

Happy 4th of July
Cherish your freedom!

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

Vol. 21 No. 1

Serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, VT

July 1, 2021

NEWS BRIEFS

Robert Cochran memorial service July 2

A Memorial Service will be held at the Jericho Congregational Church, Browns Trace, Jericho Center on Friday, July 2 at 1:00 PM for Robert Willard Cochran — a longtime Jericho resident, UVM Professor Emeritus, and Jericho Representative to the Vermont Legislature, who died September 21, 2020. Friends and neighbors are invited to attend.

A church reception will follow. Family burial will have occurred the day before.

Schedule for culvert replacement, jct. VT Rts. 117, 289

Work began in June and will be ongoing October to replace a culvert on VT Rt. 117 in Essex. The work schedule includes Monday-Friday through October. The project involves replacement of an existing culvert pipe with a buried bridge structure. As of now, abutment walls have been poured, and the project is awaiting a precast buried bridge structure.

Minimal impact is expected, as traffic will be shifted within the construction area; but motorists should be aware of trucks entering/exiting the work area at the intersection of VT Rts. 117 and 289.

Motorists, please slow down! The speed limit has been reduced to 30 mph within the construction zone. Remember: in Vermont, fines are doubled if ticketed within a construction zone. Safety first!

Please contact sbarrett@coibsinc.com, referencing "US Route 117 Structure" if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email, or call 802-399-7847.

Cambridge Town Offices fully reopened June 15

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk / Treasurer

The Cambridge Town Offices are happy to have fully reopened to normal operations on Tuesday June 15, 2021. Non-vaccinated visitors are requested to wear masks during their visit for the protection of themselves and others. Any other visitor or staff member may wear a mask if they choose.

Our regular hours are Monday-Wednesday-Thursday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. You can continue to request assistance at 644-2251 or clerk@cambridgevt.org.

Researchers will no longer need an appointment for access to public records. Remember, however, that many resources are available online at http://cms7.revize.com/revize/cambridgevt/property_information/index.php.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and grace during this difficult past year. I especially want to thank my talented and supportive staff for their dedication during a year of massive change in how we operate the office. It was difficult, but we all made it through smiling and ready to move on.

Bolton Town Office update

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

With the expiration of the State of Emergency at midnight on June 15, 2021 (declared in 2020 in response to COVID-19), the Bolton Town Office is now open to the public and we are no longer requiring appointments for Land Record Research. However, we are still recommending appointments as our vault space is limited, and folks with appointments will be given preference for access.

Please note: Masks are required for entry into the Town Office for any person who is not fully vaccinated.

We can process document requests via phone, fax, and email during regular business hours, which are Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Please email/call to request a document (by providing the Book and Page number), a listers card, tax bill, and tax status. We are providing our NEMRC indexes for grantees and grantors on the town website (www.boltonvt.com), and the index includes records since 2008.

Village of Jeffersonville Water System update

By Trevor Welch, Head Water/Wastewater Operator
Village of Jeffersonville

The good news is the tanks are topped off, the system is holding good pressure, and the springs are overflowing. Water conservation notices have been issued in surrounding areas, due to dryer than normal conditions. At this point in the summer, we have plenty of water. Keep in mind this could change due to weather, undiscovered leaks, or other variables, so continue to use water carefully. We still have free low-flow shower heads available for water system customers.

Please keep an eye out for water system leaks. Sometimes you



Enjoy your 4th of July!

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Grand Marshals, band, floats for Jeffersonville July 4th parade

This year's 4th of July parade in Jeffersonville, starting at 10:00 AM, has a theme of *Super Heroes*. Cambridge Area Rotary is recognizing frontline workers for their efforts during the pandemic. We picked a cross section of professions and people to represent our community as *Super Hero* Grand Marshals. Here they are:

- Mary Anderson, CES teacher
- Sue Reed, CES nurse
- Greg Johnson, UVM Medical Center nurse
- Mary Ingvoldstad, UVM Medical Center nurse
- Irving Payne, Cambridge Community Center – health club
- Kayla Neumeister, 158 Main – restaurant
- Zack Bakos, Cambridge Village Market – retail
- Fred Stevens, Aubuchon – retail

The band in the Parade will be *Lovesick Trio* featuring Mark LeGrand, Jim Pittman, and the legendary Carrie Cook. Look for them during the Parade playing in the back of Hope Ferris's pickup truck. After the parade they will be performing at Visions of Vermont as part of Cambridge Arts Council's Jeffersonville Art Jam.

Floats and paraders – meet no later than 9:30 AM at Tatro's, and be ready for a 10:00 AM start. \$100 Cash Prizes for the most creative and unique presentation, in each of the categories below. Prize money must be collected at the 11:00 AM Awards Ceremony at Cambridge Elementary School, following the parade. The national anthem will be sung by Annie Rheume.

- Prize categories are:
- Grand Marshals' Choice
 - Super Hero Theme
 - Children's
 - Business
 - Vehicle

More information: There will be no Town Fair this year, but the Varnum Memorial Library is holding its Annual Book Sale from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, and Visions of Vermont and Cambridge Arts Council are hosting the Jeffersonville Arts Jam, with food trucks and art demonstrations from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Before deciding to hold the Parade, Cambridge Area Rotary consulted with the Town of Cambridge Select Board, Town Health Officers, and the Jeffersonville Village Trustees. We encourage participants to use common sense, be sensitive to others, and to follow any CDC and State of Vermont health guidelines.

In particular, we ask that folks maintain social distancing (consider Maple and Depot Streets) and wear masks as needed. We reserve the right to cancel this event if circumstances dictate. For more information, visit [@CambridgeAreaRotaryVT](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeAreaRotaryVT) or contact Rockin' Ron Carter, rcarter@smuggs.com.

Mountain bike lift service at Bolton Valley Resort

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the
Mountain Gazette

We're a long way from ski season but the lift on Vista Peak at Bolton Valley is going to start running on July 1. That's because the mountain is opening up for summertime mountain bike traffic. This is not the first time Bolton Valley has offered lift-served biking but according to President Lindsay DesLauriers, it hasn't happened in roughly 15 years.



Bolton Valley President Lindsay DesLauriers rides a mountain bike on one of the intermediate/expert trails at the resort. PHOTO BY MARK CLEMENT

"People have been riding our trails," DesLauriers said, "but the resort didn't do much to manage mountain biking as part of summer operations. When our family returned, we were excited about summer use and began promoting the trails and working with the local crew that had been maintaining them to figure out an approach for the future." The first thing the resort did was support maintenance of the roughly 30 existing trails, a process that has been going on for several years.

"We've been aiming to open for lift-served biking for the last couple of years," DesLauriers said. "We started the process of designing new trails in partnership with Gravity Logic, which is based in Whistler. The plan was to build a real downhill mountain bike park with lift-served access." The proposed opening date was set to coincide with the mountain obtaining the necessary state permits. They have received two of the three and as soon as the third one is obtained, they'll begin the process of creating new trails. "Hopefully we'll be able to open new terrain throughout the year," DesLauriers said.

The plan is to have seven miles of new trails, starting at the top of the Vista lift. Two will be intermediate and one will be a beginner trail. Like the existing trails, they will go through the woods, occasionally crossing the main ski trails. DesLauriers notes that the beginner trail will not be ready for use this year and stressed that at this point, only intermediate and expert terrain, with some technical sections, will be available. Lifts will run from Wednesday through Sunday until early September, after which they will run from Friday through Sunday.

For those who want to ride up as well as down, there is the option of a less expensive pass using a designated uphill route on the Wilderness work road. Trails wind their way down from the top of both the Wilderness and Vista lifts. "It's less expensive to ride up yourself," DesLauriers said, "but there is still a cost." The mountain recommends that riders use full suspension bikes with front and rear hand brakes, have a tire diameter of 3" or less in order to fit on the lift, and wear closed shoes and full face helmets.

Bolton Valley will offer both individual and group lessons for those who want to improve their cycling skills. There will also be single- and multi-week camps for kids and a six-week, women's specific lesson group. There will be 26 rental bikes available for adults and six for kids, with the resort hoping to grow their fleet over time. There is a limit on how many people can obtain passes based on lift capacity. Competitive riders can take part in the Maxxis Eastern States Cup Downhill and Enduro race on Sunday, August 1.

DesLauriers noted that mountain biking is a destination sport so she expects people to visit from beyond the immediate area. Still, she's excited about being able to provide the mountain bike experience to Bolton's local base. "Much like winter," she said, "we're looking at the local community as our core customer base, although I think there will also be a lot of regional excitement."

Practice safety, do not drive intoxicated!

COMING EVENTS



Enjoy your 4th of July!

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL and SOCIALLY DISTANCED

Thursday, July 1

Virtual Tour of Natural Areas in Vermont, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online. Join a virtual tour of four natural areas in Vermont conserved by the Vermont Land Trust – their natural features, and how to access them: Lowell Lake in Londonderry, Mount Equinox in Manchester, Bluffs Farm in Newport, and the Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve in Cambridge, which provides access to streams, waterfalls, and to an ancient pine forest on adjacent state land. Free; pre-register at <https://vlt.org/event/natural-areas-vermont>. For more information contact

Caitlin, caitlin@vlt.org.

Sunday, July 4

Independence Day Parade, 10:00 AM, Jeffersonville. Sponsored by the Cambridge Area Rotary. Teachers, nurses, and local business people – frontline workers during the pandemic – will represent our Super Heroes and will be Grand Marshals of the parade. The parade will have floats and paraders (assemble by 9:30 AM at Tatro’s). There will not be a town fair this year, but the Varnum Library is holding its annual book sale, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, and there will be food trucks and art demonstrations 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM in an Arts Jam hosted by Visions of Vermont and the Cambridge Arts Council. Be there!

Fireworks at Smuggs, events begin 5:00 PM, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, VT Rt. 108, Jeffersonville. From 6:00 – 8:00 PM on the resort village green, Goodtime Charlie hosts music for all ages. Also on the green beginning at 8:00 PM, the VT National Guard 40th Army Band plays a mix of classic favorites and patriotic tunes. At dusk, the fireworks begin!

Thursday-Friday, July 8-9

Immortals, A Hero’s Journey on Mount Olympus, 5:30 and 8:30 PM both nights, Synergy Center for Dance & Performing Arts, River Rd., Jericho. Vermont Youth Dancers presents this original production, adapted from Greek myth. While two young sisters visit a museum on a school trip, the statues of the Greek gods unexpectedly come to life! When Hades steals her younger sister to the underworld, Stephanie must find her strength, courage, and any new friendships she can make with the gods and goddesses around her to bring her sister back. Tickets available at the door; seating is first-come, first-served. For more information, www.vermontyouthdancers.com.

Friday, July 9

Bingo at the Eagles Club, 5:30 PM doors open, 6:30 games begin, Eagles Club, Jeffersonville. Please bring a mask. \$1000 jackpot, cover-all within 50 numbers — one number added each month until 55 numbers is

reached, then it is frozen until won! Benefits the Green Mountain Ladies Auxiliary charities. Lots of other special games to win as well. For more information, contact Sally, 644-5377, or Deb, 849-6095.

Sunday, July 11

Annual Meeting – Chittenden County Historical Society, 2:00 PM, Ethan Allen Homestead, Burlington. A brief annual meeting of the Chittenden County Historical Society followed by a program on the new exhibit at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum telling the story of the Abenaki people. Under the direction of Professor Fred Wiseman, the new exhibit explores Vermont Abenaki Spirituality through regalia, art, and ceremony. These items are used by Abenaki citizens in *Alnôbaiwi* as they follow their ancestral traditions. Patrick Lamphere, a member of Abenaki nation, will be on hand to provide more information about both the current display and the Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center.

News briefs continued from page 1

can see water running down the driveway or road, you may find a new muddy patch in your lawn, or you could notice a drop in your water pressure. Contact me if you think you may have a leak.

In the past five years, I have fixed over 20 leaks, and replaced several leaky service lines. We all need to stay vigilant to keep on top of it. Some sections of our water system are well over 100 years old! Help me take good care of it.

Bolton’s Notch Road open ahead of schedule

Great news! Notch Road is opened on Thursday, June 10 — way ahead of schedule! Thanks for your patience, and thanks to the project contractor, G.W. Tatro, for finishing the project ahead of schedule!

Draft minutes of Westford Selectboard meeting

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk
Read all about what your Selectboard discussed at their Thursday, June 10 meeting with the draft minutes here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-06-10-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

New web page with Range schedule

Includes upcoming artillery training
The Vermont National Guard has created a new webpage to help inform residents surrounding Camp Ethan Allen Training Site (CEATS) in Jericho, VT of scheduled range use. The webpage, <http://vtguard.com/CEATS>, includes the anticipated range schedule, updated monthly, as well as a contact form to leave questions or comments for the Vermont National Guard Public Affairs Office.

“As a result of feedback from the community we have been sharing the range schedule with town clerks, who have posted it on their town websites,” said Lt. Col. David Fabricius, chief of plans, operations, and training. “We will continue to do this but we wanted to provide an additional resource to the community that contains a simple way for them to reach out to us as well.”

CEATS is a subordinate unit of the Garrison Support Command. Plans, operations, range safety, and all operations at the Range are run by a dedicated full-time and part-time staff. Range staff has also led multiple efforts to mitigate the impact of noise on the local community. The range schedule, as it stands, is posted on <http://vtguard.com/CEATS>. Range operations are subject to change.

For more information contact Joint Force Headquarters; Maj. Scott Detweiler, 802-338-3434, or john.s.detweiler.mil@mail.mil.

Underhill tennis court and Town Pond updates

Underhill Recreation Committee

First, the crack repair and resurfacing/repainting of the tennis courts is nearly complete. At this point the courts look all done, but the surface paint needs to cure and harden for about a week. What this means is that the courts will be open for use next week! If you are driving by the Town Recreation area on Stevensville Road check the courts out, they look awesome! Stay tuned for the exact date of reopening. Please note that once the courts open that they are for tennis and pickleball, and NOT for wheeled implements like bikes and skateboards! Wheels will hasten the demise of the crack repair and the new paint!

Second, the Town Pond was recently tested and the pond is safe for swimming. The pond is tested weekly throughout the summer for e. coli, and bimonthly for cyanobacteria.

Thanks and get out and recreate!

Underhill sidewalk construction — VT Rt. 15

By Brad Holden

Interim Town Administrator, Underhill
We have had various scheduling challenges that have made it difficult to firm up a start date for the VT Rt. 15-Park Street concrete sidewalk project, but those seem to have been resolved and the project was set to start June 23. The construction will most likely not be in full operation until after the July 4th holiday. Work will be temporarily suspended at 12:00 PM on Friday, July 2 and then commence again on Tuesday, July 6. The project is expected to take approximately 8-10 weeks to complete.

I can be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at 802-899-4434 Ext 7, or at bholden@underhillvt.gov if you have any questions.

The Town realizes that this has been a long process and we appreciate your continued patience as we all look forward to seeing this project completed.

VT Child Care Capacity Grants available

Three out of five of Vermont’s youngest children don’t have access to the child care they need. The good news is that funding is available to increase child care spaces for infants and toddlers so more kids get a strong start.

Applications are due Friday, July 9.

For more information, go online to <https://letsgrowkids.org/make-way-for-kids#expand>.

Richmond Rescue subscription program

By Michael Chiarella

Director of Operations, Richmond Rescue
Please consider supporting Richmond Rescue by purchasing a subscription for our service. Your \$55 contribution covers all costs of ambulance service incurred by your household between July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. We will still bill your insurance, but anything not covered such as deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments will be covered by our subscription. In today’s environment of high deductible plans, this program is more valuable than ever. You should have seen our annual subscription mailing arrive recently. If not, you can also purchase a subscription at <https://www.richmondrescue.org/donation> or mail a \$55 check to 216 Railroad St., Richmond, VT 05477.

Even if you haven’t been transported by Richmond Rescue in an ambulance, you have probably interacted with us through one of our many public outreach programs; E-9-1-1 address signs (get yours at <https://www.richmondrescue.org/e911-signs>), car seat fittings, backcountry rescue, AED Loaner Program, bike helmet giveaways, July 4th, elementary school show and tell, the File of Life, Public AED placements, and CPR training. All of these programs need your support to exist.

Thank you for your support. Please contact director@richmondrescue.org if you have any questions.

Transfer with a Welcome Home Scholarship

This scholarship is for Vermonters transferring to a Vermont State Colleges institution from an out-of-state school, or for Vermonters who left college between March 1, 2020-May 1, 2021. Scholarships are available for full-time and part-time students.

Find out more at <https://yourfuture.vsc.edu>.

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

5¢ OFF | **FREE**  **COFFEE 12 OZ.**

PER GALLON OF GASOLINE

Cannot be combined with other offers. Ad required for discount.

Our A.W. Rich Funeral Home Family
~Serving Families for Over 100 Years~
Now Serving “All” of Your Family Members

A.W. Rich Funeral Home
802-879-4611 802-849-6261

A.W. Rich Funeral Home is the first choice for hundreds of area families each year.



We are proud to embrace traditional values, diversity and innovation in honoring the spirit and life of each person we serve. We offer a full selection of:

- Funeral and memorial services, ranging from traditional to uniquely innovative and personal
- Burial services and cremation options
- Celebrant Services

A.W. Rich Funeral Home offers complete care, so you can focus on comforting each other as you prepare to say goodbye to someone dear to you.

Direct Cremation Services
802-878-2220

Compare our prices and save



Service Charge:	\$1,065.00
Crematory Charge	\$390.00
Medical Examiner Permit	\$25.00
Certified Death Certificate	\$10.00
Transit Permit	\$5.00
Total Direct Cremation Charges:	\$1,495.00

Also included at no extra charge is a cremation container, our signature high quality “Going Home” urn, newspaper obituary notice assistance and life tribute placement on our website. Price effective January 1, 2021.

Island Memorial Pet Service
802-316-2284

Premium Compassionate Care for your pets, because “Loyalty Deserves Dignity”



The Island Memorial Difference:

- Pet Funerals
- Cremation Services
- Your Pet is Always in Our Care
- Dignified Pet Transportation From Your Home or Vet
- Immediate & Witness Cremation Available
- Full Line of Pet Loss Products

Our Staff is here for you 24/7

www.awrfh.com

1176 Main Street
Fairfax, VT 05454

57 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

www.islandmemorials.com

www.dcsvt.com

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Love is in the telling

By Sue Kusserow
Special to the Mountain Gazette

In the 1950s, Grace-New Haven Hospital was an old building in southern Connecticut, a monolith of brick and concrete which had once been located in the white suburbs. But as the area grew, it became submerged in a vivid and fast-changing panoply of racial and ethnic groups — a variety of new religions, social classes, and levels of poverty, thus offering to the several nursing and medical programs that used the hospital for teaching dynamic clinical exposure to new and challenging experiences.

I was part of one of these groups: a collegiate nursing program at the University of Connecticut. It was one of the first in the country, awarding B.S. and R.N. degrees after five years of academic courses on the main campus, aided and abetted by clinical experiences at Grace-New Haven Hospital. We studied the areas of diagnosis, treatment, purpose and plan for a patient's hospital stay, and home placement. What better place for a group of 50 beginners to learn what nursing was really like! (To illustrate that it was strict and difficult: our class had only 28 graduates ultimately complete the program.) Patients on large medical and surgical wards gave us country girls a vivid chance to see how others lived and were treated as sick people.

We were exposed to different nursing, medical, and health perspectives, including such diverse programs as the Yale School of Medicine, Tuskegee School of Nursing, and various orderly programs and schools of public health. Our instructors were skilled clinicians who were stretching us into something worthwhile — from scared neophytes just learning our roles, to professionals laying the foundations of our careers. We lost ourselves doing for others, and at that time of nursing's growth in status and responsibility, it was not easy to meet the new demands of our nascent collegiate program, which was trying to establish credibility with an almost completely female work force.

It was Monday on the 7-to-3 shift in a medical ward. I was in a group of senior nursing students running hither and yon, trying looking seriously occupied, which was due to a previous mistake by one of our classmates — a minor error, but embarrassing to us. An intern was just finishing a thoracentesis (withdrawal of fluid from the base of the lungs). We were all huddled behind him, observing whatever we could of clinical practices and procedures. The large syringe that collected the pleural fluid was almost full, and the intern yelled, "Get me a bowl!" One of my classmates ran to the kitchen and raced back with a bowl — a soup bowl. The intern groaned, "NO! A sterile bowl!" And using the quickest means to an end, threw the soup bowl down on the floor. Luckily, our clinical instructor was there and already had gotten the wrapped, stainless steel bowl and handed it to him. The procedure went on without comment, except for the young student who had misunderstood his directive and was completely unnerved. It became the joke of the unit and caused all of us neophytes to act and look tremendously busy in various deserted corners of the ward, so we wouldn't be asked to do some other mysterious errand.

As I was rushing towards the kitchen, for no possible reason other than avoidance, a third-year medical student stopped me with a grin: "Where are all of you going? You seem so hurried."

"We are trying to avoid making any more silly mistakes," I answered.

He smiled. "Oh. And you are Sue Kienholz. It says on your name badge — Swiss, isn't it?"

He called the next night. And since it was early June, the Yale undergrads had already gone and Old Campus was quiet, blooming with apple and cherry trees, plantings of daffodils, lupine, roses, and laurel bushes. The night was velvet, gentle, pleasantly blurred, with purple-shadowed corners that caused even the looming Harkness Tower to look well-placed and graceful. Campus is lit at night with tall iron lamps, bringing a softness to the gigantic elms that graced the perimeter. We wandered hand-in-hand, learning more about each other and marveling at the number of likes we shared. We met again after work and study, and followed the same path, except for a wandering through a private garden where the iron gate was conveniently left open, with roses climbing the stone walls, and deep blue lupine spiking its way upwards. We kissed and I said exactly what I felt: "I love you."

"But you can't!" he said. "We don't know each other that well."

"But I do know. And I still say, I love you."

And somehow, I did know. I felt as sure of myself as I ever had, and my declaration was as truthful and sincere that night as it always has been.

We were married a year later and moved to Vermont (we wanted to raise our kids in the country). At age 51, my husband was killed in a car crash, and my world was turned upside down. My sons and daughter grew up knowing pain and grieving, but the Underhill community sheltered us and created a camaraderie that is still amazingly strong, for all of us.

And why do I tell you this? Because I have found that my first open declaration of love was deeply meaningful, not only for that time and place many years ago, but for this time, too. When universal death overwhelms us, as it has this past year, and is as close as we have ever felt or seen, we open our hearts and our senses to love and its importance.

It need not be in any special format, the occasion may not be "correct." In our culture we are not used to public declarations. Yet I know that I have said, "I love you," to many more people in these recent times than I did formerly; it gentles the losses and the loneliness and the hurt. It is a connection of people jumping over the impossible, and reaches someone in a magical way. The act of one person saying, "I love you," is often echoed by the receiver, as if permission is given to pass along what we deeply feel.

The heart holds many memories, most of which we keep to ourselves as our personal treasures. Love can be amorphous, written and versed intellectually, or submerged because we are afraid of showing "too much" of ourselves. Yet, it can absorb the distances among people. For some, expressing an emotion is not easy, especially the more tender ones, both in word and within ourselves. It is "easier" to yell and hate, a quicker, simpler mode of expression that can be excused "in the heat of the moment." The word love itself is soft. Just as we generally don't shout the word "whisper," we have learned that some words have their enforcing rules — their way of being. Whisper, and love, are quiet words that don't adapt themselves to shouting.

The pandemic has made us realize that there were confident feelings in many of us that we could easily defeat this scourge. And I think we have, when my optimism is strong. At the same time, the pandemic has made love more visible, more vocal. We feel the need to express those deep feelings that give us both vulnerability and strength. I will not forget that evening I

Community columns continued on page 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student weighting is more complicated than it seems

By Jack Hoffman
Guest columnist

Many legislators and school officials are eager to adjust Vermont's education finance system to provide more money for school districts with kids from low-income families and those for whom English is not their first language. We agree these resources are necessary and should be provided as soon as possible. But the Legislature was right to set up a special legislative task force this session to research and discuss with Vermont parents and voters the options for providing additional funding to these school districts. Here's why:

The proposed changes are an extreme use of weights, and made more so by Vermont's funding system. Student weighting is just what the term suggests: certain students who cost more to educate are counted as more than one person — given more weight — as a means to provide the additional funding to their school district.

Not all states use weights in their funding systems, but

Letters continued on page 6

Get back to dancing this summer with Synergy's
summer camps and intensives!

SYNERGY CENTER FOR DANCE AND THE Performing Arts

We offer dance camps and intensives to all ages and levels!
Registration is now open!
View our summer schedule on our website:
www.synergysdance.org

The Mountain Gazette

6558 VT Route 116,
Starksboro, VT
05487
(802) 453-6354
mtngazette@gmavt.net

Deadline July 8
Published July 15, 2021
Brenda Boutin - publisher
ad design/delivery
Writer - Phyl Newbeck,
Editing - Sara Riley

Letter Policy:
Maximum 450 words
One letter per writer, per calendar month.
Must be signed for attribution with writers address and phone number.
Send your news to *mtngazette@gmavt.net*



Mountain High Pizza Pie
Curbside pickup only
Menu available at *mthighpizzapievermont.com*
HOURS
SUNDAY & MONDAY 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
TUESDAY - FRIDAY 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM
SATURDAY 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM
899-3718
Route 15, Jeri-Hill Plaza, Jericho

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June (the final service until September was on June 13, 2021). 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. Please contact *president@mmuuf.org* or 899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at *www.mmuuf.org* and *www.uua.org*.

Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service

Jericho United Methodist Church welcomes you to grow in Christ with us. We hold dear the United Methodist Church's motto: "Open doors. Open Hearts. Open Minds." We recognize that our faith journeys are all unique, just as we as individuals are all unique. Know that whoever you are, whatever you do, you are welcome here. We believe that we grow together or not at all. All are welcome! Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM. There will be music, prayer, and message from our pastor Rev. Sean Delmore on Zoom for virtual worship. For updates or a Zoom invitation, please contact 802-899-4288 or Jen (*luitjens@yahoo.com*). Located at 71 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

United Church of Underhill

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

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! *https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch* or *https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC*

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church at 9:00 AM every Sunday. In-person services resume on Sunday, July 4. All are welcome! In addition, Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is offered on Fridays at 8:00 AM; access information and more about the church is at *Goodshepherdjericho.org*. We are an open-minded Christian community where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information at 802-503-9666 or *pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org*.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church now worships in person at the church on Sundays at 9:30 PM. Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. All are warmly welcome!

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



Blue Mall, So. Burlington • 802-863-8306
Factory Location, Route 15, Jericho • 802-899-3373
SnowflakeChocolate.com

Carol Cares
Because sometimes it takes a village
Summer Fun
Too much to do and not enough hands?
Carol Cares would like to be your solution to the craziness that accompanies the summer fun for your children, so parents can flex their fun too!

Senior Assistance
Carol Cares offers assistance to independently living seniors with areas of their everyday life.
• Light Bookkeeping • Mail Sorting • Meal Preparation
• Transportation Support • Light Housecleaning
• Companion Care

Let me know what you need, and I'll make it happen!
Carol.Caresvt@gmail.com • (802) 338-0300
carolcaresvt.com
REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FULLY VACCINATED

HEALTH NEWS

Masks still required at NMC

By Kate Laddison, Northwestern Medical Center

Please note: Masks are still required in all Northwestern Medical Center (NMC) buildings and practices. NMC continues to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OSHA.

The current guidance applies to all healthcare settings and asks patients and visitors to wear their well-fitting cloth face covering or a surgical masks, regardless of vaccination status. If you do not have a mask with you, one will be provided to you upon entry to an NMC facility.

We must also continue to screen everyone entering our facility for COVID-19 symptoms and have streamlined that process. We continue to limit our entrances to help facilitate screening.

These guidelines are in place because healthcare facilities care for the most vulnerable members of our population. Please help us continue to be vigilant and keep our community, our patients, and our staff as safe as possible. Thank you for your understanding!

Prescription drug safety

By Jessica Bickford, Healthy Lamoille Valley

Healthy Lamoille Valley has a supply of free prescription drug mail back envelopes. Proper disposal of unused, unwanted, or expired prescription medications is one way that you can keep your home, community, and environment safer.

Please email jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org to request your envelope today!

You can also drop unwanted medicines off at Cambridge Kinney Drugs, Copley Hospital in Morrisville, Hardwick Police Department, Lamoille County Sheriff's Department in Hyde Park, Morrisville Police Department, and at the Stowe Police Department.

To learn more ways to prevent substance misuse, visit <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/prescription-drugs>.

Cooler safety stickers for the summer!

By Jessica Bickford, Healthy Lamoille Valley

Healthy Lamoille Valley's Parent and Caregiver Workgroup would like to invite you to take a few simple steps towards keeping the youth in your life substance free this summer. We encourage you to keep drinks with alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks in separate coolers and monitor the alcohol at your gatherings and in your home. We also encourage you to monitor and lock up any adult use cannabis/marijuana. One of the biggest reasons youth use substances is that they are easy to access. Parents and other adults have the power to limit access.

The Parent and Caregiver Workgroup has created an attractive sticker set (*21+ Cooler and Drinks for All*) with a tipsheet for hosting safe gatherings to make your events even safer. We will have a table with these stickers at Stowe's 4th of July festivities, or you can request your set by emailing jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org.

Healthy Lamoille Valley is a coalition working to reduce youth substance misuse and support healthy activities for youth. You can learn more at www.healthylamoillevalley.org. To find out how you can get involved, please email Program Coordinator Jessica Bickford at jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org. Sign up for our mailing list at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/signup>.

Upcoming Events: We will not be holding coalition meetings in July and August so we can put our efforts into tabling at various community events. First up: Stowe's 4th of July festivities! Stop by and say hello!

What to know about children and seizures

I'd like to seize the opportunity to talk about seizures, which can occur in infants, children, and adults.

What causes seizures

Seizures are sudden events that can cause abrupt changes in one's physical movements, sensations, behavior, or even level of consciousness. They are caused by abnormal electrical and chemical changes in the brain that can occur as a result of infections, a genetic mutation, a brain injury, tumor, abnormal blood vessels, and/or bleeding into the brain. Often, we do not know what causes a seizure, but they tend to be more common if there is a family history of seizures. They may be also triggered by too much stimulation such as from computer screens or video games with flashing or bright lights, lack of sleep, stress, or fevers. Epilepsy is a term we use to describe seizures that occur repeatedly over time.

How to recognize a seizure

There are many types of seizures — some that last a few seconds and others for minutes. Some, called focal seizures, may result in movement of one part of the body. Others, called generalized seizures, may involve all parts of the body.

How do you know if your child is having one? It is usually not subtle. There can be flexing, stiffening, jerking, or twitching of a part of the body, such as the arm or leg or the whole body. Or, there might be brief periods of staring, confusion, a sudden feeling of fear or panic, and even loss of consciousness.

What to do

Most seizures will stop on their own without treatment, so the best thing to do if your child is having one is to lay the child on their side so they will not choke if vomiting also occurs. *And don't put anything in their mouth.* Call your health care professional as soon as the seizure stops for further help. If you think the seizure is not stopping or you think your child is having trouble breathing, then please call 9-1-1 for immediate help.

If epilepsy is diagnosed

Often an anticonvulsant medication is prescribed for children diagnosed with epilepsy, and less commonly dietary changes or even brain surgery may be recommended, which will prevent these from happening as frequently if at all going forward.

Most importantly if your child does have epilepsy, they usually can still lead full active lives and engage in sports and other activities like children who do not have seizures. Further information can also be found by linking to the Epilepsy Foundation of America or www.epilepsy.com.

Hopefully, tips like these will not shake you or your child up when it comes to having a better understanding of seizures and what to do if your child has one.

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

Powerful Tools for Caregivers program

Are you caring for a spouse with dementia, an aging parent, or an ill family member? Or are you now raising your grandchildren? Is the stress of caregiving taking its toll on your health or your relationships? Then Powerful Tools for Caregivers is for you!

Powerful Tools for Caregivers will be offered online this summer by Central Vermont Council on Aging in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, facilitated by two experienced class leaders. It will be held on Zoom over six consecutive Fridays, July 16-August 27, from 2:00-3:30 PM. The class is free but donations to CVCOA and SVCOA are welcome and appreciated.

The six-session class is designed to provide you with the tools you need to take good care of yourself. This evidence-based

program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, communicate feelings better, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions, and locate helpful resources. Action planning with an emphasis on self-care is an important part of the program.

Participants receive a copy of *The Caregiver Helpbook*, developed specifically for the class.

Registration is required by Thursday, July 8. For registration information, please contact Barb Asen, Family Caregiver Support Director, basen@cvcoa.org or 802-476-2681.

All about chiropractic

By Mary Kintner, D.C., R.N.

Chiropractic is a conservative, non-invasive healing profession that does not employ either surgery or drugs. Chiropractic embraces the concept of "innate intelligence" — the body's inherent ability to maintain wellness. Chiropractors believe that innate intelligence is manifested through the proper functioning of the nervous system. The brain acts like a master computer, regulating all systems and organs of the body. The spinal cord, spinal nerves, and peripheral nerves function as conduits for information to and from the brain. The central nervous system is housed in the skull and the spine. When the spine or other joints are subluxated (malpositioned), there is interference in the transmission of information. Malfunction occurs in the area of the body that the nerves supply. Symptoms such as pain, stiffness, and dis-ease can occur.

Chiropractors use a variety of techniques to determine the origins of the symptoms. These may include listening the patient (what a concept!), touching the patient, neurological examination, x-rays, muscle testing, and thermography. When the problem has been identified, the chiropractic physician will make an adjustment. This is a quick specific manipulation of the joint to reestablish proper alignment and function as well as to remove pressure on nerve roots. Adjustments can be performed with the hands or with mechanical tools. The adjusting table the patient lies on can be set up to enhance the adjustments. Adjusting instruments, such as an activator or arthrostim, put mechanical pulses into joints. This can be advantageous if someone is in severe pain, they are unable to relax, or it is a difficult joint for the doctor to access.

Chiropractic techniques and concepts are not new. During the Chinese King Fon period (2700 B.C.) spinal manipulations were performed. Hippocrates, who lived from 460-377 B.C. and is considered the father of modern medicine, taught the concept of innate ability to heal. Chiropractic as we know it today was developed by D.D. Palmer in 1895.

Before any of these treatments are performed today's chiropractors must complete a rigorous academic program. Requirements for entrance to chiropractic college are the same as medical school, including an entire year of physics, organic and inorganic chemistry. The first two years of chiropractic and medical school are academically similar covering in-depth subjects such as anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry. Medical and chiropractic studies are similar, but the application of the knowledge varies. For example, medical students receive more education in pharmacology; chiropractic students receive more education in radiology. Medicine is primarily focused on chemistry (pharmacology) while chiropractic is primarily concerned with structure (alignment).

Because chiropractic seeks to remove interference with the body's inherent ability to heal by relieving nerve impingement caused by the skeletal system, it is both preventative and corrective. Chiropractors are most often sought to correct back, neck, and head pain. Chiropractors also can provide relief for cases of carpal tunnel syndrome, plantar fasciitis, asthma, whiplash, and shoulder and hip pain, to name a few. Reports of increased comfort during pregnancy as well as faster, less complicated deliveries are being researched. Sufferers of migraine headaches, premenstrual syndrome, recurrent ear infections, fibromyalgia, and chronic fatigue have also reported improvements. Chiropractic often enhances physical performance and is sought by athletes, dancers and others seeking optimal health.

Mary H. Kintner, D.C., R.N., is a chiropractor and nutritional consultant practicing in Jericho

As we swim, float, boat, and otherwise enjoy Vermont's beautiful water this summer, remember that it comes courtesy of our cheapest and most underappreciated piece of natural infrastructure: our forests —

Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

[EXCEPTIONAL CARE. COMMUNITY FOCUSED.]

General Surgeons – providing care for a wide variety of diseases and conditions.

Copley General Surgeons Donald Dupuis, MD and Courtney Olmsted, MD provide state-of-the-art surgeries and procedures with a focus on minimally invasive treatments, caring for minor lumps and bumps to more life threatening conditions such as cancers and traumas.

In addition to hernia repairs, the surgeons biopsy to diagnose and perform surgeries to treat cancers including:

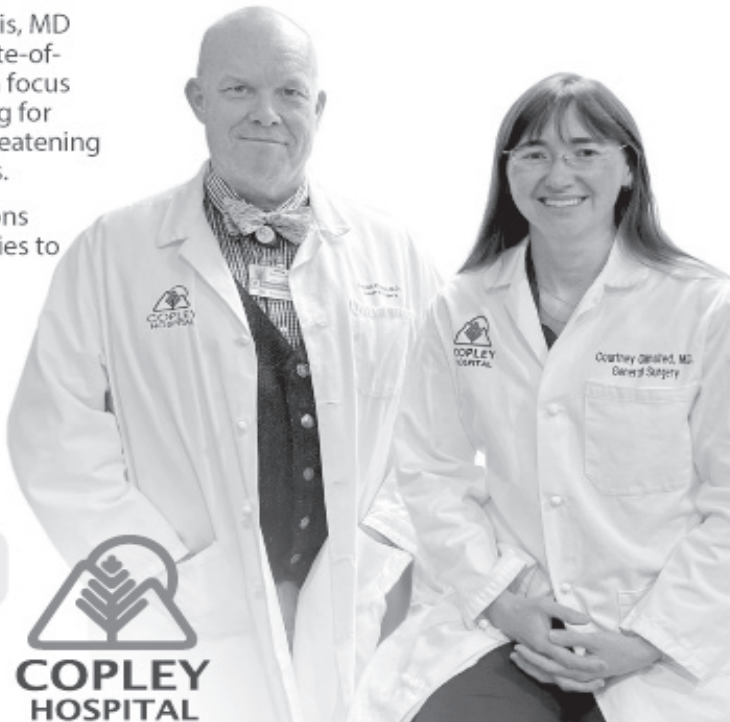
- skin • breast • thyroid • colon

They provide surgical care for conditions including:

- intestinal blockages and ruptures
- diverticulitis • appendicitis
- gall bladder disease

To make an appointment with a specialist at Copley call 802-888-8888.

For more information on general surgical care visit www.copleyvt.org.



COPLEY HOSPITAL

528 Washington Highway, Morrisville

Kintner Chiropractic Center
Dr. Mary Kintner

Flexible Scheduling
Unhurried, Gentle Head to Toe Care

Nutrition Counseling
High Quality Supplements

Massage

facebook.com/KintnerChiro
899-5400

Community columns continued from page 3

described, when I found myself certain enough to risk denial, to feel with all my heart that magical transformation from an impressive description to an emotional declaration of joy and strength.

Perhaps the pandemic has magnified love to balance the sadness and loss that some of us have to carry with us. The pandemic says: Now is the chance to give to each other with the sincerity that is afforded us to offset an often painful reality. Tell a friend, a spouse, a family, that you love them. Your opening of yourself will likely give someone else a chance to reach out a little further and touch others with similar words. Love is one of the most powerful, magical words, that begs to be shared. It was for me, many years ago.

Vermont's place names – colonial times

By Joe Nelson

Vermont has a really rich set of place names in several categories. The first set, of course, was influenced by the bunch occupying those little islands off the coast of France. The governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth, made a game of selling and naming grants in the territory between New York and the Connecticut River.

When Benning Wentworth heard reports of the timber growing along the River of Pines, he came in person to see that the huge pines were reserved for the use of the Royal Navy. While he was there, he named the town Rockingham in honor of his cousin, Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham.

Another town-to-be was blessed with rivers and streams fed by the Green Mountain watershed. Chartered as a New Hampshire town in 1749 and settled in 1761, Benning Wentworth named the town after himself: Bennington. The town flourished and early industry prospered.

The town of Thomlinson was originally named for John Thomlinson, a Londoner representing Benning Wentworth's businesses. In 1791, after the Revolution, the townspeople decided the town shouldn't bear the name of an Englishman. They voted to auction the privilege of renaming the town and Joseph Axtell of Grafton, Massachusetts won with a bid of five dollars and a jug of rum. Accordingly, the name of the town was changed from Tomlinson (the "h" was dropped in 1788) to Grafton.

The Town of Pittsford was granted to Ephraim Doolittle and 63 others in 1761. A branch of the old Crown Point military road crossed Otter Creek here, the best fording place in the neighborhood. It was named Pitt's Ford in honor of William Pitt, then Prime Minister of England

Brandon began in 1761 as Neshobe, named by the Massachusetts proprietors who got their grant from New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth. The Vermont legislature changed the name in 1784.

Benning Wentworth granted Charlotte to Benjamin Ferris and 64 proprietors hailing from Connecticut and New York. Before the Revolution, the proprietors held their meetings in Dutchess County, New York and in New Milford, Connecticut. After the Revolution when the first settlers arrived, the land was found to be particularly well suited to agriculture and the town flourished from the start. As early as 1806, the grand list was \$31,961, surpassed by only ten other towns in Vermont.

Charlotte, by the way, is pronounced Shar-LOT around here, with the accent on the second syllable. If you pronounce it the way it is spelled, the natives look at you funny.

The Town of Fairfield was founded in 1763, when New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted the land to petitioners in Fairfield, Connecticut. The Governor of New York granted the same land to another group of people in 1774. It must have been an exciting day when the two groups met.

Tunbridge was chartered by Benning Wentworth in February 3, 1761 to Abner Root, Obadiah Noble, and others. The town was named for the Viscount of Tunbridge in England: William Henry Zulestein de Nassau, fourth Earl of Rochford, Viscount Tunbridge of Tunbridge and Baron Enfield of Enfield.

The township of Chelsea was granted by the Province of New York about the year 1770 under the name of Gageborough. In November 1780, the town was granted to Bela Turner by the Vermont Legislature. It was chartered in August 1781 as Turnersburg.

The Town of Weathersfield was a Benning Wentworth grant, dating back to August 20, 1761. The town was named for Weathersfield, Connecticut.

Newfane was originally chartered as Fane by Benning Wentworth in 1753, then again in 1761. Apparently, the area was not properly settled under these two charters, so New York issued a charter to a different group in 1772, this time adding "New" to the existing "Fane."

When the border between the colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut was settled, Massachusetts granted four tracts of land in what is now Vermont to Connecticut. The Colony of Connecticut ordered the land sold at auction in 1716. The tract that included the present towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, and Putney went to William Dummer, William Brattle, and John White. When Massachusetts and New Hampshire settled their borders in 1741, the tract became part of New Hampshire. Governor Benning Wentworth granted charters to the same proprietors in 1753, and the three towns eventually became part of the new state of Vermont. Because of all of these land swaps, a long-lived early settler in any of the three towns would have lived in three different states or colonies without having moved an inch.

All that remains of William Brattle's grant is his name. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he fled to Nova Scotia, and all his holdings were confiscated.

PEI mussels and potato fudge

By Douglas Boardman

We finally got to Pictou and got on to the ferry near there that goes to Prince Edward Island. We wanted to spend more time in Nova Scotia, but we had only 10 days for the whole trip. There are so many beautiful sights and almost magical sun risings and sunsets. I was determined to stay overnight near or in view of the water. As it turned out, we spent every night on PEI near the ocean.

I had eaten PEI mussels before, but our friend Pearl had never had a mussel, so I talked her into trying one. She liked it so much that she ate mussels every day we were there, sometimes even

for breakfast. They also have giant sea scallops and big lobsters that we tried.

We took the coastal route toward evening and went inland to see different attractions. We heard about the "singing sands" so we went to the Red Point Provincial Park near Souris. I was amazed at the musical sounds that came from moving your bare feet lightly across the top of the sand. The women seemed to be better at making the sands sing. It is the silica in the sand the way you slide along the sand with your feet that makes the sound. There is definitely a technique to it.

We relaxed for a while and then went to the Potato Museum near Souris. They have been growing potatoes on PEI for over 200 years. We were amazed not so much about their potato crop, but what they made from their potatoes. They make potato fudge, potato chocolate cake, potato scones, and potato fritters. We all tried the fudge and were surprised to find it to be as good and sweet as regular chocolate fudge. We also found out that they make vodka from potatoes. They said it takes 18 pounds of potatoes to make one bottle of vodka.

We went to the East Port Lighthouse and saw many wind turbines along the way. They have eight wind farms supplying 25% of the total electricity for PEI. PEI is the smallest province in Canada but has the densest population and the most lighthouses. Next, we went to Cape Egmont where they have a village with houses made from glass bottles. All the walls are bottles, colored and clear, including a church and a tavern. Inside furniture is also made of bottles. It is a beautiful fantasy land with the sun coming through the bottles. We travelled the 200 miles "tip to tip" from East Point to North Cape and got a commemorative "reward" for making the whole trip. PEI is only 40 miles wide at the widest point.

We went to PEI on the ferry, which was a cold, windy, wavy day. Bill, Pearl, and Sandy sat inside the heated cabin, but I chose to stand outside with my head into the wind. I could sense a severe case of seasickness if I stayed in the cabin, but I didn't get sick outside. We came back on the Confederation Bridge that goes from western PEI to New Brunswick. Driving through fishing villages was worthwhile by itself. But seeing all these working peoples' projects and all the special seafood to eat was a big bonus. Over 70% of the land in PEI is used for agriculture, with potatoes leading the exports. They have the seafood all around them also.

I would recommend visiting PEI, especially around the end of September. The children are back in school, and you can drive around the island unimpeded and still rent a cabin or motel room near the water. They have ideal weather and soil for their crops. The people are very hard working who have modern machinery, but still do a lot of harvesting by hand. Mussels and potatoes are their biggest exports. We all loved the trip.

On our way back we stopped for breakfast in New Brunswick. There was a bunch of hunters there already, so I knew the food had to be good. What we didn't realize was that the woman who waited on us was the owner, cook, and waitress. She was the only one there with 12 customers. We asked if we could help her and she said no, she was used to it. That "can do" attitude was an "old school" example of their heritage.

Next column: Jack Smith

Forests and water

By Ethan Tapper

As I write this, the leaves of our trees have unfurled, our forests blooming in an unthinkable diversity and abundance. Even in the midst of a dry early summer, everything seems full to the brim with water and with life.

Like all plants, trees need water. Besides helping trees transport nutrients, minerals, and sugars, water is a critical ingredient in the process of photosynthesis, combining with carbon dioxide and other nutrients to create sugars. Water is also released as a bi-product of this process; as they photosynthesize, trees inhale atmospheric gases (especially carbon dioxide) through pores in their leaves called *stomata*. When stomata open to admit carbon dioxide, water vapor is lost. This process is not super-efficient: on a sunny summer day, a large tree may suck up 150-300 gallons of water, 90% of which will be lost. In drought, trees cannot sustain this cost; they keep their stomata closed to prevent water loss, making them unable to photosynthesize. The water vapor produced by trees has a number of benefits, including cooling our climate, helping form clouds, and creating precipitation — returning water to the forest to be drawn up into trees again.

Water is precious in forests, and they are adept at holding on to it. Rainwater is often intercepted by a tree's leaves, channeled down its twigs, branches, and trunk. Like a giant funnel the tree collects water, feeding its central root system in a phenomenon known as stemflow. Dead wood intercepts water flowing on the surface of soils, spreading it out and helping it to infiltrate deeper into the soil profile. Once in the soil, water is absorbed by organic carbon (dead tree and plant material), which in addition to helping mitigate climate change and providing nutrients for trees and plants, acts as a sponge. The massive amount of water stored in the forest nourishes trees, in addition to the rich diversity of forest plants, animals, and invertebrates, and the complex below-ground community that we call the rhizosphere.

While forests need water, too much water or water moving too quickly through forests can be a problem, leading to soil loss (erosion) and to nutrients being leached from forest soils. While some erosion, like the meandering of a stream, is natural, too much erosion leads to the pollution of waterways through siltation (the deposition of soil particles) and eutrophication (the deposition of nutrients like phosphorous and nitrogen), causing problems for both water quality and forest health. The ability of forests to slow down, spread out, and absorb water helps mitigate these effects, but built infrastructure like roads tends to exacerbate them.

The way that forests manage water make them excellent filtration systems. New York City in particular has spent billions of dollars since the late 1990s to invest in land acquisition and conservation rather than traditional water filtration facilities. As a result, much of New York City's water is "unfiltered," making it the largest such system in the United States (other large cities with mostly "unfiltered" water supplies in the U.S. are Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland, OR).

As our climate changes, both the amount of precipitation we get and the way we get it are changing. Some parts of the globe are becoming dryer, others becoming wetter. At the same time, the ability of forests to support a healthy global water cycle is threatened by forest clearing and degradation, non-

native invasive plants, animals, and pathogens, and a variety of other factors. Even when precipitation remains constant, it is increasingly concentrated into shorter, more severe storms, which are more difficult for our forests to attenuate and for our infrastructure to handle. While Vermont is forest-rich, we are still losing over 1000 acres of forestland a year; our remaining forests are increasingly fragmented by roads and development and infiltrated by invasive species.

As we swim, float, boat, and otherwise enjoy Vermont's beautiful water this summer, remember that it comes courtesy of our cheapest and most underappreciated piece of natural infrastructure: our forests, which capture and clean water at the same time that they sequester and store carbon, provide wildlife habitat, support local renewable resource economies, and make our state beautiful. Addressing forest health threats, encouraging forest diversity and resilience, and (most importantly) keeping forests whole and unfragmented is critical to keeping our water clean and clear.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or by phone at 802-585-9099. Sign up for his email list or see what he's been up to at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

Slow invasive honeysuckle on your land in Jericho

By Bernie Paquette

Slowing the spread of invasive honeysuckle by cutting it down is another way to celebrate pollinator week.

Contact me (bernie.paquette@yahoo.com) if you would like me to work beside you and with you to cut down invasive honeysuckle on your property in Jericho Center.

Here is why we should slow the spread of invasive honeysuckle: May compete with historic habitat for pollinators, reducing seed set of historic habitat plants. It is an ecological trap for birds. Birds nesting in invasive honeysuckle have higher nest predation rates. The berries, which birds eat, have poor nutritional quality. Displaces native understory vegetation, Forms an impenetrable understory layer, May degrade wildlife habitat, Can cause the long-term decline of forests by shading out other woody and herbaceous plants.

According to an Ohio scientific study, "After two years bee abundance and species richness increased after invasive honeysuckle removal."

There are four invasive species of bush honeysuckle that invade Vermont forests. These include Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maaackii*), Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Tartanian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) and Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera x bella*). All of them are deciduous shrubs with opposite, egg-shaped leaves, fragrant flowers, and red or orange-red berries. They can grow to be 15 feet high.

Lonicera maaackii, commonly called Amur honeysuckle or bush honeysuckle, is native to Manchuria, Japan, Korea, and China. *Lonicera morrowii*, commonly called shrub or bush honeysuckle, is native to Japan. *Lonicera tatarica*, Tartarian honeysuckle, originates from Eurasia. *Lonicera x bella*, Bell's honeysuckle is native to Asia.

All of the invasive honeysuckle species found in Vermont have a hollow pith. Native honeysuckle has a solid white pith and is not typically as robust of a shrub as the invasives.

Read more and see photos of invasive honeysuckle at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/06/stop-jericho-invasive-spread.html>.

Forest pests: gypsy moth, emerald ash borer

By Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

Gypsy moth:

If you've been experiencing a plague of caterpillars defoliating your trees, you're not alone. I've been getting reports from all over the Champlain Valley (in Chittenden County I have reports from Hinesburg, Williston, Essex, Milton, and Colchester) of a gypsy moth outbreak — what seems to be the first outbreak of this non-native insect in Vermont since 1991. Gypsy moth caterpillars often defoliate oak species, although they are known to feed on more than 300 species of trees and shrubs including maples. They can create a nuisance for homeowners, from the sights of caterpillars climbing the sides of residences and falling excrement to the sounds of chewing on leaves.

The gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is native to Europe and was introduced to Massachusetts in 1869. Its population in Vermont is generally mitigated by a fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*), which may be being suppressed by droughty conditions over the last few years. While in Vermont, gypsy moth is known to be generally non-fatal to trees, repeated defoliation can kill trees — in more southerly portions of its range it is known to cause widespread mortality. U.S. Forest Service has a short podcast that can give you a quick rundown on the history of the gypsy moth and its relationship to *Entomophaga* at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/balance-barrier-slowing-the-gypsy-moths-spread/id1500326560?i=1000468199622>.

There are a few treatments that could be effective for protecting your trees from gypsy moth defoliation; most are more practical for protecting a few trees rather than a whole forest. The most commonly recommended pesticide treatments contain the bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk). Btk is applied to foliage where gypsy moth larvae will consume it and are then killed. This strain of bacteria is specific to moth larvae, and its toxic properties get activated when it interacts with particular enzymes in the caterpillar's digestive tract. You can find a certified arborist (and certified pesticide applicator) who can help you with applying Btk via the following website: <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/findanarborist>.

Gypsy moth feeding will continue through the growing season and more reports of defoliation are expected. To learn more about management options (and gypsy moth in general) check out the resources at <https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/gypsy-moth>.

The good news is that the defoliation will likely be over by the end of June, and that if this is your first year of major defoliation, your trees will likely re-sprout leaves and survive. Although gypsy moth caterpillars are damaging, otherwise healthy trees can often survive a few years of successive defoliation. Defoliation and drought conditions can combine to stress tree health and

Community columns continued on page 6

Letters continued from page 3

many do. Vermont adds weight for students in poverty and English language learners and applies different weights to pre-kindergarten, elementary, and high school students. Weights for poverty in other states generally fall between .05 and .50. (The highest, Maryland, adds .97.)

Vermont currently adds .25, but the Legislature's consultants proposed weights that would add about 3.0 students for each poverty student. That's three times the highest weight currently used in the country — 12 times Vermont's current weight. And the effect would be compounded because of Vermont's unique school funding system.

In most states, education funding is a mix of local property taxes and "state aid" — money distributed from general state revenues to reduce disparities between property-rich and property-poor communities. Weighting in these states typically applies to the state's portion — not all of a district's spending per pupil.

Vermont doesn't use this local funding and state aid model any more. Instead, all money comes from one big pot, the Education Fund, and all of those funds are state funds. The weights, therefore, for each weighted student apply to the full voted per-pupil spending amount in each district, not just a fraction of that spending. And since voted spending varies across the state, districts with higher per-pupil spending would get a proportionally larger allocation for each student in poverty. It's difficult to see any rationale for such a policy.

Weighting, by definition, distorts school funding systems: it gives more emphasis to certain things to redirect education resources. Smaller weights create smaller distortions. Weighting at the proposed levels creates significant distortions that can be avoided with alternative funding distribution mechanisms.

The proposed weights would make an already complex system more complex.

The Vermont Tax Structure Commission recently referred to the "baffling complexity" of the current education tax system. Adopting the weighting changes and the underlying education cost statistical analysis would make that system even more impenetrable.

Transparency is critical to public support for public education, and that means legislators, policy makers, and school officials will have to describe the weighting system in terms we can all understand. There is broad agreement that Vermont's current weights, especially for students in poverty, don't reflect the additional costs of meeting their educational needs. But policy makers will have to explain to parents and voters why Vermont's poverty weight should jump from 0.25 to 3.0 and why school districts will have so many more or fewer pupils than they actually have. Any proposed change should not make the system that is already too complex, even more complicated for people to understand.

Weighting primarily affects homeowners. Vermont's homestead school tax rates are determined by per-pupil spending. Non-homestead property — businesses, second homes, and undeveloped land — are taxed at a flat rate set each year by the Legislature. Weighting, therefore, would directly affect only homeowners, and adopting new weights, assuming all else remained the same, would increase homestead tax rates in towns with fewer weighted students and decrease rates in towns with more weighted students. Direct appropriations could be done in a way that spreads the cost across the entire school tax base.

Vermont currently provides targeted funding for transportation, special education, small schools, and school construction, and many other states provide fixed amount grants for low-income students. The consultants focused on weighting because that was what the Legislature requested. They calculated the cost of improving educational outcomes in reading and math for

students in poverty, English language learners, and students in small and isolated schools, but there is no detail on what caused the cost differences. What do schools achieving better outcomes spend their additional resources on? And how might those costs be paid for directly rather than adjusting student counts?

Changing student weights may seem like a simple adjustment, but this proposal has dramatic implications for Vermonters. Policy makers need to understand these implications before moving ahead. As the task force reviews current and proposed weights, it also should look at equally well-researched alternatives for delivering the needed funding to school districts. They might find alternatives that not only do a better job of distributing the funds but also are easier to explain to parents and voters, who ultimately have to decide how much to spend on their schools.

Jack Hoffman is Senior Analyst at Public Assets Institute (www.publicassets.org), a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Montpelier.

Postscript to Greenup Day

To the Editor,

I love the Cambridge Conservation Commission's Green-Up and Orange-Up Day efforts — promoting it, their surveys afterward asking, where did you go, how much garbage did you pick up, what was the most interesting, the most disgusting, etc. Earlier this month, my answers to those questions were, respectively, "close to home," "not enough," "nothing in particular," and "dirty diapers and baggies of dog poop."

That is, until this past weekend.

By force of habit, I often pick up bits and pieces of litter here and there: coffee cup lids, the ubiquitous cigarette butts, etc. A few days ago, I noticed a frisbee in the road. I'm guessing it flew out-of-bounds from the Silo Space meadow, or out of a passing truck or something. Passing vehicles were steadily breaking it up into smaller and smaller fragments, but being bright orange it was still pretty noticeable and unsightly. So, dodging traffic, I set about picking up as much of it as I could. Among all the little pieces was one, oddly enough, large one. It became readily apparent why this was so. Somebody had emblazoned the frisbee with several makeshift labels, which were holding it together.

In an instant, an innocuous little activity became complex. Said labels were replete with the N-word and many equally horrible slurs. A cut-out picture of a black man had been glued to the center... I can't bring myself to write here what was written there (and to the handful of people I showed it to, I deeply apologize for the visible pain that seeing it caused you).

Racism. Smack dab in the heart of our little Village.

To members of the Conservation Commission: is there still time to change my response to your question about "the most disgusting piece of litter" one had picked up? Dirty diapers and dog poop baggies don't even come close.

J. Jenkauskas, Jeffersonville

Special requests at the Westford Food Shelf

To the Editor, and Westford neighbors,

There are a few items that folks visiting the food shelf have particularly asked for lately: cream-style canned corn; cream of chicken soup; canned peas; pet food and cat litter.

We're also looking to replenish a few of the following items: ground coffee (regular and decaf); sugar; household cleaning products; laundry detergent; canned fruits (all types); macaroni and cheese; canned chicken; canned tuna.

Thank you so much to everyone who helps keep our shelves stocked! On Saturday we were able to send out fresh eggs, bacon,

sausage, frozen entrées, sliced cheese, butter, potatoes, bananas, and a whole lot of toilet paper. We also had a variety of individual frozen meals thanks to programs at the Vermont Food Bank and Skinny Pancake.

Non-perishables can be donated via drop boxes at the Westford Country Store & Cafe, the library, the Town Office, or at the Food Shelf. Perishables can be dropped at the Food Shelf on the first Wednesday of the month, 4:00 – 4:30 PM, and on the third Saturday of the month, 7:30 – 8:00 AM.

Lauren Curry, Westford

Westford roads, trails, and fire department

To the Editor,

OK, probably missing plenty of other hard workers, but a start. Roads in town are mighty fine.

Not sure exactly what science is on best ditching, but I notice big rock that will stay with higher flow rates and some berms/water bars to slow water down. Seems like less erosion and stream/river sediment deposition as well.

Less repair and higher water quality — win-win.

Thank you road crew!

So nice to have trails to walk and ski on. Not sure who all behind it, I know Joel Fey is one.

Thank you trail crew!

Through COVID, our fire department continued to serve us. Granted, less service 'cause less crashes, but there for us when called. No pay, all volunteer.

Thank you!

Thomas Dunkley, Westford

Tax Commission proposal would raise VT net taxes

To the Editor,

The Vermont Tax Structure Commission has recommended to the Legislature that it should expand Vermont's sales and use tax to cover all goods and services except healthcare. The current rate is 6%, which is currently limited to non-essential goods and a handful of services but the proposal would lower the rate to 3.6% but the net result would be an increase in tax revenue of \$20 million. With that being said, the cost for living in Vermont would go up.

With the new tax, goods that would now be subject to the new 3.6% tax include food, clothing, and home energy. In addition, over two hundred services would be subject to the new tax, and would include childcare, college and other tuition, legal aid, carpentry, plumbing, hair and beauty services, home maintenance, etc.

In addition to making Vermont a less affordable place to live for us all, the new logistical burden that would be placed on service businesses, many of which are small and struggling, to collect, account for, and remit the taxes would be an especially cruel blow as they try to recover from the economic devastation caused by COVID. Not to mention putting them at a severe competitive disadvantage with rivals across the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and the other 46 states that don't cast nearly as broad a sales tax net.

So why us this important now because there is no bill pending in the legislature?

We are doing this now because the recommendation was made and needs to be responded to in a timely manner. When the flood of federal COVID relief funds runs dry, we will have spending

Letters continued on page 7

Community columns continued from page 5

vigor. Due to this combination of stressors, Vermont may see another year or two of high levels of gypsy moth activity unless the state sees some rainy seasons to increase the population of *Entomophaga*.

We at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation are monitoring the gypsy moth situation this year, and will be considering recommending larger-scale treatment options for next year if the gypsy moth population looks to be building.

Emerald Ash Borer:

There has been a new detection of EAB in Colchester, which has expanded the infested area within Chittenden County. While we aren't finding EAB everywhere, we assume that it is much more widely-spread — the area that we now consider "infested" basically covers the whole county (see map at link below).

We are still recommending taking action to "slow the spread" of EAB, giving our municipalities, homeowners, utilities, and forest landowners more time to respond to EAB in a thoughtful way. The Infested Area Map (<https://vtanr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=cfd013ad1464b7b9103a3d7806f0cc5>) to which "Slow-the-Spread" recommendations apply now expands the infested area in the towns listed at that link.

Forest landowners, homeowners, foresters, logging contractors, municipalities, and utilities in the infested area should evaluate the options available to them to protect ash trees and immediately implement Vermont's "Slow the Spread" recommendations, which you can find at: <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont/slow-spread-of-eab>.

If you have questions about managing ash in your woodlot or around your home, or need Use Value Appraisal guidance, check out the resources available at <https://vtinvasives.org/>.

Affordable Housing and the American Dream

By Bill Schubart

The most corrosive issue today affecting the American Dream is that so many families have had to give up on the idea of ever owning their own home. Affordable housing has all but disappeared in too many places.

Yesterday, I got my semi-annual haircut and listened as my middle-aged haircutter, punctuated by scissor snips, told me of her family and the rental place they finally found through friends, far from her place of work. She and her husband must both commute and share care for their young daughter with a local in-home child-care provider. She spoke wistfully of their

having abandoned in middle age their former dream of owning their own home.

My stepfather was not rich and when it came time in 1947 to build a home for his new family, he bought an acre of pasture from a nearby farm, hired a local builder, and immediately signed on as a framing carpenter to lower the cost. As a ski instructor in nearby Stowe, he could work off-season on his new home.

The agreed-upon cost of the house was \$8000. My wealthy New York grandfather deemed the cost outrageous and refused to lend his stepson any money to build it. My stepfather's considerably less well-off mother lent him what money she had saved and bought him a new fridge to boot for his new family.

The news is rife with homes throughout Vermont selling sight-unseen at well above their asking price, and of young Vermont families or retiring couples unable to find any modest-size housing they can afford. The inverse of this phenomenon is, of course, appreciation of homestead value. Renters can't capture this appreciation.

The influx of out-of-staters either migrating to Vermont, buying an investment property, or wanting to ensure a safe haven should their home cities deteriorate has fed the steep rise in residential properties across the entire state. A very rural house I bought in 1976 for \$42,000 is today listed for \$650,000 and might well bring more.

When I was young, it was understood that a hardworking head-of-household would be able to provide a warm home and food for his or her family with a middle-class income, as was the precept that primary health care was available to all regardless of ability to pay.

When I started a family in 1965, the mortgage benchmark required that your home financing cost be less than 25% of your expendable income. Today that number is 50% and still disqualifies most would-be home buyers.

We've created a wealth-polarized economy in which the bottom half can only hope for a home if both household members work at least one full-time job, forego having children, or can call on relatives for childcare or for financial aid.

According to the Champlain Housing Trust, the largest community land trust in the country, more than half of renters pay more than 30% of their income for housing. At \$73,600, household income in Chittenden County is, on average, \$20,000 short of the minimum needed to buy a home there. Average market price is \$340,000 and the minimum household income to buy such a home would be \$93,000.

The American dream has dissolved in the insomnia of financial anxiety.

Add to the cost of housing, access to healthcare, nutrition, childcare, public transportation, and education, and it becomes clear why we've become a country divided.

Many years ago, I was asked to testify against the construction of a trailer park in Washington County. When I asked what the opposition was to its construction, I was told that it would be "unsightly." "For whom?" I asked. "Those of us who live nearby," was the answer. I was stunned.

I then remembered Glenn, a friend from school in Morrisville, who showed me with great pride the mobile home they could finally afford after living in a collapsing wood-frame house surrounded by hay bales, supported by rotting sills, and heated by a kerosene stove. For them, the trailer was a dream come true — a clean, heatable space with working appliances, plumbing, and electricity. I shared his pride and excitement.

I demurred on the request to testify and was asked what I would be willing to support. I said I would be happy to testify for a requirement that each trailer-owner in the park be required to plant a tree next to their trailer. That notion was rebuffed.

Not long after that experience, I first heard the term "NIMBY" (Not-In-My-Backyard) and came to understand its meaning and consequences. It gave those of us with privilege the opportunity to speak passionately about the need for "affordable housing" but to demur when it came to building it in our neighborhood.

The NIMBY phenomenon is poisoning our country and must be understood to be another form of caste supremacy, even as the color of the occupants of affordable housing may be white — "trailer-trash," as I recently heard someone say. So much for President Reagan's "shining city on a hill."

If we acknowledge two basic truths, we might get this right and be a more prosperous country to boot.

First, we must rebuild an economy that values the working class and awards them wages adequate to own a home, raise a family, and ensure the rudiments of well-being.

Second, we must understand that having a safe home is a predicate to good mental and physical health.

The concept of "population health" is aimed at achieving a wholesome community, both economically and physically. It focuses on prevention as a way to ensure the well-being of families by addressing the fundamentals of community wellness: a safe home, adequate nutrition, access to healthcare when needed, to education and to racial and gender equity.

For a healthy, prosperous nation, we will need to reassess dignity in the workplace, and provide adequate compensation, benefits, and working conditions. And we will need to continue to build an affordable housing infrastructure in Vermont.

Yes, maybe in your backyard.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Here is a link to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library / Jericho Town Library video about our 2021 Summer Reading Program: *Tails and Tales*: <https://youtu.be/oXf7TUxypvE>.

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

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

Adult Programs

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers — always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Youth Programs

Summer Reading Program Information: You've been waiting, and here it is! Visit our Summer Reading Program webpage to find out about all the cool stuff we have going on this summer: <https://www.drml.org/srp2021>.

Outdoor Story Time — Tuesdays, 10:30 AM. Join Ms. Abbey on the back lawn of the library Tuesday mornings for stories and songs! This program is weather dependent. If it is a rainy morning we will not meet. If you are not sure if storytime is happening, check our Facebook page or call 802-899-4962. For the safety of all who attend, everyone must maintain six feet of social distance, and everyone over the age of two must wear a mask. Please bring a blanket or a towel for your family to sit on. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org for more information.

Story Walk — Starting at the end of the sidewalk on the right side of the building and wrapping around the edge of the field. Look for a new story almost every month, or reread great stories on each visit.

Curbside Crafts — Pick up a *Tails and Tales* themed craft kit each Wednesday from the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library or the Jericho Town Library. Supplies are limited, so first come first served!

Summer Reading Bingo — Pick up a new BINGO sheet each month!

Visit DRML and JTL at the Jericho Farmers' Market — Thursdays 3:00 – 6:00 PM.

Summer Reading Challenge: Readers of all ages across Vermont are invited to participate in the 2021 Vermont Summer Reading Challenge, available through August 31 at vermont.beanstack.org! Read or listen to any book and track minutes using the Beanstack web or mobile app. You can help young children participate by tracking minutes when reading to or with them. Log minutes and complete activities to earn digital badges. Collect 10 badges to complete the challenge!

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

This is not a drill! Jericho Town Library is now fully open, no appointment needed. 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday to Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday; note the special evening hours on Tuesdays! Masks required indoors for unvaccinated folks (including children 2-12); optional otherwise.

Since we are now fully reopen, we are suspending our curbside service. We're happy we were able to keep getting books into your hands throughout the past year, but now that we are essentially back to normal operations we are excited to see everyone in-person again!

Thanks so much for your patience and cooperation these past few months as we've been working to reopen safely and responsibly. We can't wait to see you!

Here is a link to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library / Jericho Town Library video about our 2021 Summer Reading Program: *Tails and Tales*: <https://youtu.be/oXf7TUxypvE>.

Join us for storytime at 10:30 AM every Wednesday this summer! Storytime will feature some exciting picture books, crafts and other hands-on activities, and plenty of chances to get some wiggles out. Look for our canopy tent on the Town Green in front of the library. No need to pre-register or make an appointment! You are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or towel to sit on. Note that outdoor storytime is weather-dependent; when in doubt, check our social media in the morning to see if we have canceled (we will call it by 10:00 AM). We can't wait to see you and your little ones!

Letters continued from page 6

levels that may not be sustainable and there will be a temptation to increase taxes. We want to put our legislative leaders on the record now that they will not expand the sales tax for this or any other purpose. Leaders of key money committees in the House and Senate are on the record as advocates for expanding the sales tax. If this is an objective for these committees, either in the short term or in the long term, voters have a right to know now.

What are the roughly 200 services that will be affected? Here is a link to the report; the list is on pages 146-155: <https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Subjects/Final-Report/10306868b9/TSC-Final-Report-2-8-2021.pdf>.

So you might ask the question, "Isn't lowering the overall rate a good thing?" The 3.6% rate is actually a new tax on roughly 200 services that currently aren't taxed at all. Not only will these businesses be forced to pass the costs along to their customers, but they will also be saddled with the new logistical responsibility (a cost in time, treasure, and potential liability) for collecting, reporting, and remitting the revenue to the state. It is also naive to think the rate will stay at 3.6% for long.

This posting is for information purposes, and there will be efforts underway to create a petition to forward to the Legislature that Vermonters are opposed to the proposal.

Ken Hoepfner, Jeffersonville

Jericho Town Library is going to be at the Jericho Farmers' Market every Thursday this summer, so stop by our booth for a free book, fun outdoor activities, and some other goodies you can take home with you. And if you've been meaning to get a library card, we can help you with that, too. Come say hello, get a book, and play some games!

We look forward to having everyone back, and happy reading — Gretchen Wright, Director, Jericho Town Library

Library hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Thursdays 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Calling all volunteers! Our next Committees Meeting will be Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in supporting the library, our publicity and programming committee will be sharing a number of events with volunteer opportunities such as the Summer Reading Program, Varnum Music Events, and more. Our Fundraising, Finance, and Building Committees will also be sharing updates and opportunities for involvement. If you have any questions, please email us at varnumboardofdirectors@gmail.com. Join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/9150335327?pwd=Nkc3clpGSVNFc1hY0VDRG1WmVYQT09>.

Please review our website for all events: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/>.

The tradition continues! The Varnum Memorial Library Book Sale will be held on Sunday, July 4th from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Paperbacks and children's books are \$1 each; adult hardcover books are \$2 each. As always, we have a wide selection of books that make a perfect accompaniment to relaxing summer days!

Dates for the EB White Book Group; all meetings on Fridays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM — July 16: *Stuart Little*; July 30: *The Trumpet of the Swan*; August 13: *Charlotte's Web*. If you need a copy of the book, please stop by the library. We have some copies to lend! Rhea and I look forward to hearing from you about why these are some of your favorite stories. Refreshments will be served...

Friday, July 2, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: 4th of July Book Sale

Tuesday, July 6, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Intergenerational Story Hour

Monday, July 19, 10:00 AM: Tales of Azban, Lamoille County Nature Center Program. Sign up online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd734nHQ0-wgWjHXg2j0VDrPFJzZ9PTICgO8kmN8OWP4f59JQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Wednesday, July 21, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Caroline Ailanthus Virtual Author Talk *Ecological Memory*. On Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658130038?pwd=T01UYW1MK0VYy210U1FRK2h1FRzQ09>

Please let us know how we can assist you by emailing us at varnumrequests@gmail.com or calling us at 644-2117.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

You can now visit the library (meaning come in and browse the shelves, use the computer, grab a DVD, etc.) Wednesdays 1:00 – 7:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. We are still doing curbside service on Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Fridays from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Patrons of all ages are welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Based on Governor Scott's Vermont Forward plan for Group B establishments, the library board feels it is safe to open the library under Universal Guidance:

- masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene are required;
- the library will allow patrons inside at 50% capacity;
- high touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly.

We also ask that patrons limit visits to 30 minutes unless using the computers or internet.

Looking for something to do this summer? The Westford Public Library has you covered with a variety of park and museum passes. We've added some new passes so you can explore even more of Vermont. Passes may not be reserved, and are available for three-day checkout to Westford residents with a valid library card.

• New! Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium (St. Johnsbury): free family pass;

• New! VINS (Quechee): \$5/person up to four people;

• VT State Parks: free entry for one vehicle (up to eight people);

• VT State Historic Sites: free entry for one vehicle (up to eight people);

• ECHO: \$7/person up to for guests (ask for the code, they are still using online ticketing);

• Shelburne Farms: free family pass;

• Shelburne Museum: half off regular admission;

• Birds of Vermont Museum: BOGO;

• Lake Champlain Maritime Museum: no pass needed, free admission this season;

• American Precision Museum (Windsor): free family pass;

• VT History Museum (Montpelier): free family pass.

It's been a while, but there's another episode of *Bree on Books!* You can trust my recommendations or pick out your favorites now that we are open our regular hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays (see below). Adult Fiction: https://youtu.be/2Z1oZ-nJV_I. Adult Non-Fiction: <https://youtu.be/8M7ucY46b-U>

Our first outdoor, in-person storytime on Thursday was great fun! Storytimes will now be outside on the Common on Thursdays at 11:30 AM, unless the weather is bad. It was SO nice to see all those kids! (and the adults were pretty great too!)

The library is doing a lot of virtual programming, available on YouTube. Search YouTube for "Westford Librarian" and subscribe to see all virtual storytimes and the popular "Bree on Books" series. Virtual Early Literacy Story Time is fun for all ages and is posted every Thursday on YouTube, FPF, Facebook, and the website. Curbside Craft Kits available weekly, as a curbside order (see above).

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday, 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need



New at DRML: two benches and a wooden stick man

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) in Jericho has reopened to its normal pre-pandemic hours. Take the time to visit the garden. Two new hemlock benches have been contributed by Dick and Ann Squires. Dick made the benches using hemlock he harvested from their woods in Jericho. Dick also made the cedar trellises. In front of the larger trellis, you will see a wooden stick man. He is quietly reading a book nestled amidst the perennials. This new statue is named "Mr. Burgess" after Thornton Waldo Burgess. He was an American conservationist and author of over 150 children's stories. We would like to thank Dick and Ann for their wonderful contributions to the library gardens. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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.

Like us on Facebook. Bree Drapa, Librarian. 878-5639; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Happy Summer! The Fairfax Community Library will be open and beginning new summer hours on Tuesday, July 6! The summer hours are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. You can browse for materials, pick up your holds, sign up for a computer session or use the Wi-Fi, print pages, or simply sit and read. If this does not meet your needs, please contact us for other options.

We are starting in-person events again! All programs will take place outside in person unless otherwise noted. Please sign up at least one week before the program date. All events free, unless noted. Pre-registration required; call 802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth Events

Thursday, July 15, 2:00 PM: DIY Animal Marionettes. Make and decorate your own animal marionette! Join us on the middle school lawn for this program, and we recommend masks for the safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated. Ages 6+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register!

Thursday, July 22, 2:00 PM: Create a New Animal! Design and build your own, new, never been seen before animal! Join us on the middle school lawn for this program, and we recommend masks for the safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated. Ages 6+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register!

Tuesdays, July 6-27, 10:30 – 11:15 AM: Preschool Story Time. Theme: Animal Stories. Join us for stories and songs! We will meet outside on the middle school lawn. Please bring a blanket or something to sit on, and don't forget to wear your masks and

Library news continued on page 8

Puss in Boots'

Cafe for CATS

Fairfax Community Library and FCAR
July 29, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

The Fairfax Library is partnering with the Franklin County Animal Rescue to host a cat cafe! Cafe visits are by appointment, and donations to the shelter are greatly appreciated. If you would like to adopt a specific cat, please contact FCAR (at 524-9650 or info@fcarpets.org) ahead of time and they will bring that cat to the cafe to meet you. **More info below!**

Please call 849-2420, or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com to register!

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Red Brick Meeting House, Westford available for rentals

The Red Brick Meeting House (RBMH) on Westford Common is available to rent! RBMH, one of your Westford Community Centers, is expanding availability for rentals and use by member organizations. Need a place to have a birthday, retirement, family gathering? Does your business need a meeting place? The RBMH has a small kitchen available as well as a large open area with tables and chairs available.

To schedule use, contact Caroline at 802-878-8890.

Now that the Vermont Forward plan has met its requirement of 80% vaccinated, all business, gathering, and travel restrictions are lifted, so there is no longer an occupancy limit (except for the standard fire occupancy code). Unvaccinated folks are strongly encouraged to wear masks and follow six-foot distancing, and vaccinated folks are welcome to do this as well.

Westford roadside mowing — first pass

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Roadside mowing of all town roads, not state highways, began the week of Monday, June 28. This is the first of two mowings scheduled for this season.

The Town contracts for two mowings to help control wild parsnip and also with sight distance at intersections. The second mowing will occur sometime in late August.

Veterans invited to share stories at Vets Town Halls

All community members are invited to attend outdoor Vets Town Halls held this summer throughout Vermont. Veterans are invited to stand before their community and speak for up to ten minutes about what it was like to serve their country. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued.

The Vets Town Halls will take place on July 18 at Prouty Beach in Newport, on August 8 at the Godnick Center in Rutland, and on September 19 at Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington. All are on Sundays at 1:00 PM, and are free and open to the public.

“We often hear about veterans, but we very rarely get to hear from them, to hear their own voices talking about their experience,” says Marty McMahon, the host of the Newport location. “We can’t have a real dialogue with veterans until we take the time to listen with no judgment.”

“For many veterans, it may be difficult to speak of their experience out of concern of judgment or misrepresentation,” adds Jon Turner, who will host the Middlesex and Burlington events. “Having an opportunity to gather with community members assists with the reintegration process and makes it possible for us to move beyond a narrative of conflict by honoring

and sharing our stories. Attending these gatherings is a reminder of the community we wish to embrace after military service.”

Vets Town Halls were originated by author Sebastian Junger (War, Tribe) with the aim of increasing communication and understanding between veterans and civilians in their communities. The first event of this kind in Vermont was a November 2017 Burlington town hall spearheaded by local event coordinator Kristen Eaton, with support from many individuals and organizations. The events, including additional locations coordinated by Community College of Vermont, have continued annually, with a break in 2020 due to the pandemic. This summer will be the first time that Vets Town Halls have been held in Middlesex and Newport.

“Support of our military does not start with a ‘support the troops’ bumper sticker and culminate with grilled chicken on Memorial Day weekend,” says Kyle Aines, CCV’s Associate Director of Veterans and Military Services, and the host of the Rutland event. “As military members struggle to reintegrate back into society, it is imperative that society have a clear understanding what they are transitioning from. The Vets Town Hall is that bridge and connection.”

Veterans who would like to speak can indicate that when registering. Time permitting, veterans are also welcome to sign up to speak during the events themselves. RSVPs are optional but encouraged at vtvetstowhall.eventbrite.com. Questions may be directed to Kristen Eaton at vtvetstowhall@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

LEND A HAND. VOLUNTEER. United Way of Northwest Vermont’s mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection connects you to hundreds of local volunteer needs. Search by age, date, county, interests or causes that are important to you. Stay connected to community needs. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

SWEET TREATS – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington is getting ready to welcome volunteers back and will be looking for guest chefs, cooks, and bakers to prepare meals and treats for house guests. Contact Julie Richards, julie@rmhcv.org for more details.

FINE ARTS – CORE Adult Center invites volunteer artists and teachers to enhance the lives of seniors by teaching sketching, drawing, watercolor, sewing, knitting, music, nature, or theater. Flexible shifts on weekdays from 10:30 – 11:30 AM or 12:30 – 2:00 PM. Contact Sarah Carter, shcarter@burlingtonvt.gov.

STOCKING UP – The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Milton is seeking volunteers age 16 and up to help unload donations, price home goods, stock shelves, test electronics, or take on special projects. Help them raise money to build affordable housing for working families. Shifts are from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

GLEANERS NEEDED – Healthy Roots Collaborative is reducing food waste and increasing access of locally grown produce to low-income individuals by rescuing distributing high-quality produce to charitable food sites. Volunteers of all ages are needed to glean food from local farms. Flexible scheduling. Contact them at healthyrootsgleans@gmail.com.

OUST THE INVADERS – Winooski Valley Park District is looking for dedicated volunteers of all ages to help remove invasive species from parks to protect native plants and animals. Remove buckthorn, garlic mustard, and other invaders and help native trees and shrubs survive. Flexible scheduling. Contact Timothy Larned, timlarned@wvvpd.org.

2021 Bolton Potholes steward!

By Amy Grover • Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bolton

Please welcome a new face at the Bolton Potholes — Reilly Butler. Reilly is this year’s Swimming Hole Steward and will be helping to manage this popular recreation area, protected by the Vermont River Conservancy and owned by Vermont Riverlands, LLC. Reilly will be found on site at the Potholes, greeting and surveying visitors, answering questions, maintaining trails, and reminding people to *Carry In, Carry Out* any trash.

The Swimming Hole Steward position is funded by the Vermont River Conservancy, with additional support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board’s AmeriCorps Program. In addition to her work at the Bolton Potholes, Reilly also performs similar tasks at Triple Buckets, Huntington Gorge, and North Branch Cascades — other popular swimming areas in the region.

Reilly grew up in Richmond and currently resides in Burlington. In 2019, she graduated from the University of Vermont with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. She spends her free time hiking, camping, kayaking, and of course visiting many of Vermont’s swimming holes.

Be sure to help Reilly preserve these beautiful natural areas by remembering to *Leave no Trace*.

Also remember that while the Bolton Potholes is a popular recreation site, there are not many options for legal parking. Remember if you are parking in the Smilie School parking lot to obey all posted signs, or risk having your vehicle towed. There is an extremely limited amount of parking available at the bottom of the Bolton Valley Access Road, on the east side of the road. However, there is NO PARKING allowed on Curtis Lane (resident parking only) and NO PARKING allowed anywhere along the Bolton Valley Access Road, from the intersection of U.S. Rt. 2 for two miles north up the road (the vicinity of the “Sugar Shack” parking lot’s southern entrance) *This is not no parking in the traveled portion of the road, this is no parking whatsoever*. Vehicles parked on/along the Bolton Valley Access Road risk being towed. Please be respectful to the property owners in the area, and if parking looks full, head to one of the many other swimming holes Vermont has to offer.

Thank you — have fun and be safe this summer!

Miscellaneous news continued on page 9

Library news continued from page 7

keep social distancing guidelines in mind! Children’s books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Thursday, July 8, 2:00 PM: Elephant Toothpaste. Learn how to make a bubbly, fizzy chemical reaction that looks like someone is squeezing out a tube of toothpaste big enough for an elephant! Join us on the middle school lawn for this program, and we recommend masks for the safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated. Ages 6+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register!

Adult Events

Saturday, July 31, 1:00 PM: Virtual Knitting Club. Relax and chat while working on your latest knitting or crochet project! If you would like some basic knitting materials, let us know and they will be provided at curbside pickup on Thursday from 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Join the Zoom meeting on Saturday at 1:00 PM! Please register with libraryfairfax@gmail.com to receive the zoom link!

Saturday, July 17, 11:00 AM: Stamp Making. Try your hand at stamp making! Materials provided. This program will be hosted indoors. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register!

Virtual Book Club. Book and time TBA! To request a copy of the book for curbside pickup, please call the library or send an email to fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com, or call us at 849-2420. All are welcome!

Family Events

Thursday, July 29, 5:30 – 6:30 PM: Cat Café. Thinking about adoption? Just want to meet some cute kitties? The Fairfax Library is partnering with the Franklin County Animal Rescue to host a Cat Café! Café visits are by appointment, and donations to the shelter are greatly appreciated. If you would like to adopt a specific cat, please contact FCAR (524-9650 or info@fcarpets.org) ahead of time and they will bring that cat to the café to meet you. If you don’t have a specific cat in mind that’s fine as well, you can start the adoption process at the café if you meet a cat you’d like to take home! Please call 849-2420, or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com to register! To look at the different cats up for adoption, visit FCAR’s website <https://www.franklincountyanimalrescue.org/cats/>!

Looking for some fun walks around the state? Check out DigInVt’s Farm Walks Across Vermont online at <https://diginvt.com/trails/detail/farm-walks-across-vermont>. On this site, you’ll find easy walking trails for taking a stroll. For more summertime fun, the library also has passes to area attractions available to borrow!

Library hours, beginning July 6: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Library is open for in-person browsing on an appointment basis. Appointments will be every 30 minutes. Call or email. Please continue to wear masks within the Library.

Youth Summer Reading Program It’s going to be great! Like

last year, we’ll be set up downstairs just inside the door and there will be reading records, stickers, “charms,” guessing jars, prizes, and more. Instructions, self-serve activities, and information about in-person programs and activities await you in the library foyer. Please visit as often as you can this summer.

Here is how the Summer Reading Program will work this year: Visit the library foyer to pick up your *Summer Reading Record*. Upon your visit you will find clear instructions for self-serve registration. You will be invited to take a charm necklace or keychain and your first charm. You may request library books by putting them on hold through your RFL account (rfl.kohavt.org), by emailing or calling (rfl@gmavt.net/434-3036) or by filling out a “Book Bundle” request slip (available in the library foyer) and leaving it in the box provided. When books are ready for pickup they will be placed in the foyer book bin corresponding to your last name, and you will be notified. As you read books (and they don’t need to be library books), add their titles to your reading record and bring this with you when you next come to the Library. Come back each week to add stickers to your *Summer Reading Record*, to get the week’s charm for your necklace or keychain, and of course to pick up new books. Check the library’s website regularly to learn about any updated policies regarding library hours and protocols.

Outdoor Storytime: We will gather on the library lawn behind the building and observe whatever current safety protocols are being recommended. Families should bring their own blanket or chairs and are welcome to bring snacks and/or a picnic lunch. No registration is necessary. Storytime includes books with big, bold pictures, rhymes, songs, and the opportunity to pick out some picture books to take home. Join us on Mondays at 11:00 AM throughout July.

Youth Open Air Arts & Crafts: Join library staff for some fun crafting in the backyard this summer. We will be using natural and recycled materials as well as other craft supplies to create one-of-a-kind masterpieces. A full schedule of programs appears on our website under the youth services tab. Please call ahead to reserve your spot each week as supplies are limited and will go first to those who register. rflgmavt.net/434-3036.

Science Under the Sun: This summer we will be offering four different science programs for youth aged 3-13. Topics will include worms, birds, the color wheel, and bats, and will include stories, experiments, and hands-on learning. Check out our website for dates and times and for more information about each program. Please call ahead to reserve your spot.

A StoryWalk® is an outdoor reading experience that reveals a story page by page as the reader follows the StoryWalk route. There will be a new StoryWalk set up around the library grounds each month this summer.

VOX Audio/Picture Books for Young Children: Thanks to a generous donation we were recently able to expand our collection of VOX Books, slim audio devices that live in beautiful full-size picture books. The permanently attached VOX Reader transforms an ordinary picture book into an all-in-one read-along with no need for computers, tablets, or CDs. Children simply push a button to listen and read. From what we have seen and heard so far, kids love them. Request one today for your favorite little person.

Playaways: For older children we have a large collection of

audio devices called Playaways. Full, unabridged Juvenile and Young Adult titles come packaged in these tiny little devices that are perfect for long car rides.

Curbside Hours have been extended: new hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Online content. Visit the Library’s web page and check out the Online Services. Download a book from Overdrive, learn a new language with Rocket Languages, pursue a new career with Learning Express, explore a new hobby or learn a new skill with Universal Class. All free with your library card!

Electric vehicle charging is available at the Library/Town Center Municipal Parking Lot. Anyone with an electric vehicle (EV) can take advantage of the Town’s new ChargePoint Charging Station, providing level-2 charging for up to two vehicles. Energy is provided “at cost,” and is equivalent to paying about \$1.50/gallon for a gas vehicle. Users can check if the chargers are in use on chargepoint.com or your favorite EV app.

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

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 434-3036; fax 434-3223; www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Our program offerings or changes are on our program calendar at <https://brownelllibrary.org/events/calendar>.

The library offers curbside service, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Place books, DVDs, etc. on hold at <https://brownell.kohavt.org/> by calling us at 802-878-6955, or emailing frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org. Holds and email requests received by 5:00 PM will be available for same-day pick-up. Phone-in requests received by 5:30 PM will also be available for same-day pick-up. We will call you when your request is ready.

Our book drop is open for returns. Because we are still encouraged to stay safe and stay home, all materials will be checked out to you for three weeks.

Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 878-6955.

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

The Essex Free Library offers curbside pickup, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more curbside details, please visit <https://www.essexvt.org/753/Curbside-Services>.

We are accepting book returns in the book drop only. Please do not return books inside the vestibule.

While the building is closed, our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don’t have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

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

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS - OBITUARIES



Michael Alan Broe, 66, passed away at his home in Westford, VT on Sunday, June 13, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Burlington, VT on April 5, 1955, son of the late Reginald and Nellie (Rich) Broe. Michael was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing on the riverbanks in Fairfax, VT. Most days you could find him working on projects around the house, riding the roads looking for deer, or starting a fire at his lean-to listing to Country Gold.

Michael will be remembered for his generosity, kindness, and his smile that lit up the room. There was nothing more important to Michael than his family. They were the highlights of his life. Both he and his wife Vicky come from large families that were united in 1981. There was nothing Michael wouldn't do for either side of the family, he cherished them both. In 1983 his daughter Jamie was born, whom he loved dearly and could never say no to. In 2018 he also gained a son-in-law, Joe, whom he loved and welcomed into the family with open arms. 2020 was a big year as he became "Bumpa" to his first grandson, Ronan, and in 2021 he prepared to celebrate 40 years of marriage to the love of his life, Vicky. His ability to make even the hardest days better and his sacrifices for his family will never be forgotten. He is survived by his loving wife Vicky (Gilbeau) Broe; daughter Jamie Connelly and husband Joe and their son Ronan of Westford; six siblings, Reggie and Pat Broe of Bakersfield, VT and Florida; Eleanor and John Cross of Cambridge, VT; Greg Broe and Cindy Biro of Florida; Jeff Broe of Georgia; Gary and Ann Broe of Fletcher, VT; Burt and Laurie Broe of Jeffersonville, VT; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Leo Gilbeau of South Burlington, VT, Leon Gilbeau of Hinesburg, VT, Sandy Gilbeau of Alburgh, VT, Steven and Patty Gilbeau of Westford, VT, Julie Gilbeau of Cambridge, VT, Debbie and Leo Fowler of West Rutland, VT; aunts-in-law and uncles-in-law Al and Patricia Arellano, Leo and Pat Rich, Richard Richards; and by several nieces, nephews, and cousins; as well as his special friend he held dearly, Pete Gay of Milton, VT. Michael was also predeceased by mother-in-law and father-in-law Leon and Phyllis Gilbeau, and brother-in-law Randy Gilbeau. A graveside service was held on Thursday June 17, 2021 with Reverend Griffin officiating in the family lot in Sanderson Corners Cemetery. To honor Michael, you are welcome to wear a flannel shirt to his service and a mask if you're not vaccinated. Memorial contributions in Michael's name may be made to Vermont Fish & Wildlife or Chittenden County Home Health and Hospice.

He could always make his friends and family laugh! Shawn loved camping, it was a passion. His favorite thing to do was set up the camper, complete with festive string lights, a cooler full of cold ones, and a welcome mat, and camp all weekend with his friends and family during the summer months. It was his happy place and brought him so much joy. He also loved to cook: a meal was never not meticulously prepared to perfection for anyone he cooked for, and he made the best Holiday feasts. His pizzas were also a big hit with friends and family. He loved music, classic cars, and the Dallas Cowboys. Shawn is survived by his two children, Courtney and Brittany Ploof; his father Paul Ploof; his brother Stephen Ploof and his wife Lori and their two children Hannah and Ethan Ploof; his brother Scott Ploof; his brother-in-law Roy Spiller and his children Alyssa Spiller, Jennifer Chitgopker, and Stephanie Spiller; his longtime partner Jennifer Mayo; and countless friends. Shawn was preceded in death by his mother Erlene Ploof and his sister Susan Spiller. A Celebration of Life was held at Resurrection Park on Hinesburg Rd., S. Burlington, VT on Monday, June 21, 2021. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Shawn's memory to the American Diabetes Association at <https://www.diabetes.org/donate/donate-memorial>. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the Ready Funeral Home, South Chapel, Burlington, VT. Please visit www.readyfuneral.com to place online condolences.



Robert "Bob" Allen Grady, 64, of Starksboro, VT, husband of Penelope, passed away peacefully at his residence surrounded by his family on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. He was born in Saint Johnsbury, VT, son of Allen and Doria Grady. Bob is survived by his wife of 12½ years, Penelope Grady; his children Adam Grady, Whitney (Michelle) Grady, Leighton (Jess) Shenton, Alex (Stephanie) Hammond, and Michele (Eric) Shepard; as well as his sister Carole (Michael) Sicard; and many grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents Allen and Doria, and his sister Barbara Milo. Bob worked faithfully for 27 years at the United States Postal Service, all of which was dedicated to the Hinesburg Community, which he cherished. During that time he formed many lasting bonds with the residents along his mail route. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and teaching new generations. He loved spending time with all of his grandchildren, including the animal ones. A celebration of his life will be held at the American Legion in Bristol, VT on Saturday, July 24, 2021, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Lung Association in Bob's name.



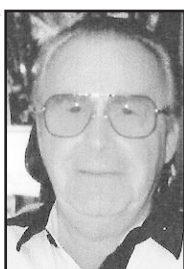
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently awarded the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) a five-year \$446,393 grant to support the VT Loon Conservation Project (VLCP), a joint program between VCE and VT Fish and Wildlife focused on Common Loon recovery and conservation in Vermont. The grant is part of a larger settlement from the Bouchard B-120 oil spill that killed over 500 wintering loons off Rhode Island and Massachusetts coasts in 2003. In 1987, only 12 breeding pairs were recorded in the state and Common Loons were added to the endangered species list. By 2005, VLCP's combination of monitoring, targeted management activities, community involvement, and public outreach had helped the loons recover enough to be delisted. In recent years, Vermont has seen an annual average of 95 breeding loon pairs, with 96 reported in 2020. Vermont's loons still face numerous threats. With the funds received from USFWS, VCE will work to improve loon populations across Vermont with the ultimate goals of increasing nesting success and reducing mortality. One approach will focus established management activities, like nest warning signs and nesting rafts, on particularly vulnerable areas. The grant will also allow VCE to implement lead tackle buy-back and monofilament collection programs within Vermont. Although the number of loons dying from lead poisoning has declined since half-ounce and smaller sinkers were banned, some loons are still affected. Over the past three years, six loons have died from eating lead fishing gear. A buy-back program will help remove more of this gear from circulation and further reduce instances of lead poisoning in loons. To learn more, please visit the Vermont Loon Conservation Project at <https://vtcostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/>.

PHOTO BY PAUL HOLMES



Irving (Whitey) Bartlett — In loving memory of Irving Bartlett, there was a gathering to share some of the favorite memories and stories, to laugh or to cry and remember the wonderful person that he was, June 27, 2021 at Whitcombs Barn, VT Rt. 15, Jericho, VT.

Bryan Stebbins of Kailua-Kona, HI — A graveside service for Bryan Stebbins, who passed away November 19, 2020 in Hawaii, was held in the family lot on Thursday, May 27, 2021 in Jeffersonville Village Cemetery. Please visit awrfh.com for Bryan's full notice.



Shawn Ploof, 57, of Colchester, VT, passed away on Sunday, June 13, 2021 in Cambridge, VT, doing what he loved. Shawn was born on March 17, 1964 in Burlington, VT to proud parents Paul and Erlene Ploof. He attended and graduated from Essex (VT) High School. He worked at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters for the last 12 years, where he had many friends. He was a hardworking, respected man. Shawn loved his family and friends and spending time with them. His two daughters were the most important thing to him in the world. He was very close to his father Paul and spent a great deal of time with him. He was always the first person to help anyone out and could always lift anyone's spirits with his kindness and positive personality.

COLLEGE NEWS

Savannah Aiken of Jeffersonville, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT.
Ashley Alexander of Jericho, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Alexander earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
Benjamin Bliss of Underhill, VT graduated in spring 2021 from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, with a Master of Science, major in Earth and Environmental Science.
Lucy Boyden of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.
Nicholas Brown of Waterbury, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Brown earned an Associate of Science in Nursing.
Andrew Champlin of Jericho, VT graduated on Sunday, May 23, 2021 from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.
Megan Charland of Westford, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Charland earned an Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene.
Heather Cleary of Jeffersonville, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Cleary earned an Associate of Science in Nursing.
Taylor Culver of Waterbury, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Culver earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Technology.

Althea Devereux of Jericho, VT has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List, earning highest honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.
James Dionne of Jericho, VT graduated on Sunday, May 23, 2021 from Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management.
Molly Finn of Jericho, VT has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List, earning high honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.
Emily Fisher of Jeffersonville, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Fisher earned an Associate of Science in Nursing.
Megan Forbes of Westford, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY.
Samuel Grandfield of Waterbury, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Dean College, Franklin, MA.
Joshua Graning of Jericho, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY.
Colin Green of Waterbury, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Green is pursuing a Bachelor of Science.
Heather Hamlin of Underhill, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Hamlin earned an Associate of Science in Nursing. Hamlin was also named to the Spring 2021 Dean's list at Vermont Technical College.

College news continued on page 12

Miscellaneous news continued from page 8

Essex Community Justice Center seeks volunteers

The Essex Community Justice Center (ECJC) is looking for volunteers for our Circles of Support & Accountability.

What does this involve?

Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA) team members work with offenders who are transitioning back into our community from jail. A team of volunteers and a staff member meet with one offender for an hour a week for a year to help provide support to not reoffend, integrate into the community, and ensure that there are no new victims.

Who is a good fit?

We are looking for a diverse group of volunteers. There is no experience necessary, and training is provided. Skills that are helpful are: a desire to listen and get to know others, empathy, and enjoying working with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Anyone age 18 and up is encouraged to contact us to learn more.

If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Kristina Nunn, knunn@essex.org 857-8308.

Why do people volunteer?

To play a part in the safety of my community by being a collaborative team member.

To support people to stay out of prison (reduce recidivism) by caring for someone who otherwise might not have support.

"...Having done this for the past few years, I have had the unique opportunity to see healing in action. I have seen people mend relationships with their families as well as with the community. This system provides the opportunity for healing to occur for all parties concerned... we can sometimes make a difference. It brings me joy and makes me grateful that I can serve my community in this way." — Kristina Nunn

Everyone Eats Fridays at Community Center of Jericho

Has COVID-19 made it harder to feed yourself or your family? Are you interested in helping out local VT restaurants during these trying times? Then these meals are for you!

Every Friday from 2:30 – 4:30 PM, free restaurant meals are available at the Community Center of Jericho to anyone who has been impacted by COVID-19. These meals are made possible through the VT Everyone Eats program and prepared by local restaurants with over 10% VT ingredients.

VT Everyone Eats in Chittenden County is powered in partnership with ShiftMeals and The Intervale Center. If you have questions, please contact EveryoneEats@intervale.org.

Seeking landlords with available units

Do you have an available rental unit? Are you willing to partner with a community agency to help house Vermonters? We have over 200 families who need homes to rent. We'll help pay their rent and security deposits and support their tenancy.

For more information, go online to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/dcfblog/landlordsneeded>.

Flush away concerns about bathroom dangers

With young children at home so much as we move through this pandemic, let me help flush away some danger spots found in one particular type of room: the bathroom — that's right, the

bathroom. Believe it or not, that small room used by everyone in the family can be a source of great discovery and exploration by an infant and young child. For that reason, we need to secure that area of the house to prevent a lot of unintended accidents and injuries from occurring. Here's how:

Closely supervise your child's activities in the bathroom. This means installing a latch on the door at adult height so a smaller child cannot get into the bathroom unless you are around. It also needs to be able to be unlocked from the outside in case a child locks themselves in. Supervision in the bathroom is critical since a child can drown, believe it or not, in only a few inches of water. That also means you should never leave water in the tub when it is not in use and you are not there to supervise the bath.

Put no-slip strips on the bottom of the tub so your child does not slip and fall.

Secure the toilet unless it is a potty seat. Close the lid and have a toilet lid lock placed so a curious toddler does not try to play in the toilet water, lose balance, and fall in.

Prevent scalding burns from too-hot water by adjusting your water heater. The maximum temperature should be 120 degrees so a child's arm or leg can be removed in plenty of time before a severe burn occurs if exposed to this hot a temperature.

Keep medications high and away and secured with safety caps. Just because a medication bottle is child-resistant does not mean it is child-proof.

Unplug and store electrical appliances such as a hair dryer or electric razor in a cabinet with a safety lock when not in use.

Hopefully, tips like these will help wipe away any bathroom dangers for your young children.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
 NOTICE OF EXAMINATION OF PREMISE AND
 PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF
 THE NORTHERN PORTION OF TOWN HIGHWAY 11
 BUTLER LANE ALSO KNOWN AS BUTLER ROAD

Pursuant to the requirements of Title 19, Chapter 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, the Town of Underhill will conduct an examination of the premises on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM. A public hearing will take place on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM to consider the discontinuance of a portion of Town Highway 11, Butler Lane also known as Butler Road, which is a Class 4 highway. All interested parties shall meet for the following:

1. An inspection of the premises at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, on Town Highway 11, Butler Lane also known as Butler Road to be held at the parking area adjacent to the Butler Family Sugarhouse which is located on said Town Highway 11, ¼ mile north of the intersection of Butler Lane/Road and Irish Settlement Road. The portion of the Class 4 Town Highway to be considered for discontinuance may be described as follows:

Starting at or near the northeast boundary corner of the property located at #23 Butler Lane, also known as Butler Road said terminus being approximately 1300 feet northerly of the intersection of Town Highway 4 and Town Highway 11, and then proceeding northerly on Town Highway 11 to the Underhill-Cambridge Town Line.

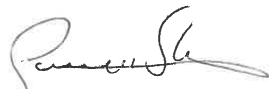
The portion of highway being considered for discontinuance is currently designated as Class 4 and the northerly portion thereof is labeled (-u-) impassible or untraveled per the 2016 Vermont General Highway Map for the Town of Underhill prepared by the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

2. A public hearing on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM will be held at the Underhill Town Office located at 12 Pleasant Valley Road Underhill as well as virtually using the GoToMeeting virtual platform. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony from all persons abutting, owning or interested in the matter of discontinuing that portion of Town Highway 11, as described above. If conditions change due to the Covid-19 pandemic the hearing will solely take place remotely. Please stay apprised by monitoring the Town of Underhill's website and homepage: www.underhillvt.gov for UpToDate details regarding the hearing.

Persons wishing to comment, provide testimony or give evidence regarding the proposed discontinuance may do so in person or remotely during the hearing, or by filing comments, in writing, prior to the hearing.

If, after examining the premises and hearing from any and all interested persons, the Selectboard judges that the public good, necessity and convenience of the inhabitants of the Town of Underhill warrants discontinuing the above-described portion of Town Highway 11, it will be so ordered.

Dated at Underhill, Vermont this 7th day of June, 2021



Dan Steinbauer, Selectboard Chair

TH 11 Butler Lane aka Butler Road Discontinuance Hearing 7-15-2021
Thu, Jul 15, 2021 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (EDT)

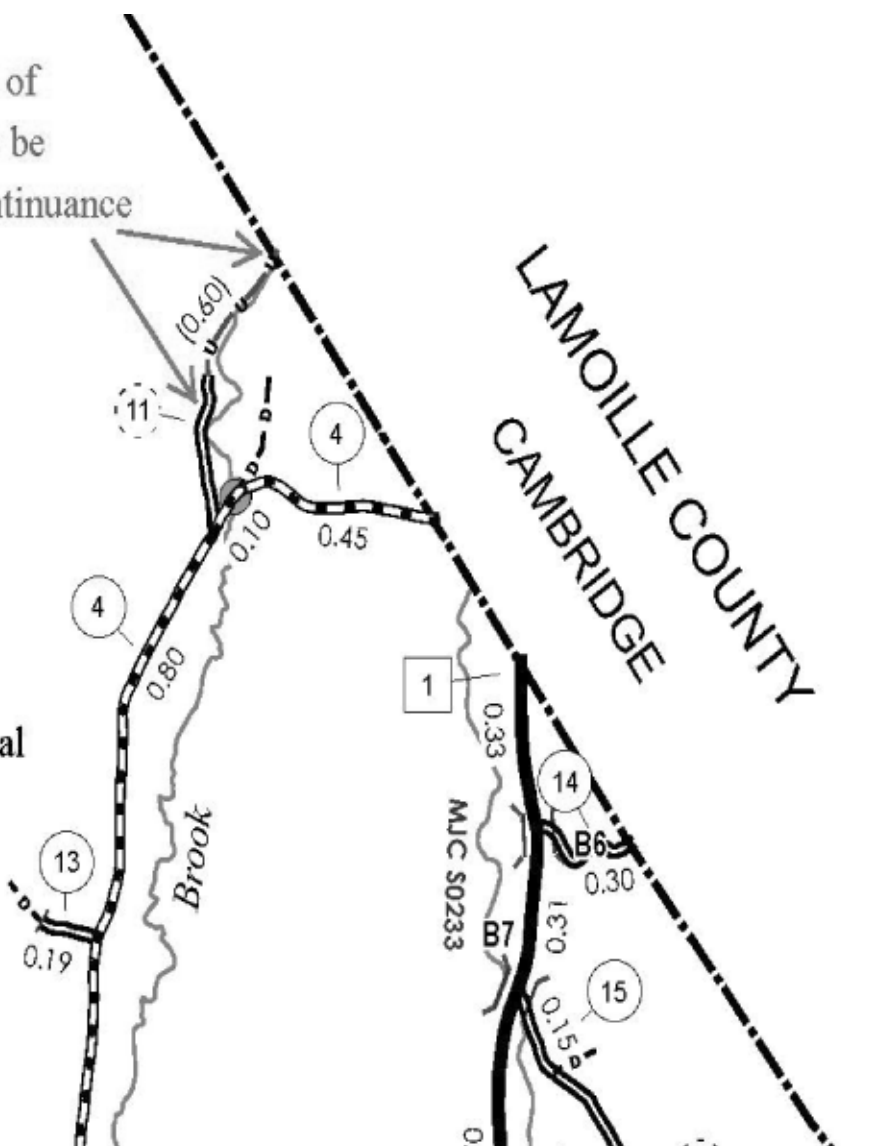
Please join the hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/982105005>

You may also dial in using your phone.
 United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 982-105-005

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/982105005>

Approximate portion of
 Town Highway 11 to be
 considered for discontinuance

Town of Underhill
 2016 Vermont General
 Highway Map



ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Sing with Vermont's Freedom & Unity Chorus

Does music fill you with hope for a better world and a brighter future? Do you want to be part of a musical movement that will not only be fun, but will also make you feel good about what you are doing?

In-person rehearsals for Vermont's Freedom & Unity Chorus begin in July. We sing all different genres of music that represent the ongoing struggle for racial, social, economic, and environmental justice: pop, folk, rock, soul, gospel... even Broadway when appropriate! We invite you to join this unique chorus where you will use your voice to ignite change, transform hearts, and inspire audiences.

Check out and share the virtual choir video we recently premiered to get a sense of what we're all about: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYfp26xVn28>.

Join us: <https://www.vermontsfreedomandunitychorus.org/join-us>.

We welcome all voices regardless of age, race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, national origin (ancestry), disability, and sexual orientation. We choose freedom over fear and we recognize that none of us are free until all of us are free. We strive to become one of the most diverse and inclusive choruses in the State of Vermont.

If there are any musicians out there who want to be a part of this, we welcome your participation as well. We are also looking for places or events to perform at. If your organization would like for us to come sing for you, please contact us.

Visit our website for more information: <http://www.vermontsfreedomandunitychorus.org>.

If you would like to support our mission financially, please visit our donation page: <http://vermontsfreedomandunitychorus.org/support-us>.

Call to artists — Jeffersonville Art Jam

The Cambridge Arts Council will not be having the Festival of the Arts this year. Instead, we are partnering with the Northern Vermont Artists Association, Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries, the Bryan Memorial Gallery, and Iris Lane Studios on a town-wide series of events we are calling the Jeffersonville Art Jam. In conjunction with the NVVA's June Juried show, we will be hosting booths and events on the Visions of Vermont's lawn.

Here is how it will work: For five Saturdays of the show (three in June, and the upcoming July 3 and 10 Saturdays), we will offer four canopies for folks who do not have one (first come, first served) and additional space for six artists who have their own tents. Each artist can register for one Saturday. To participate, please indicate if you need a booth, and select your preferred Saturday and a back-up date. Send this information to cambridgeartsvt@gmail.com along with photos of your work if you have not participated in the NVVA's show or the Festival of the Arts. If you are a 2021 NVAA member the booth/space is free. If not, the registration fee is \$25.

This is a new venue for us and we see it as a gentle way to emerge from the pandemic with booths and events spread out. Please feel free to call Monica, 802-644-1418, if you have questions or concerns.

Children's Theater Camp at Hyde Park Opera House

The Lamoille County Players (LCP) is proud to announce the return of the Children's Theater Workshop, which provides an opportunity for children 9-14 to participate in a theatrical production. The cost for the two-week workshop is \$175. Full and partial scholarships are available by request for those with a need.

This year, the CTW will be a two-week, ten-day workshop, August 2-6 and 9-13 (Monday-Friday, both weeks). It is designed to introduce children to theater, cultivate individual talents, and afford those with varied experience the opportunity for continued growth and personal challenge. During the course of the two-week camp, participants will collaborate on all aspects of theater production and performance. Details will follow regarding final performance(s). In order to keep audiences small we will likely have multiple performances; unfortunately, due to COVID not open to the general public.

Please note that no previous theater experience is necessary. LCP requires that the child have an interest in being involved in the workshop! The workshop will create a supportive and safe environment for the child to try something new. We only ask that they come willing to try and willing to say, "Yes!"

The workshop will take place at the historic Hyde Park Opera House in Hyde Park, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM each day. The schedule will address many areas of theater: not only auditioning for parts (and contending with the casting choices that are made!) and rehearsing scenes, songs, and dances, but also costuming, makeup, sets, props, and more. All activities will ultimately be working toward the final performances.

Each child should bring their own bag lunch and beverage each day as well as a beach towel. Children should wear comfortable clothes that allow them to sit, lay, and roll on the floor, as well as socks, tennis shoes, and any dance shoes they may have that will not leave scuff marks. Everything should be able to get dirty, and never hinder movement or imagination. Each child should also bring a three-ring binder and several pencils each day, and all items should be marked with the child's name. COVID-19 related safety precautions will be based on guidelines at the time of the workshop and will be communicated to participants and families later in the summer.

The co-directors of this year's workshop are Kenneth Grenier and Danielle Peveril. Kenneth has directed and music-directed many shows at Lamoille Union, Stowe Theater Guild, Norwich University, and the Hyde Park Opera House. Kenneth currently is the grade K-8 Music Teacher at Good Shepherd School in St. Johnsbury. He also directs the fall grade 7-12 musical and co-directs the spring middle level musical with Danielle Peveril at

Art / music / Theater continued from page 10

Lamoille Union. He is very excited to give young people the opportunity to be in a live theater production! Danielle Peveril has directed and produced shows for Lamoille County Players, Stowe Theatre Guild, and Camera Trap Productions. She has taught theater production classes and camps for Green Mountain Performing Arts, River Arts, and the VT Humanities Council. Danielle teaches mathematics to seventh and eighth graders at Lamoille Union Middle School and co-directs the middle school musicals with Kenneth Grenier. She is thrilled to be directing the Children's Theater Workshop this summer and hopes to bring back the love and joy of performing to the Opera House stage with these talented young actors.

Register online at <http://www.lcplayers.com/ctw-2021>.

For more information please contact info@LCPlayers.com.

Westford Summer Concerts series 2021

Westford Summer Concerts series has a great season lined up. All shows are scheduled for July and August and are all on Sunday evenings starting from 7:00 – 8:00 PM for the main musical performance. We have also been able to confirm that food trucks will also be setting up starting at 6:00 PM so your evening can be extended to include dinner on the Common as well. So come early, stay late, and bring the family for a real summertime outdoorsy treat.

We were extremely lucky last year in that we did not get any rain cancellations. In a usual year, if rain seems pending we would just move the show inside the Red Brick Meeting House; however, COVID restrictions have made that option unavailable, and we have to assume that the same conditions may apply this season as well.

With that in mind, two rain dates have been built into the schedule. If a headline band gets rained out, they will perform at one of the remaining rain dates. If the rain dates do not need to be exercised for the headliners, then local fill-in bands are willing to take those dates at short notice, but we don't know who that will be ahead of time. So we will have concerts every Sunday night in July and August (except July 4) unless it rains on a Sunday evening.

Like last year, we are asking all participants to adhere to covid protocols that are in effect for each date. We would assume that would entail social distancing practices for all attendees who are not from the same household, and wearing of masks whenever not able to maintain proper social distances from others. BYO chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, beverages, etc. for those not purchasing from vendors.

We ask everyone to clean up any trash and use the standard hiker's policy of "carry in, carry out." There are two sets of trash cans and recycle barrels at the Common, so please seek them out and use them. No cars should be parked on the Common directly, but cars can be parked on the side of the roads that ring the Common, preferably on the south side dirt road, or use the designated parking areas at east and west ends of the Common. Please be courteous and leave spaces available at the west end area so that patrons of the Westford Country Store who are not attending the concert can get in and out for store purchases.

So with that overview, the following dates and bands have been lined up:

- July 11 – Christine Malcolm & the Dirty Blonde String Band
 - July 18 – Blues For Breakfast
 - July 25 – Red Hot Juba
 - August 1 – Rain date
 - August 8 – Mr. Chris and Friends
 - August 15 – Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers
 - August 22 – Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo
 - August 29 – Rain date
- Every one of the listed bands will put on a stellar show!

Summer Concert Series at Mills Riverside Park

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

Here are the dates and performers for Mills Riverside Park's 2021 Summer Concert Series, with concerts from 6:00 – 8:00 PM every Wednesday evening! Bring a blanket or a chair. Admission is free, but donations are welcome!

July 7, Eric Bushey and *the Stragglers*:

For over a decade, *the Stragglers* have been refining what they call a "New-Time String Band" sound. Performing originals composed in a variety of styles along with a liberal helping of vintage country, classic rock, *Dead* covers, and a wide range of old-time music and classic Bluegrass, this band truly has something for everyone! The *Stragglers* are Justin "Beefcake-Bulldog-Bullfiddle" Bedell (bass/vocals), Eric "T.M.T." Bushey (4- and 5-string banjos/vocals), "Rattlesnake" Rusty Charpentier (violin/vocals), "Cousin" Chris Kellogg (guitar/vocals), and Preston "Eye Candy" Randall (mandolin/vocals).

July 14, Phil Henry:

Singer-songwriter Phil Henry exudes the skill of a craftsman and the authenticity of an artist. He builds detailed worlds and characters who speak through Phil's words, with "...vivid lyrical imagery that captures the imagination." (*Seven Days*) The upbeat acoustic rhythm, melodic sensibility, and lush instrumental treatment are well worth experiencing.

July 21, *Shellhouse*:

The band *Shellhouse* became official in 2003, taking the name of a mountain in Ferrisburgh, Vermont. The band was started by Bob Teer and Jim Fox, veteran musicians and long time friends. The vibe was good and the music even better and the pair fast began realizing they were creating a special and unique sound. Vocals, guitar / Bob Teer; vocals / Andrea Teer; guitar / Jim Fox; bass / Marshall Breakstone; drums / Steve Wanderlich.

July 28, *Jericho Road Crew*:

If you are looking for good music with meaningful lyrics without a lot of hype, you've come to the right place. Since 1988, the *Jericho Road Crew* has offered a variety of music both Christian and secular, from different genres: from gospel to Celtic, country to rock-and-roll. The music is always full of fun, harmonies, and hope, lofty lyrics, and love. Tracy Lord, Joe Casilli, Joe Tymecki, and Ron Lawrence.

August 4: *The Buck Hollers*

A fun-loving, crowd-pleasing band featuring a tremendous variety of covers and originals with tight rockin' rhythms, sweet harmonies, and head-turning a capellas, *The Buck Hollers Band* blends guitars, banjo, bass, harmonica, percussion and five-part vocals. Matt Parisi and Steve White from Georgia, Dave Vallett from Fairfax, and Tim Wills from Derby.

Special fundraising event coming — Weststock!

There will be a special fundraising event for the Red Brick Meeting House in Westford, which continues to need maintenance and a bit of TLC to help preserve this building as the town gem that it is, and celebrate a post-COVID (hopefully) summer. Think of this as our own Westford version of the Band's Last Waltz: our own coffee house base band with rotating special guest artists contributing to a full evening of talented presentations. Many Westford musicians will be contributing to this event. Watch for more information! For now, please reserve Saturday, July 31 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM for this special home-grown musical treat — Weststock!

Also, if anyone wants to help with organizing and spreading the word about this event, please contact Michael Kirick, mkirick@hotmail.com.

Call to artists: Doorways/Portals

What better way to celebrate the opening up of the Jericho Town Hall than with a show based on doorways or portals. Is it interesting architecturally, a doorway to a secret garden, or a portal to another dimension? However, you view a doorway or portal, established and emerging artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography for *Doorways/Portals*. The exhibit is scheduled for July-September 2021 in the Jericho Town Hall.

The exhibit is one of an ongoing series of shows that are a part of a collaborative effort between the Town of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members include: SelectBoard member Catherine McMains, gallery owner Emilie Alexander, and artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

MMU Madrigal singers on YouTube

MMU Madrigal Singers perform *True Colors* arranged by Tim Brent in this YouTube video of their virtual choir. We hope you enjoy it and share it with others! Here is the YouTube link to copy and paste into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv1g7bPesA>.

Here are more songs for your enjoyment: *Blackbird* and *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* and *Lullaby* and *Cape Breton Lullaby*. Copy the URL into your browser to go to the performances:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EayFt6WF_uI
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QLXn3d3Lg4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhaZ6rV1vek>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhBeR_j-40

Spruce Peak Summer Arts

Spruce Peak Arts Gallery unveils its Summer 2021 exhibition *Exploring Earth*, the third exhibition in their environmental art series, following *Exploring Air* in 2018 and *Exploring Water* in 2019. *Exploring Earth* reflects on the intersection of spirituality and art, celebrating earth magic, spirits in nature, animals, plants, and transcendence. The group exhibition features work by artists Isaias Crow, Jennifer Herrera Condry, Will Kasso Condry, Harlan Mack, and Amy Hook-Therrien.

This group of artists have been collaborating in the Spruce Peak Arts virtual panel discussion series *Being a BIPOC Artist in Vermont*. "The work on exhibit examines our connection to Mother Earth, reaching into our spirit as artists, and rituals that

feed creative practice," states Curator Kelly Holt. *Exploring Earth* highlights and honors BIPOC artists, telling stories as they relate to the land as a contemplative space, plant life, spirituality, healing, creatures and our global community through painting, drawing, mixed media and video installation.

There will be a panel event continuing the *Being a BIPOC Artist in Vermont* series: an in-person and live-streamed conversation on *The Importance of Collecting Art in Celebration of Culture* (to be scheduled in August).

Milton Artists' Guild summer 2021 classes

Wonderful World of Textures – Watercolor with Gary Eckhart, Tuesday, July 20, Thursday, July 22, and Tuesday, July 27, 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Enjoy three sessions of painting in watercolor devoted to the utilization of textures to develop dynamic paintings that are more exciting and desirable by collectors. The active, technique-focused workshop is open to all artists with an understanding of basic watercolor principles. The in person workshop is conducted by award-winning watercolor artist Gary Eckhart, a signature member of numerous watercolor societies and an elected member of the American Artists Professional League. His paintings are in private and corporate collections in North and South America and Europe.

For more information and to register, <https://www.miltonartistsguildstore.com/workshops>.

Summer of Scorsese in Middlebury

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF) presents *The Sunset Series at Swift House Inn/Summer of Scorsese*, in partnership with Swift House Inn and Town Hall Theater. Every Thursday July 8-August 5, MNFF will screen a classic film by master director Martin Scorsese outdoors under the big tent at Middlebury's Swift House Inn. Screenings will begin at sunset, approximately 8:30 PM.

Before each screening, starting at 6:30 PM, Swift House Inn will be offering picnic dinners and drinks from *Jessica's*, the Inn's restaurant, on the lawn behind the main house (under the tent if it rains). For information about pre-ordering food (one day ahead of the screenings) and parking for the series, go online to <https://midfilmfest.org/sunset-series>.

The schedule of films: July 8: *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* starring Oscar winner Ellen Burstyn; July 15: *Raging Bull* starring Oscar winner Robert De Niro; July 22: *The Last Waltz*, the final concert of the fabled rock group *The Band*; July 29: *Cape Fear* starring Robert De Niro; and August 5: *Goodfellas* starring Robert De Niro and Oscar winner Joe Pesci.

"This series goes beyond Scorsese's "greatest hits," said MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven. "Though it does include two of them (*Raging Bull* and *Goodfellas*), it gives audiences a chance to see his take on romantic love (*Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*), his plunge into commercial genre re-make (*Cape Fear*, with an all-star cast that includes Robert Mitchum, Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange, Gregory Peck, and perennial Scorsese leading man, Robert De Niro) and his turning back to his love of film editing and rock music, *The Last Waltz*. This should be a lot of fun."

Passes and tickets are now available through the Town Hall Theater box office. A 5-film series pass is \$70; individual tickets are \$16 each. Visit Town Hall Theater online at <https://townhalltheater.org/event/mnff-sunset-series> or call 802-382-9222, Monday-Saturday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. Attendance is limited to 120. Pass holders and advance ticket buyers have priority seating. Walk up tickets may be available.

For more information about the series, including trailers for these classic Scorsese films, visit the MNFF website at <https://midfilmfest.org/sunset-series>.

Art / Music / Theater news continued on page 12

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Award Winning Homes

- Period Design Build
- Porches • Garages
- Additions
- Baths • Kitchen Remodels
- Remodeling
- Roofing • Siding
- Sun Rooms
- Flooring, Hardwood & Tile
- Window & Door Replacement
- Electrical & Plumbing
- Light Painting

**23 Kristie Lane
Jericho, VT 05465**
www.thurgatebuilders.com

ALL PHASE

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Lawn Care & Care, Fence Installation/Repairs, Pressure Washing, Stone-Concrete Walkways, Walk & Patios, Firewood, Light Trucking, Driveway Installation & Repair

Office: 899-2919 - Cell: 734- 8247
Stephan Griffiths Jr. - owner

Creative
Landscaping & GardenCenter

113 RT 15 - JERICHO • 899-8990

Growing well rooted plants and relationships since 1983

Design • Stonework • Planting • Patios • Water Features

www.creativelandscapingvt.com • Like us on @ creative LCC

ROBERT SCHANTZ Horticulture, Inc.
113 Route 15, Jericho, VT 562 Ph 802-899-8900
robertschantz@gmail.com Fax 802-899-4957
Cell 802-363-4445

FORESTRY LAND MANAGEMENT

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSULTING • FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Providing forest management service for over 20 years

Scott Moreau
PO Box 39
Westford, VT 05494
office 802-849-6629
cell 802-343-1566

www.glforestryvt.com
GLForestry@aol.com

GREENLEAF CONSULTING, INC

VERMONT LAND MAINTENANCE

Forestry Mulching Services

Retention Ponds, ROW, Pond Edges,
Removal of Invasive Vegetation and More

Please check our our website:
www.vtlandmaintenance.com

Brian Washburn • 434-4533 • 802-373-1755
vtlandmaintenance@gmail.com



Kayleigh Boyle, Salvation Farms' Gleaning Coordinator, visiting Foote Brook Farm in Johnson. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lamoille Valley has new gleaning coordinator; seeks volunteers

This spring, as farmers were plowing and planting with the harvest in mind, Kayleigh Boyle joined Salvation Farms' team as Gleaning Coordinator to serve Lamoille Valley farms and eaters.

Salvation Farms has been gleaning the valley for years and, like all seasons, need volunteers to help them harvest, sort, box, and deliver the valley's fresh but unsold produce to our neighbors who rely on the region's food shelves and community meal programs.

Kayleigh, who recently returned to her home state of Vermont to put down her own farming roots in Craftsbury, says, "I am excited to bring my shared values to Salvation Farms, an organization that positively benefits my greater community on many levels. As Gleaning Coordinator, I have the privilege of being a part of the network of volunteers and staff people working to help farmers feed more people. I am looking forward to the camaraderie of being out in the field with volunteers harvesting, boxing, and weighing produce in all kinds of weather!"

In 2020, Salvation Farms' gleaning program served more than 40 food programs throughout the Lamoille Valley region and a handful of Northeast Kingdom senior meal programs. More than 150,000 servings of fresh produce were collected from local farms and distributed with the help of more than 140 volunteers. Salvation Farms invites you to help our farmers feed our community!

Register as a gleaner and receive invitations to get involved at www.vermontgleaningcollective.org.

Questions? Contact Dani Smith, Salvation Farms' Community Relations and Development Coordinator, 802-888-4360 or danielle@salvationfarms.org.

Learn more about Salvation Farms at www.salvationfarms.org.

SPORT NEWS

Westford Summer Rec soccer, T-ball programs

Register to secure your spot today! Mail or drop off your registration form and fee to the Town Office or pay online and mail form with payment confirmation. Scholarships are available; email recreation@westfordvt.us. For more information and registration forms: <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>.

Pre-K: Tuesdays June 22-July 27, 4:00 - 4:30 PM. Registration fee \$20.

K and grade 1: Tuesdays June 22-July 27, 4:45 - 5:30 PM. Registration fee \$20.

Grades 2-4: Tuesdays 5:45 - 6:45 PM, and Saturdays 9:00 - 10:00 AM, June 22-July 31. Registration fee \$20.

Grades 5-8 pick up: Thursdays July 8-August 19, 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Registration fee \$20.

Adult pick up: Thursdays July 8-August 19, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Registration fee \$20.

T-Ball ages 3-6: Saturdays 9:00 - 10:00 AM, July 3-August 21. Registration fee \$25.

Come one, come all summer tennis at JES courts

Interested in summer tennis? A come one, come all group of Essex/Jericho 3.0 enthusiastic players has been playing twice a week at the Jericho Elementary School courts for 20+ years.

This summer we're playing on Monday and Friday mornings.

We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Contact Karen Kish, wexski@comcast.net. Want to play? I'll add your name and email to our mailing list for weekly updates. There's no scheduled commitment.

Underhill Fall Rec Soccer registration open

K-League is our Rec League program that serves Jericho/Underhill, an entry-level program that brings players on at the U5 age with a small-sided format that looks to keep all players engaged, keep play fun, and allow for growth. The program runs up through the first-year U10 age level and is an easy transition into club play. All sessions are held locally, and the goal is to provide a positive and fun environment where all feel welcome. Play is approached on an equal playing time basis, as it is a non-results-oriented program.

Player Registration URL: <https://system.gotsport.com/programs/9408886V3?role=player>.

K-LEAGUE runs September 5-October 14, on Sunday afternoons and one weekday night (weekday night depends on age group). The program cost is \$30.

For more information or with questions, contact mountmansfieldsc@gmail.com.

Angler survey

The organization *Lake Champlain Sea Grant* and Stony Brook University are trying to understand the importance of locally caught fish in the diets of people who live in the Lake Champlain region. This information will help us to most effectively provide information about recommended fish consumption practices to help keep people in the area safe.

If you rely on catching and eating fish from a local water body as part of your diet, please consider completing this short survey: <https://tinyurl.com/VTAnglerSurvey>. You can also enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card from Cabela's. Contact Roxanne Karimi, roxanne.karimi@stonybrook.edu, with questions.

Send your news to the Mountain Gazette at mtngazette@gmavt.net



Asiatic lilies in gorgeous bloom at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) in Jericho. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 11

Robert De Niro in Martin Scorsese's classic remake of Cape Fear will be screened on July 29 as part of The Sunset Series at Swift House Inn/Summer of Scorsese, as part of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. The five-film series will show a different Scorsese film each Thursday evening, July 8-August 5, at the Swift House Inn, Middlebury. For more information about the series, including trailers for these classic Scorsese films, visit the MNFF website, <https://midfilmfest.org/sunset-series>.

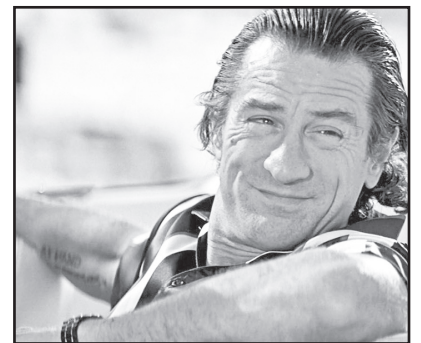


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Creative Aging training for teaching artists

We are seeking teaching artists to participate in multi-day training as part of Vermont's Creative Aging Initiative. The initiative seeks to build relationships across the state to provide older adults with creative opportunities, especially those who are homebound. It has developed from a partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and the Central Vermont Council on Aging.

The training will take place Monday-Wednesday, July 19-21 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, and will be provided by Lifetime Arts, the national leader in creative aging programs and services. Trainers will highlight current research, ideas for developing skill-based instruction for older adults, the importance of social engagement activities, and more.

This training is limited to 15 teaching artists. Those selected to participate will receive a \$300 honorarium and will have the opportunity to submit proposals for further developing curriculum as part of the initiative.

Contact Troy Hickman, thickman@vermontartscouncil.org for application or to answer any questions, or apply online at https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HZNL-1AH85ewOvBQAZZsmIG6UJAYIDwZL3vw4Lu-MMMihG-2QgLYIvLXz09utMrx5m7NpSGqPCz16gqPdkhsfuEzgJ6T7Qhlm-ftwbGt6DWaeYMu4xcAnfedD2-E5y9ijnH9ubo9YSrr57ccpqoNRueAAbiIFvBQTVkcfM18X8DwkwDqyus0VRwZB4nc5-wvEJkF6FGU6XSSJEve8JN1bPxxApC_jj3maqjY2_lueAto3siV3IQ5UfMG8wvfi4&c=MPo7vGkXh6ARMJqFKbYhDvDX7NmYpDcgkcl9bJzeNOnuoM2MmIMDuw==&ch=EzhS--mO9of26SayQTektcpaewt4A1MWLJwilBLg80D4X3ClqloDbw==

College news continued from page 9

Brandon Hanley of Waterbury, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Hanley earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology. Hanley also has been named to the Spring 2021 President's List at Vermont Technical College.

Jeremy Harriman of Jeffersonville, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Harriman earned a Certificate in Paramedicine.

Margaret Hayes of Waterbury, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Hayes earned an Associate of Science in Nursing.

Alex Hill of Westford, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Dean College, Franklin, MA.

Marie Haviland of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI.

Katarina Kiripolska of Jericho, VT graduated in the spring of 2021 from Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Kiripolska earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

David Lapointe of Waterbury, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. Lapointe is in the class of 2023, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Evan Llewellyn of Waterbury, VT has earned a place on the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. Llewellyn is in the class of 2022, majoring in Computer Science.

A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS!

 <p>Williston - \$765,000 Historically renovated classic brick home w/ 2 bedroom accessory apartment. 2 lg bed & 3/4 bath complete the 1st floor. 2nd floor features the owner's suite w/ 3/4 bath. Updated kitchen, lg gathering spaces, fin. lower level w/ bath & great rec area. In the village zoning district this home also has great commercial opportunities.</p>	 <p>Westford - \$630,000 Beautiful parklike setting on 8 acres in Westford just over the Essex border. Enjoy sharing the great pond that attracts wildlife year round. 1872 sq ft with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths with our to be built open floor plan, contemporary colonial with a full front porch. Great location, private and exclusive.</p>
 <p>Georgia - \$299,000 2 bedroom hillside ranch w/ walkout basement on 1.5 acre corner lot. Beautifully remodeled 1st floor, all new flooring, sheetrock & beautifully renovated full bath. Refreshing above-ground pool w/ new decking, oversized 3-car garage w/ storage & workshop. Great neighborhood, minutes from village, school and I-89.</p>	 <p>Westford - \$150,000 This amazing land borders Essex & is an easy commute to towns & schools. Build your home on this 8.14 acre parcel w/ wonderful 1.5 acre pond that greets you as you arrive. Septic permit for 4 bedrooms. Land is mostly level & open some trees add shade & interest to the land!</p>

CALL NANCY TODAY!
Nancy Jenkins Real Estate
140 Kennedy Dr, Suite 102
South Burlington, VT 05403
802-846-4888 - 888-567-4049

STAY LOCAL. GO FAR.

COMMERCIAL BANKING

When it comes to commercial banking, we know the local landscape and the pathways to success.

UnionBank 800.753.4343 | GO.UBLOCAL.COM/COMMERCIAL

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender