive top-tier guidance and mentorship throughout the program. “We are committed to empowering the next generation of library leaders,” Danko said.

“By offering a mix of strategic thinking, training, and leadership development, our goal is to create a strong network of innovative leaders across New England,” Hoadley said.

The 2024 Strategic Library Leadership Development Program is a flagship initiative of Library Leaders in New England, a non-profit organization committed to providing opportunities for library leaders at all levels to expand their leadership skills and knowledge. Through mentorship, training, and professional development, LLINE fosters a strong community of leaders across New England, empowering library professionals to innovate and lead their institutions into the future.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Please consider helping, by fostering

From VT Department for Children and Families

You are crafty, fun-loving, and an energetic, imaginative Pied Piper. Your niece Sophia likes dolls and toy houses. She has imaginary friends, and she likes to help with cooking. And right now, she needs a committed caregiver while her mom is in treatment. As her potential foster care provider, and as someone who has known Sophia her entire life, you may be her perfect match.

More than 35% of children and youth in foster care live

with a relative or close family friend. As kin, you already have a connection to Sophia and you hold information about her extended family and community — even if it’s just for a short time until Sophia can, hopefully, be reunified with a parent. Fostering a relative is rewarding and the difference you can make for Sophia could be the connection that changes her life in the most positive way.

In addition to identifying relatives who might be interested in caring for a relative child, DCF Family Services is always looking to recruit individuals or families in every community who can provide foster care to a youth in need. You will receive training, a stipend, and support. There is NO obligation to accept

a placement, but when you do apply, we’ll walk you through the process and help you learn about the needs of children in your community. You can be gay or straight, married or single, young or an empty nester. If you and your family are ready for the challenge foster care will demand of you, we would love to hear from you. And for some, it may mean becoming a child’s “forever” family.

To learn more about foster care, go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/foster> You can also call your local Family Services District Office and ask to speak to the Resource Coordinator.

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Get 75% off

weatherization projects, up to \$9,500*



efficiencyvermont.com/wx
(888) 921-5990

Stay warmer all winter and stop wasting the heat you’ve paid for!

Efficiency Vermont has incentives for comprehensive home air sealing and insulation projects:

- 75% off weatherization project costs, **up to \$4,000**
- Moderate income Vermonters get **up to \$9,500**
- Financing starting at **0% interest**, or add the monthly payment to your utility bill.

It’s possible to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient for around \$50 a month. Income-eligible Vermonters may qualify for free weatherization services.

*Subject to availability and eligibility.



Learn More

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Final round of flags for Cambridge Flag Project

By Charles Guyette, American Legion Post 35 Commander
Mount Mansfield Post 35 is proud to announce the final round of the Cambridge Flag Project in Jeffersonville, VT. Your sponsorship purchases a flag that will be part of an on-going display in the weeks leading up to Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

There will be a total of 140 flags to be sponsored and will be placed in the silo green. The flags will be displayed in this area for a week before Memorial Day, July 4, and Veterans Day. Once collected, they will be taken down and safely stored in a clean, dry location for future display.

The flags are quality 3' x 5' (Made in U.S.A.) American Flags that will be displayed on a 9-foot tall pole. Each pole will have a laminated 4" x 6" card attached to it displaying a photo (if desired), name, rank, & branch of service/agency of the veteran or first responder. The opposite side of the card will display the name(s) of the sponsors.

If you would like to sponsor a flag for a veteran or first responder, please print and complete the form online at <https://bit.ly/3MwdQBj> (short for https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MQ_

GRhQFkuWlJiUg7zaM6sBSB87easgE/view?usp=drivesdk) and mail it along with a check for \$120 and mail to American Legion Post 35, Attn: Cambridge Flag Project, P.O. Box 96, Jeffersonville, VT 05464.

Since this is the last round of flags and the project will be capped at 140 flags, it is on a first-come, first served-basis. There are no reservations for flags. Forms and payment must be received to secure a sponsorship. If you have any questions or to email photos of your veteran, please reach out to Post 35 Commander Charles J. Guyette, guyette76@hotmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Vote411, League of Women Voters voter guide, is now live

The League of Women Voters of Vermont launched *Vote411*, its user-friendly, mobile-responsive, comprehensive voter guide to help voters make informed decisions as they prepare to vote confidently on or before November 5, whether absentee or in person on Election Day.

This free one-stop-shop for statewide election information includes candidate information, voter registration, polling place information, and other helpful Election Day resources, including links to candidate forums. With tools in both English and Spanish, *Vote411* is tailored to meet the unique needs of Vermont voters.

The League urges Vermonters to visit *VOTE411* (<https://www.vote411.org/>) ahead of the election. Here's how it works: Go online to <https://www.vote411.org/>. Enter your address to find what is on your ballot, information on candidates and where they stand on issues. The online guide will feature photos of each candidate who responded and their answers to League questions on their qualifications and issues.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and the League is incredibly proud to serve the public as a trusted resource for voters, especially as voters face disinformation campaigns. *Vote411* continues the League's rich history of providing voters with non-

partisan, factual, and trusted electoral information. In addition to *VOTE411*, the League encourages active participation in government by conducting voter registration drives and candidate forums, get-out-the-vote social media messaging, and educational forums on critical public policy issues.

VTrans project updates: Richmond, Williston

Williston: VT Rt. 2A culvert replacement

Project description: This project is to replace a deteriorating 48" culvert pipe under VT Rt. 2A between the I-89 Exit 12 interchange and VT Rt. 2/Marshall Avenue/Maple Tree Place intersection, 30' north of the old State Police barracks.

Completion date: October 25, 2024

September 19

Project update: Installed a temporary pedestrian path; stripped the forms from the headwall.

Traffic impact: One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained during working hours.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule beginning on September 22:

• Sunday-Thursday, 8:00 PM – 6:00 AM: begin the installation of the new culvert.

Please use caution and follow the speed limit when traveling in the construction area.

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference VT-2A Culvert, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Richmond: U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 replacement

Project description: total bridge replacement.

Completion date: September 2025

September 19

Project update: Completed the installation of the approach slabs and steel bridge joints; Poured the concrete headwalls for Culvert #10 on the eastern end of the project; Began forming the curb on the bridge deck.

Traffic impacts:

• U.S. Rt. 2: Tuesday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM will have traffic control present with intermittent one-lane of alternating travel; both approaches of the project have a gravel surface, motorists are urged to use caution.

• I-89 south of Exit 11: Monday-Friday, 4:30 AM – 3:00 PM, motorists will encounter daily lane closures in both the northbound and southbound lanes; motorists shall follow the posted speed limit within the construction zone; speed enforcement will be present, and fines will be doubled.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began September 23:

• Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM: Backfill around the headwalls of Culvert #10 and prep the roadway for the base course of pavement; pour the concrete curb on the bridge deck.

September 26

Project update: completed all concrete pours for the bridge installation.

Miscellaneous continued on page 9



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Miscellaneous continued from page 8

Traffic impacts:

• U.S. Rt. 2: Tuesday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM will have traffic control present with intermittent one-lane of alternating travel; both approaches of the project have a gravel surface, motorists are urged to use caution.

• Monday through Friday I-89 south of Exit 11 motorists will encounter intermittent lane closures between 5:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in both the northbound and southbound lanes.

Motorists shall follow the posted speed limit within the construction zone; Speed enforcement will be present, and fines will be doubled.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began September 30:

• Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM: Backfill around the headwalls of Culvert #10 and prep the roadway for the base course of pavement; install bridge rail; install approach curb.

Please email sbarrett@coibsync.com, reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Construction update:

Cambridge-Johnson VT Rt. 15

By Eric Boozan, Cambridge Town Administrator
Cambridge-Johnson VT 15 Resurfacing Project STP 2925(1)
September 20

Traffic impact: on Saturday, September 14, and possibly continuing on Monday, September 16, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM, there will be alternating one-way traffic near the VT-15/ VT-108 junction in Cambridge, controlled by flaggers, to facilitate paving operations.

From Monday-Saturday, September 23-28, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM, there will be two traffic control packages facilitating alternating one-way traffic on VT Rt. 15, from just east of VT-100C to Park Street within the Village of Johnson and near Foote Brook Road, moving westward as the week progresses. Crews will work outside the roadway on VT-15 within the Village of Johnson, from just east of VT-100C to Park Street, during the peak hours of 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Motorists should slow down and exercise caution while traveling through the project area. Expect delays along VT-15 and plan for additional travel time.

Construction activities: Monday-Saturday, crews will pave the final wearing course of asphalt on VT-15 within the Village of Johnson limits, from just east of VT-100C to just east of Park Street, including side street and driveway aprons. Crews will continue with berm removal, ditching, and general clean up along VT-15, starting near Foote Brooke Road and progressing west.
September 27

Traffic impact: Monday-Saturday, September 30-October 5, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM, there will be three traffic control packages facilitating alternating one-way traffic on VT-15, from just east of VT-100C to Sunny Acres Road.

Crews will work outside the roadway on VT-15 within the Village of Johnson, from just east of VT-100C to Park Street, during the peak hours of 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Anticipated Driveway Impacts: Wednesday-Saturday, properties on VT-15, from just east of VT-100C to Park Street, will experience temporary 30-minute interruptions to driveway access for the paving of driveway aprons. Residents and businesses affected by these short interruptions are encouraged to use alternative on-street parking on VT-15 if they need to leave during this time. If access is required during an interruption, residents and businesses should contact on-site crew members for assistance. Crews will maintain access for emergency services by paving driveways in halves or maintaining a secondary entrance.

Motorists should slow down and exercise caution while traveling through the project area. Expect delays for paving operations along VT-15 and plan for additional travel time.

Construction activities: Monday, crews are anticipated to finish paving the final wearing course of asphalt on VT-15 within the Village of Johnson limits, from just east of VT-100C to just east of Park Street. Starting mid-week, crews will hand-pave driveway aprons along VT-15 within the village limits. Additionally, on Monday, crews are anticipated to begin paving the intermediate course of asphalt along the eight-mile stretch of VT-15, starting near Park Street in Johnson and progressing west throughout the week. This paving operation will continue for several weeks until crews reach the VT-15/VT-108 roundabout in Cambridge. All paving operations are weather-dependent.

For more information contact Public Information Consultant Elaine Ezerins, 603-782-2460 or elaine.ezerins@wsp.com.

Construction update Cambridge-Belvidere VT Rt. 109

From Eric Boozan, Cambridge Town Administrator
Project description: VT Rt. 109 resurfacing.
September 19

Project update: completed milling operation between Waterville Village and VT Rts. 108/109 intersection; continued ditch and shoulder work; completed guardrail upgrades; installed final pavement markings between Morgan Bridge Road to the VT Rts. 109/118 intersection; Continued paving wearing course (final) between Morgan Bridge Road proceeding south along VT Route 109.

Traffic impact: motorists can expect traffic control to be present in multiple areas within the construction limits allowing for one-lane of alternating travel.

Construction activities: The following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began September 23:

• Monday-Friday, 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM: continue paving between Laraway Mountain Road and Waterville Village; continue ditch work in Waterville and Cambridge.
September 26

Traffic impact: Motorists can expect traffic control to be present in multiple areas within the construction limits allowing for one-lane of alternating travel.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began September 28:

• Saturday, Monday-Friday, 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM: weather permitting, continue paving southbound from Waterville to

HALLOWEEN 2024

Westford Halloween Walk V: Vampires and Verevolves!

Hawoooo Westfordians!
Our Westford tradition is rising again, and we're taking it to the neck level!

That's right fangs and ghouls, we are tempting all to the Westford Common on Sunday, October 27, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, for the 5th Annual Westford Halloween Walk! This annual tradition for Westford is a free spooky trick-or-treat walk for our local youngsters and young-at-heart, planned and (g)hosted by your Westford friends and neighbors.

We are currently SUMMONING VOLUNTEERS who would like to decorate and (g)host a trick-or-treat spot on the Common on October 27. Volunteers from the community make this event possible by conjuring spooky décor and handing out candy or other treats to around 150 trick-or-treaters. We will once again have the ghastly competition for the best set-up as well as a collection area for non-perishable items for the Westford Food Shelf.

Can't host a spot on the 27th but want to help in other ways? We are collecting extra bags of candy and treats, which can be dropped off at the Westford Public Library. We are also seeking donations of pumpkins, corn stalks, or a general cash donation to offset other costs.

For questions, donations, or to claim a space, please email the Westford Scream Team at westfordhalloween@gmail.com.

It's going to be a wickedly fun time you can really sink your teeth into!

Bolton's Big Truck-or-Treat event October 26

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 26, 12:00 – 4:30 PM and spread the word! Truck-or-treating starts at the Bolton Fire Station and leads all the way to Smilie School.

Big equipment and big trucks will be decorated for Halloween and handing out candy to truck-or-treaters. There will also be food trucks and entertainment.

We are looking for a few more food trucks. If interested, please contact savanna.phillips@mmuusd.org.

Please spread the word and share this with your family and friends!



Halloween

By Kimberly Madura

When the empath who is "it" gets fed up chasing the frightened flee'ers, she will yell "you better watch out there is no telling what I will do when I catch you", I might even make you look me in the eyes. And, I will catch you.



Fall Safety Tips

Finishing up digging projects before the snow flies?

Before you dig, you or your contractor must contact Dig Safe™ at 811 at least 48 hours prior to digging.

Before the work begins, Dig Safe will notify member utilities, who will then ensure the locations of buried facilities they own are clearly marked. Please insist that any work within 18 inches of the marked lines be done by hand.



Be safe

Scan the QR Code or visit vgsvt.com/be-safe for more safety information.



How to Detect a Gas Leak

Smell: Natural gas is normally odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.

Sight: You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying.

Sound: You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing, or whistling.

If you suspect a leak:

Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 800-639-8081 or call 911 with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might result in a dangerous condition.

Do not assume someone else will report the condition.



Miscellaneous continued from page 9

Cambridge; continue ditch work in Waterville and Cambridge.
For information contact Public Information Consultant Stephanie Barrett, 802-399-7847 or sbarrett@coibsinc.com.

Applications open for VCRD Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) announces the opening of applications for the fourth competitive round of the Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund.

In collaboration with VLITE, Vermont Community Foundation's Sunflower Fund, and others, VCRD is supporting innovators in developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. The first three rounds provided grants to 68 local innovators totaling over \$200,000. A diversity of projects have been funded including support for a floodplain public food forest, frontline emergency preparedness kits, climate economy workforce training, e-bikes at local libraries, solar with back-up battery storage for a library community hub, and more. To learn more about projects that have been funded, read the reports for Round 1 (<https://www.vtrural.org/2022-climate-catalysts-awardee-report/>) and Round 2 (<https://www.vtrural.org/climate-catalyst-innovation-fund-2022-23-report/>).

"This fund has provided leverage for 68 community projects to move from an ambitious idea to an implemented climate-based solution in their community," stated Program Manager, Laura Cavin Bailey. "We are grateful to our funders to continue this opportunity, and look forward to supporting many creative applications again this year."

Grants will range from \$500-\$4000 and be awarded based on demonstrating a mix of addressing Vermonters in need, innovation, resilience, collaboration, and replicability. Eligible applicants include municipalities, town committees, schools, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Applications will remain open until 5:00 PM on Monday, October 28.

Learn more at <https://www.vtrural.org/climate-economy/climate-catalysts-innovation-fund/> and contact Laura Cavin Bailey, laura@vtrural.org or 802-234-1646 with questions.

United Way Volunteer Connection

GET CONNECTED TO VOLUNTEERING — United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Go online to <https://unitedwaymvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

WARM MEALS — Martha's Community Kitchen in St. Albans provides daily warm meals for as many as 200 people in need. They are looking for volunteers to offer their time and skills, two to four shifts a month, from 9:00 AM — 1:30 PM. Contact marthas802@yahoo.org to set up an interview.

TAKE YOUR PICK — Spectrum Youth and Family Services invites volunteers to pick from a number of ways to make a difference in the lives of community youth: Become a mentor, donate a meal at one of their Drop-in Centers in Burlington or St. Albans, tutor multi-cultural and New American youth several hours a week, help organize donated clothing, and/or help with special projects and events. Visit here to learn more: <https://www.spectrumvt.org/volunteer/>.

COMPUTER AND FINANCIAL LITERACY — Dismas House residents are in need of volunteers, age 18 and older, to help them gain computer literacy skills to help them achieve personal and professional goals. Volunteers offer assistance one-on-one, helping residents gain confidence. Ideal candidates are patient, enjoy teaching, and like working one-on-one. Dismas House also needs volunteers to help people leaving incarceration to gain banking, money management, and budgeting skills as part of their next steps in the transition from Dismas to the broader community. Volunteers should know how to open a bank account, read a statement, manage personal income and expenses, and enjoy teaching and working one-on-one. Contact Holly Rossi, 802-658-0381 or holly@dismasofvt.org.

MORE CHOICES! — Milton Family Community Center has numerous volunteer opportunities that vary with the seasons such as Food Shelf support, Community Center clean-up, minor building maintenance (e.g., painting), gardening, and a lot more! Contact Caitlin, cblake@miltonfamilycenter.org.

SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY — Franklin Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center is looking for volunteer CoSA (Circle

of Support and Accountability) members to work in teams of three with a Core Member who is returning to the community from incarceration. Volunteers meet regularly with the Core Member to provide support and mentoring while ensuring that the Core Member is accountable for his or her actions. The volunteer commitment is one year, and the CoSA team meets one hour a week. Volunteers are also encouraged to spend one-on-one time with the Core Members. Orientation and training are provided. Contact Eric Arnzen, 802-752-6207 or eric@fgirjc.org.

Lamoille FiberNet funding for long driveways, non-standard installations

Lamoille FiberNet has limited funding available to help offset the cost of non-standard drop installations in seven Lamoille County towns and is seeking Lamoille County residents who do not have access to internet, and who may have a non-standard "drop," so they can develop a policy that fairly allocates available funds.

If your installation situation is non-standard (see below), and your address is in Lamoille FiberNet's Phase I region of one of these towns: Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Waterville, and Wolcott, then please fill in the form at <https://forms.office.com/g/LVNiYN2qBp> to be eligible for funding. Paper copies of the survey are available at town offices for towns listed above.

Takeaway points

- Fidium Fiber is actively building the network and connecting addresses in Lamoille County;
- most homes and businesses can be installed to the network at no charge, but some non-standard installations will have an associated cost;
- seven Lamoille County towns provided Lamoille FiberNet CUD with funds to help offset the cost of these "non-standard drops," and the CUD is conducting a survey to gauge the need in each town. Please see the survey information below.

Construction to be completed this fall

Lamoille FiberNet CUD and Fidium Fiber are pleased and proud to announce that the Phase I buildout of our fiber-optic distribution network — the backbone of reliable, high-speed internet service — is on schedule and on budget. Construction for Phase I will be completed this fall.

Connecting homes and businesses to the network will be an ongoing process. If you are interested in affordable, high-speed internet service, now is the time contact Fidium Fiber to see if your address is in the Phase I build area, check the plans and prices, and register to be connected (there is no commitment required until they actually connect to your house). Call 833-970-4615 or see <https://www.fidiumfibersavings.com/>.

Connecting your house or business to the network

There are two steps to the installation process:

- bringing fiber from the network or road to your building, i.e., "installing the drop," and
- activating internet service inside the house.

In most cases, the "drop" in Step One — the cost for bringing Fidium Fiber from the roadway to your home or business — will be covered in full under Lamoille FiberNet's contract with Fidium's owner, Consolidated Communications. Generally, if you are with 500 feet of the roadway pole or have aerial telephone/power lines to your house or acceptable underground conduit — you are all set.

However, there are addresses that require non-standard drops, which will not be covered. Seven towns in the Lamoille FiberNet service area allocated some of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help with these non-standard expenses. We are trying to identify the need in each town so that we may develop a policy and program that fairly allocates available funds.

Non-standard installations

Non-standard installations are needed when the drop requires more than 500 feet of new conduit, or new poles, because:

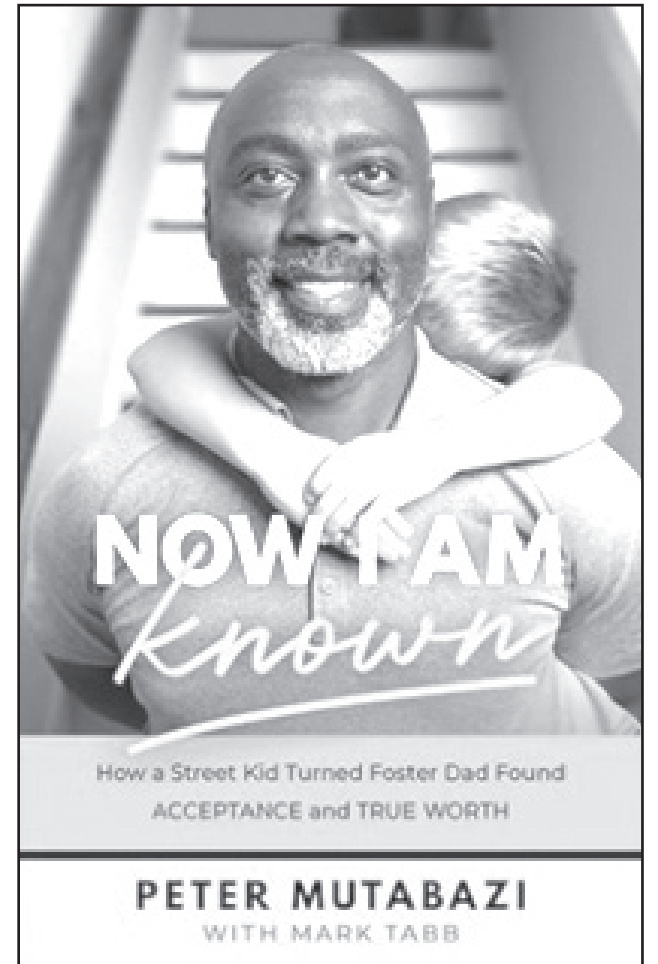
- there are no existing telephone poles or usable conduit; or
- there is a copper phone line or DSL line, but it is direct buried (not in a conduit); or
- telephone poles or existing conduit exist but are heavily damaged and unusable.

These situations require that you install conduit for fiber or reach out to a contractor to install conduit for fiber (please see

conduit specifications at Installation & Underground Service — Lamoille FiberNet).

Note: Towns listed above allocated a portion of their ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant funds to enhance broadband internet access. Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe had already directed their ARPA funds toward other expenses.)

For more information, please go to <http://www.LamoilleFiber.net>, email info@lamoillefiber.net, or contact your local representative.



Speaker Peter Mutabazi at Foster Caregiver Conference

Join us, Saturday, November 9 for the 2024 Adoptive, Foster, and Kin Caregiver Conference, held at the Sugarbush Resort in Warren.

Keynote speaker Peter Mutabazi spreads inspiration, hope, and joy in sharing his extraordinary journey from being a street kid to becoming a dedicated advocate for children in foster care. Born in Uganda, Peter faced numerous challenges, including running away to avoid alcoholism and violence in his family home. His resilience and determination led him to seek a better life, ultimately settling in the United States. He became a foster and eventually an adoptive parent, providing a loving and supportive home for children who could not live safely with their parent(s). Peter's work as an advocate extends beyond fostering and he is also involved in various initiatives to improve the foster care system and support children who are navigating similar challenges.

Peter uses social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram to tell his story, which is a testament to the power of perseverance and compassion. He shares the joys, challenges, and occasional heartbreaks of being a single foster and adoptive father, using vulnerability and humor. He wants to make sure that every child is seen, heard, known, and loved.

Peter currently lives in Charlotte, NC. He is a foster parent to many and adoptive father of three. To learn more about Peter, go online to www.nowiamknown.com and follow Peter @ [fosterdadflipper](https://www.instagram.com/fosterdadflipper) on Facebook and Instagram.

To register for the conference, go online to <https://vermontcwp.org/2024-vermont-caregiver-connection-conference/>.

OBITUARIES



Remembering Poe of Pogo Kennels

The family of Poe Provost wishes to share with the Jericho/Underhill community that Poe passed away peacefully at the McClure Miller Respite House on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Many in this community will remember Poe for her business, Pogo Kennels, which she started in 2007. She had great pride in the home-simulated environment the kennel offered. Poe had many loyal customers (both human and canine) and loved to share stories with her family about several of her favorite dogs. She ran the kennel until her health required her to close in 2023. She was so pleased to have her legacy carried on by Mansfield Kennels. — Katie Macdonald, Underhill

On Wednesday, September 18, 2024 Poe peacefully transitioned from this life at McClure Miller Respite House. **Poe (Pauline) Provost** of Jericho, VT was born January 13, 1957 in Newport, VT, the sixth child of Regina (Ferland) and Richard Provost. She was predeceased by her brother Henri (1981), parents Richard (2014) and Regina (2022), and dearest friend Judy Magoon (2023). She is survived by her brother Moe (Maurice) Provost (Joan Poutre), Derby, VT, and by sisters Lise MacDonald (John MacDonald), Swanton, VT, Ginette Provost (Tom Cyr), Derby, VT, Nancy Moore (John Moore), Derby, VT, Sylvia Provost (Jim Henderson), White River Junction, VT,

Suzanne Provost, Wilder, VT and Cecile Provost (Gary Sexton), Jericho, VT. She is also survived by 12 nieces and nephews, three aunts, one uncle, and 49 first cousins. Poe was a natural athlete, excelling at high school track & field, horseback riding, downhill skiing, waterskiing, windsurfing, and sailing. Her artistic creativity was expressed through her beautiful flower gardens, weaving on her floor loom, and caring for houseplants. Her other passions included bird watching and exceptional connection to and communication skills with her furry friends. She was a fabulous cook who said, "If you don't like this dish, don't worry, I never make the same dish twice!" Poe graduated from North Country Union High School in Newport, VT in 1975, and from the University of Vermont with a BA in Early Education in 1979. Following graduation, at the height of the 1979 oil crisis, Poe and Sylvia set out in a gas guzzling 360 Chevy Nova, on a 11,312 mile, seven-week cross-country camping trip. It was a trip she always remembered with pride, fondness, and joy. Later in life she became an avid sailor and fell in love with the waters of Lake Champlain. She was the co-owner, operator, chef, and the amazing hostess of the Sandbar Motor Inn & Restaurant until 1998. After selling the Sandbar she volunteered transporting rescue dogs. It was this volunteer experience combined with childhood education background, that led her to decide she wanted her own business caring for canines. In 2007 she moved to Jericho, VT, where she created a business plan to build and operate Pogo kennels. She had great pride in the home simulated environment the kennel offered. Poe had many loyal customers and loved to share stories with her family about several of her favorite dogs. She ran the kennel until her health required her to close in 2023. She was so pleased to have her legacy carried on by Mansfield Kennels. Per Poe's request there will be no service.

A celebration of her life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sail Beyond Cancer (<https://donorbox.org/sbc-vt-donation-form>) or Potter's Angel Rescue (<https://www.pottersangelsrescue.org>).

Cameron Dale Smith, 25, of Underhill, VT passed away unexpectedly on August 23, 2024. Cameron was born on April 26, 1999 to his loving parents, Daren and Tara (Huntoon) Smith. Cameron was a gifted musician and artist throughout his short life. He enjoyed playing and composing his own music for the piano, saxophone, guitar, and other instruments. He was an active member of his high school Mount Mansfield Union High School band, where his favorite high school teacher Mary Bauer fostered his natural talent. He attended the College of Saint Rose on Scholarship for the Music

Industry Performance Program. When Cameron wasn't making music he enjoyed spending time at his family camp at Lake Elmore, where he enjoyed water skiing and playing his guitar around the campfire. Cameron deeply loved and had a special connection with his family Golden Retrievers. He cherished spending time with his dad and tinkering and creating items in the garage. Cameron also loved to paint amazing pictures. His

Obituaries continued on page 11

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

The Essex Community Players are excited to announce the opening of Gore Vidal's *The Best Man* on Thursday, October 4. The show will run for three weekends at Memorial Hall in Essex. *The Best Man* comes just in time for our nation's own presidential election. Join us for the Presidential primaries in the summer of 1960. Presidential contender and Secretary of State William Russell lives by his principles but is haunted by recent health problems that threaten his career and vote-winning potential. Senator Joe Cantwell presents himself as the people's candidate; his determination to win at all costs is also his great flaw. Cantwell is faced with the revelation of sexual indiscretions, threatening both his marriage and his career. These two frontrunners for their party's presidential nomination fight for the support of the outgoing president and resort to mudslinging in a very public contest. Who ultimately will be nominated? Tickets are on sale now! <https://www.essexplayers.com/tickets> — adults \$20; seniors (over 60) and children (12 and under) \$18. Show dates: Friday-Saturday, October 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 7:30 PM; doors open at 7:00 PM so plan to arrive early — doors close at 7:30 PM. Two Sunday matinees: ESSEX DAY is Sunday, October 6, 2:00 PM — Essex and Essex Junction residents pay only \$16; Sunday, October 13, 2:00 PM.

Lifting the Veil, an art exhibition curated by Westford artist Anne Cummings, opened September 19 at the Grange Hall Cultural Center, Waterbury Center, and will be on view every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through Friday, October 25 between 12:00 – 6:00 PM, or by appointment by calling 802-371-7400. Celebrate the season when the veil between the worlds thins and the connection between the living and the lived becomes a spiritual and expressive experience! A closing multimedia dance will take place October 25, 7:00 PM, for as long as the spirits move us! The exhibition and event are sponsored by Across Roads Center for the Arts.

The weekly virtual Burlington Literature Group welcomes new committed readers to our sessions. The group has been in existence for years meeting in a physical space but, since the pandemic, has changed to online Zoom sessions occurring every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages, discuss form, content and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com. Our next book is *The Pale King* by David Foster Wallace. He was a versatile writer of seemingly bottomless energy, a maximalist, exhibiting in his work a huge, even manic curiosity about the physical world, about the much larger universe of human feelings, and about the complexity of living in America at the end of the 20th century. Here's our schedule for *The Pale King*: October 1: beginning through Chapter 9; October 8: Chapter 10 through 21; October 15: Chapter 22; October 22: Chapter 23 through 26; October 29: Chapter 27 through 35; November 5: Chapter 36 through 45; November 12: Chapter 46 to end.

Governor's Arts Awards — Since 1967 the Vermont Arts Council, in association with the Governor's office, has recognized outstanding individual and organizational contributions to the arts in Vermont with a variety of awards. We are now accepting nominations for the 2025 Governor's Arts Awards. There are five categories of awards. Read through the award criteria and nominate your favorite artist or organization: <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/programs/arts-awards/>. The nomination deadline is December 20, 2024.

History Unframed: The Bryan Gallery and Jeffersonville's Art Legacy — Bryan Gallery is thrilled to announce a special series of conversations in collaboration with the Cambridge

Historical Society as part of our 40th anniversary celebration! Join us for three nights of conversation, exploration, and discovery that delve into the rich art and history of Jeffersonville. We're hosting a series of dynamic talks featuring three distinguished guests who will bring their unique perspectives on Jeffersonville's art and historical legacy. Each event will be led by the brilliant Barbara Bertocci, who will guide the conversation and answer your questions during a lively Q&A session at the end of each talk. The events and speakers are: Wednesday, October 9, Jane Shaw; Wednesday, November 6, Eric Tobin. All events will take place at Bryan Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville, at 7:00 PM. Free and open to the public; no reservations required, seating is first-come, first-served. Bring your friends and immerse yourself in three evenings of inspiring conversation and community spirit! For more information, contact the Gallery at 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org

At the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Rd., Jericho is a show that will hang through Sunday, October 27: Marilyn James of Essex Junction has worked with a variety of media but this event will showcase her skill with a palette knife as well as the brush. "I start a painting using a brush and paint to cover the canvas and create the general idea. Then use a palette knife. Working with the knife, layering the paint, gives me freedom to explore texture and color on my landscapes. Almost like sculpting with paint on canvas." Marilyn has painted for over 50 years and was one of the founding members of the Essex Art League (which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.) For more information: <https://www.emilegruppegallery.com/>.

Art for DRML Jericho — Once again, the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) is looking for artists who might be interested in displaying their art at DRML, located at 8 River Rd., Jericho. Each month DRML features an artist. We have very nice wall space and a secure display case. Feel free to stop by the library or contact Susan Adams, sadams15@comcast.net, for more information. We so appreciate our generous artist friends!

Montpelier's Capital City Concerts' 25th anniversary season: Founded in 2000 by flutist Karen Kevra, Capital City Concerts (CCC) season opens its 25th season in September with concerts running through May of 2025, with expanded offerings and favorite return performers as well as new ones. In Montpelier and Burlington the weekend of October 26-27 will present Capital City Concerts annual JS Bach concerts, with a new generation of CCC performers when flutist Jillian Reed (who grew up in Montpelier) will perform alongside her former teacher Karen Kevra, as well as other veteran performers. On Saturday, January 25, a pay-as-you-can family concert will be performed by the extraordinary vocal ensemble Culomba. On Sunday, March 30 a celebration concert will take place in which CCC founder and Grammy-nominated flutist Karen Kevra along with pianist Jeffrey Chappell will weave highlights of CCC's history with a variety of music, with celebration cake served at the conclusion of that concert. The series will conclude with two different block-buster anniversary concerts on Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18 that will include over a dozen performers including The Borromeo String Quartet, pianists Jeewon Park and Jeffrey Chappell, soprano Hyunah Yu, violinist Laurie Smukler and friends, cellists Edward Arron and Gwen Krosnick, sisters Chloe and Lily Holgate of the vocal duo Sibyl. Go to www.capitalcityconcerts.org to order tickets (\$15-\$30) and learn more.

The weekly virtual Burlington Literature Group welcomes new committed readers to our sessions. The group has been in existence for years meeting in a physical space but, since the pandemic, has changed to online Zoom sessions occurring every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging



The Westford Music Series will bring the angelic voices of the award-winning husband and wife musician duo, Mike T. Lewis and MaryBeth Zamer, known on stage as The Twangtown Paramours of Nashville Tennessee, back to the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford for their annual fall tour on Sunday, October 13. Among the most popular musicians in recent years, they have developed a wide fan base with a loyal following. Well-known for their award-winning Americana, folk and blues anthems, top-notch lead singing, and fine harmonies, their music has been described as "sophisticated Americana" among reviewers in the Nashville and Austin press. Free will donations. Pie raffle for extra fun! Call 802-879-4028 for more information.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages, discuss form, content and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com.

The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville in their 40th season presents the Legacy 2024 Collection (through Sunday, December 22 in the East Gallery) features the works of 17 contemporary artists and includes selected works by Mary Bryan and Alden Bryan. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org or www.bryangallery.org.

SongFarmers, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (October 16), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments — no electronics except keyboard and bass. Everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just enjoy the gathering, are welcome. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Obituaries continued from page 10

last four years he enjoyed his second "family" at the Farm in Underhill, that treated him like their own. Cameron is survived by his parents Daren and Tara, and his sister Leah Smith; grandmothers Sue Stuart and Suzzane Smith; grandfather Patrick D. Huntoon and his wife Rebecca; aunts Michelle Smith, Staci Smith Lantagne and husband John; uncle William Huntoon; cousins Remington and Tanner Smith, William Jr. Huntoon and Alorah Huntoon; along with several great-aunts and -uncles. He was predeceased by his grandfathers Dale P. Smith and Scott J. Stuart, and by his favorite Uncle "Danny" J. Smith and his best friend Aidan Frosolone. A service was held on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at the Saint Thomas Cemetery, 9-13 Range Rd., Underhill. An annual Cameron Dale Smith Music Memorial Scholarship is being established in his honor at Mount Mansfield Union High School. Each year a deserving Senior musician who exemplifies Cameron's love, talent, and charisma in music will be awarded this scholarship. Contributions can be paid by check and made payable to Mount Mansfield Union High School. In the Memo line please put Mary Bauer MMUSIC/Cameron Smith. Please mail checks to: Mount Mansfield Union High School, Mary Bauer, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho, VT 05465.

Gilles Wilfred Rainville of Georgia, VT, a well-known dairy farmer and cattle dealer, passed away Saturday, September 14, 2024, at his home. He was 85 years old. Born in Bedford, Québec on June 24, 1939, he was one of fifteen born to Joseph O. and Cecilia (Bernard) Rainville. On July 29, 1967, in Holy Angels Church, Gilles married Claudette Gagner, who survives him. Gilles was very active in community affairs over the years, serving on the Georgia Selectboard, Road Commissioner, School Board, Board of Civil Authority, and Georgia Volunteer Fire Department. He was a long-time member and 4th Degree Knight of Council 10830, Fairfax, St. Albans Lodge 1566, B.P.O.E., a founding member of the Georgia

Lions Club, and a former member of the St. Albans Lodge 1090, L.O.O.M. In addition to his wife of 57 years, Claudette of Georgia, survivors include their two sons, Gilles J. Rainville and his wife, Elke, of Georgia, and Peter Rainville of Fairfax, as well as his grandchildren: Kirsten, Justin, Emma, Claire, Sarah, Marie, Hannah, and Ashley; and a great-granddaughter,

Claudia. Gilles is also survived by his sister, Theresa Paquette of Jericho, VT; his brother, Jean Guy Rainville and his wife, Fernande, of Fairfax; sisters-in-law, Lillian Rainville and Sophia Rainville; as well as his in-laws, Ronald Gagner, Lise and Dan Bovat, and Arlene and Gary Thompson, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Gilles was predeceased by his seven brothers: Harvey, Gaston, Laurent, Robert, Bernard, Jean Louis, and Paul; and five sisters: Madeline, Marie Paule, Noella, Fernande, and Imelda. Gilles' family received family and friends on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at the Heald Funeral Home, 87 South Main St., St. Albans, VT. A Mass of Christian

Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Parish, Holy Angels Church, 245 Lake St., St. Albans, VT. Prayers of committal and interment were in St. Luke's Catholic Cemetery in Fairfax, VT. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider planting a tree in Gilles' memory or making a donation to Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 1436, Williston, VT 05495. Honored to be serving the Rainville family is Rett Heald of the Heald Funeral Home, where messages of condolence are welcome at www.healdfuneralhome.com.



Lions Club, and a former member of the St. Albans Lodge 1090, L.O.O.M. In addition to his wife of 57 years, Claudette of Georgia, survivors include their two sons, Gilles J. Rainville and his wife, Elke, of Georgia, and Peter Rainville of Fairfax, as well as his grandchildren: Kirsten, Justin, Emma, Claire, Sarah, Marie, Hannah, and Ashley; and a great-granddaughter,

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SCHOOL NEWS

Forgivable loans for college or training in critical job sectors

Tuition could be free for qualifying students who want to work in the trades or train to become nursing educators, psychiatric nurses, or enroll in the National Guard. VSAC's interest-free forgivable loans help eligible students afford the degree or training they need to pursue the career they want. This funding will reduce or eliminate tuition for eligible students pursuing careers in critical fields in Vermont:

- Vermont Trades Forgivable Loan Program — https://www.vvac.org/pursue-career-skilled-trades-tuition-free;
• Vermont Nurse Faculty Forgivable Loan Program — https://www.vvac.org/nurse-faculty-graduate-degree-tuition-free-vermont;
• Vermont Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Forgivable Loan Program — https://www.vvac.org/tuition-free-psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner-career;
• Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program — https://www.vvac.org/vermont-national-guard-tuition-benefit-program.
Learn more at https://www.vvac.org/workforce-development-funding or contact VSAC Scholarships, 888-253-4819.

37th annual MMU Academic Boosters lasagna takeout dinner

The Mount Mansfield Academic Boosters have been serving lasagna every fall for 37 years as its only fundraiser to support activities for the school year. The meal is open to all in our community and will be takeout only. Place your order using this link: http://mmu-academic-boosters.square.site/.

This year the event will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 3:30 – 6:30 PM. Pick up will take place at the front entrance of MMU. Servers will bring your dinner directly to your vehicle. It includes lasagna (meat, veggie, GF), green salad and dressing, bread and butter, and a delicious dessert (apple pie, pumpkin pie, chocolate cake, or GF dessert). Dinners are \$15 each.

Final orders and payment must be received by Tuesday, October 8, 5:00 PM.

The MMU Academic Boosters is a group of parents whose goal is to promote, recognize, and reward the achievements of all students, and each year sponsors MMU activities and events that encourage a positive focus on students and appreciation of staff. Past activities include purchasing panini presses for the cafeteria, serving Ben and Jerry's ice cream, handing out snacks and notes of encouragement for all students, hosting honors recognition events, and hosting staff appreciation meals.

Please see our MMU Booster webpage here: https://mmu.mmuusd.org/families/academic_boosters for further information.

If you want to donate or volunteer for the event please sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4FA4A82CA1F49-academic#/. We love alumni parents' help at this event. Please consider helping out. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact us at mmuacademicboosters@mmuusd.org.

Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to seeing you on October 15.

The 2024 Congressional App Challenge is open

The 2024 Congressional App Challenge is here! If you are a Vermont teenager who likes to solve big problems – or if you know one – this app design competition might just be for you. The submission deadline is October 24.

The Congressional App Challenge is a contest where middle and high school students create their own app, regardless of their coding experience. In 2022, 35% of participants were beginners. You'll learn skills, showcase your ideas, and access resources and opportunities.

This year, we are excited to partner with Vermont's own Hack Club to support Vermont students! Hack Club will offer grants to receive free hardware/software to help you build your project. They will also host three virtual meetings with past App Challenge winners — a place for you to learn more about the Challenge and meet and collaborate with other applicants. You can learn more at their website, https://hackclub.com/congressional-app-challenge/.

The Congressional App Challenge is open to all middle and high school students in Vermont. Students entering the competition must submit their app to https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/ by Thursday, October 24, 2024.

The Vermont winner, chosen by a panel of expert judges, will be featured on https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/. One winning app from each state will also be eligible to be on display in the U.S. Capitol, honoring the winners from across the country. Winning students are also invited to a House of Code Capitol Hill Reception in Washington D.C.

For more information, please visit the official Congressional App Challenge website at https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/, email StudentSupport@CongressionalAppChallenge.us, or contact Owen at Owen.Doherty@mail.house.gov.

SENIOR NEWS

Let's Do Lunch dates, menus now through July

By Nanci Lepsic and Muffy Howard Cambridge Recreation Board

The Cambridge Recreation Board is pleased to announce the dates of this year's community meals. "Let's Do Lunch!" occurs monthly on a Friday at the Second Congregational Church, UCC Community Room, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville. Each meal starts with a speaker related to seniors at 11:00 AM followed by lunch at 11:30 AM, with an activity beginning around 12:15 PM. There is no fee for our program but donations to help defray our costs are always appreciated.

A special thanks to the wonderful volunteers who help set up, prepare, and donate foods, and clear and clean — we couldn't do this without you!

Our speaker, menu and activity will available ahead of each meal, but feel free to schedule the dates on your calendar now: October 18: stews and soups; November 15: turkey holiday dinner; December 20: roasted pork loin holiday dinner; January 17: brunch "tea party;" February 21: chili; March 21: Rubens; April 18: Polish dinner; May 23: Mexican dinner; June 20: mac'n'cheese bar; July 11: hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill.

Age Well-sponsored Tai Chi classes

Falls Prevention Tai Chi classes

This Falls Prevention Tai Chi class at the United Church of Underhill, VT Rt. 15/Park St., Underhill will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:15 PM, beginning Wednesday, October 2. Registration is required, and the class is limited to 15 people.

During 16 class sessions over eight weeks you will learn the basic forms of Sun Style Tai Chi. The benefits of this Falls Prevention program include increased balance and agility, upper and lower body strength, mindfulness of our body movements in time and space, and learning stress relief techniques.

Age Well offers this free program for adults 60 and over; donations are always appreciated and accepted. To register and for additional information, contact instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Seated Tai Chi classes

Seated Tai Chi for Health and Balance will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho starting Monday, September 30. The class is offered in person or on Zoom. (A computer with camera capabilities is needed to attend class in the Zoom format.) This is a starter level course for older adults interested in improving or maintaining strength, balance, agility, and flexibility while increasing pain-free range of motion for persons with inflammatory joint conditions.

This seated form is also beneficial for people with chronic conditions such as Lupus, Parkinson's, MS, and fibromyalgia. The combined slow, continuous movement, deep breathing techniques, positive visualization and mindfulness exercises reduce stress and help maintain an overall sense of well being. There is no charge for classes, but donations to sustain the program are most welcome and can be mailed directly to Age Well.

For information and to register contact instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Volunteer to help educate future gerontologists

The UVM Gerontology Program is seeking volunteers!

The Gerontology Course at UVM is seeking older adult volunteers for their Aging is Very Personal Service-Learning Program. This is a nursing course within The College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

What can you expect if you volunteer? You will meet virtually with about one-two nursing students once a week for four consecutive weeks. Each meeting will be 75 minutes. The nursing students are interested in learning about you and hearing about your life! This will help contribute to their nursing education and allow them to better understand the older adult population!

In order to participate you must be over the age of 65 and have a device that enables you to use the Zoom video conferencing platform.

The dates/times of the program are as follows; you must be able to participate on all four Mondays via Zoom from 2:55 – 4:15 PM: session 1 has gone by; session 2: October 14, 21, 28, and November 4.

If you are interested, please email Janelle Sarnevitz, janelle.sarnevitz@med.uvm.edu.

Volunteer with AARP Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide is a program that trains and supports volunteers providing free tax-filing help to seniors. Many older taxpayers with low to moderate income miss out on credits and deductions they've earned. Tax-Aide offers free tax-filing help to those who need it most.

You don't have to be a tax pro to volunteer with us — there are many ways to get involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the program and would like more information, our Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29 at 3:00 PM at the AARP office, 199 Main St. Suite 225, Burlington, VT 05401 in downtown Burlington.

You can also register your interest by going online to the following website: https://www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aid/.

Your actions are your only true belongings — the Buddha

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

EVs in VT. Let's Drive Electric, Vermont. Get \$ back, Save \$ over time, Power up. DriveElectricVT.com, proudly sponsored by Efficiency Vermont. Scan the code to learn more about state and federal EV incentives.

SPORTS NEWS

2024 Westford Turkey Trot registration open

The Westford Turkey Trot is an annual road race on beautiful country dirt roads. This race dates back to the 1990s and has historically raised money to support the children and families of Westford. All proceeds continue to benefit this cause. Your race fee will go towards supporting the Annual Westford Town Library Baby Tea, Scholarships, holiday baskets, and grocery gift cards for families in need.

This year's Turkey Trot will be on Saturday, November 23, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd. Register (<https://www.runreg.com/WESTFORD-TURKEY-TROT>) by Tuesday, October 1 to receive a free T-shirt! There is a Tot Trot race for kids aged 1-4, a 3K Fun Run, and 3K and 10K races. Pick your best event and help support the Westford community!

This is a Westford Recreation event and is fully fueled by the generosity of our community. Race day volunteers and raffle items are still in need. If you would like to volunteer, or donate a raffle item, please contact Race Coordinator Meghan Valyou Orisko, valyoum@gmail.com or 617-999-4772.

CAR Ski, Ride, and Winter Sports Sale October 18-19

Save the date, start your consignment pile, and make a list of what you and your family will need to enjoy the winter season! Coming to you one month earlier this year, the Cambridge Area Rotary (CAR) Ski Ride & Winter Sports Sale will be on Friday-Saturday, October 18-19, with consignment drop-off Friday 4:00 – 6:00 PM, sale Friday 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and consignment pick-up Saturday 2:00 – 4:00 PM, all at the Cambridge Community Center, Jeffersonville.

Vendors from Vermont and New Hampshire will be there with alpine skis, snow boards, cross country skis, boots of all kinds, socks, jackets, snow pants, snow shoes, helmets, goggles, skins, bindings, ski poles, and more.

Details, more instructions, and consignment forms on the CAR event website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4785/page/ski-ride-and-winter-sports-sale>.

VT Fifth Grade Passport holders ski Vermont for \$35

Ski Vermont's Fifth Grade Passport program provides fifth graders access to more than 90 days of skiing at participating alpine and cross-country member ski areas for \$35. With your fifth grader, explore what each ski area has to offer! Find details online at <https://skivermont.com/fifth-grade-passport>.

MMU sports photos: field hockey, volleyball, cross country

By Terry Healy, Jericho

The first batch of fall sports can be viewed here: MMU Varsity Field Hockey vs. Colchester, September 4: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-varsity-field-hockey-vs-colchester>.

MMU Varsity Boys Volleyball, September 4: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-varsity-boys-volleyball>.

MMU Cross Country, September 7: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-cross-country>.

My apologies to the varsity boys' cross country runners — I had to leave because of rain just as their race was to start.

Halloween Coloring Contest



Have fun coloring then send your entry to:

**Mountain Gazette
6558 VT Rte 116
Starksboro, VT 05487**

Include name, age, address, phone number with your entry.

**Entry ages
3-5,
6-9,
10-12**

**Prizes:
First in each category
\$15.00**

**Second place in each category
\$10.00**

**Third place in each category
\$5.00**

**Deadline:
5:00 PM
October 11**

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2024

6558 VT RTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487

802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net

www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

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

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

Total regular circulation 3500

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The *Mountain Gazette*, 6558 VT RTE 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

Phone: 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net

www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at 12:00 PM; the advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication, at 5:00 PM. (Note exceptions, below, due to Monday holidays before publication dates.)

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin
Publisher of the Mountain Gazette
6558 VT Rt. 116, Starksboro, VT 05487
Contact: 802-453-6354 • mtngazette@gmavt.net
On the web at www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

DEADLINE DATES:

THURSDAY

- December 26 - note Tuesday deadline
- January 9 – note Tuesday deadline
- January 25
- February 8
- February 29
- March 14
- March 28
- April 11
- April 25
- May 9
- May 30
- June 13
- June 27
- July 11
- July 25
- August 8
- August 27 - note Tuesday deadline
- September 12
- September 26
- October 8 - note Tuesday deadline
- October 31
- November 14
- November 28
- December 12

PUBLICATION DATES:

THURSDAY

- January 4 - early deadline (New Year)
- January 18 - early deadline (MLK Day)
- February 1
- *February 15
- *March 7
- March 21
- April 4
- April 18
- May 2
- *May 16
- *June 6
- June 20
- July 4
- July 18
- August 1
- *August 15
- *September 5 (Labor Day)
- September 19
- October 3
- *October 17 (Columbus Day)
- *November 7
- November 21
- December 5
- December 19

Please note: there are 3 weeks, not 2, between the *indicated publication dates
Note early deadlines: Tuesday, December 26, due to New Year’s Day on Monday, January 2;
Tuesday, January 9, due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15;
Tuesday, August 27, due to Labor Day on Monday, September 2; and
Tuesday, October 8, due to Columbus Day on Monday, October 14.
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For information: Brenda Boutin • 802-453-6354

Learn about the Mountain Gazette

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

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

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

In June we print the photos of the graduating class from MMUHS.

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

Your ad would appear in our printed paper. We store and businesses drop 3500 papers in our core communities of Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, and Westford as well as Essex, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, and Fairfax.

The Mountain Gazette information appears on our Facebook page each publication date as well as on our website at www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com where we post the entire paper including advertisers since 2008.

Please contact Brenda Boutin, publisher and advertising manager, at 802-453-6354 or mtngazette@gmavt.net.

Thank you

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The Scouting Life with Troop 839

By Amanda Starr

Last month, I spent a night immersed in the untamed wilderness of the Adirondack Mountains, entirely disconnected from the outside world. We arrived by canoe, six of us, savoring the tranquility of the water and the warmth of the sun on our skin. The rhythmic splash of paddles was our only sound as we journeyed to the island.

Once ashore, we were greeted by the sight of a blue heron and her chick nesting near the water's edge. After setting up camp, we ventured back onto the lake, where the boys spent the evening fishing, ultimately providing us with a fresh meal of bass, cooked over an open fire.

As dusk fell, the fire cast a soft glow, warding off the encroaching cold. With the flames dying down, I stood by the lake, gazing at the stars. The Big Dipper's handle arched over Eagle Island, mirrored perfectly in the glassy water beneath. It was a scene so breathtaking, it stirred a deep sense of gratitude for this simple, beautiful life.


At dawn, we awoke, still groggy from sleep, but invigorated by the peacefulness of the morning. The mist hung low over the water as our scouts paddled us back to the mainland with quiet determination. This was more than just a day well spent — it was an experience that transcended the ordinary.

It's moments like these that make me deeply appreciate Scouts BSA. Beyond the adventure, my children are learning to lead, cultivating self-reliance, and fostering a profound respect for nature. The beauty of it all is that these experiences aren't just for them—they're for our entire family. Watching my children grow, explore, and challenge themselves in this environment is an indescribable gift.

Scouts BSA is a treasure, and I am grateful to have discovered it. The memories we've created through Troop 839 will last a lifetime, woven into the fabric of our family's story. If you want to experience these adventures alongside your child, please email our Scout Master Roger Allen, rallen@thexyz.net. We'd love to share more about the remarkable opportunities Scouts BSA has to offer your family.




Scouts from BSA Troop 839 fishing for dinner, cooked over the campfire. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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