

Let's conserve the Davis Farm!

By Livy Strong, JULT

Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) is seeking donations totaling \$50,000 with the goal of permanently conserving the Davis farm, located on Cilley Hill Road in Jericho. The Davis family has farmed this scenic landscape for multiple generations. Since the 1940s, dairy cows have strolled the open pastures along with other livestock. Chickens have flocked around the barn and provided fresh eggs. Today the Davis Farm continues its dairy tradition and is certified organic. Acres are devoted to growing nutritious hay for the exclusively grass-fed cows; raw milk is for sale along with fresh eggs and carefully crafted compost. Once a dairy farm among many, the Davis Farm is the last one in Jericho.

Right now, the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) and the Vermont Land Trust are working with Gary and Tammy Davis to conserve 181 acres of their farm. Their intense love of their land along with the rich history of stewardship over multiple generations provided a strong reason to conserve. Encroaching housing development also offered a motivation to reach out to both land trusts for assistance.

A permanent conservation easement involves appraising the value of the development rights and including the additional project costs. This easement will ensure that the farm's excellent soils will remain in agriculture and be protected... forever!

The amount that needs to be raised is \$751,000. A Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) grant was awarded for \$701,000 towards this goal. Now, JULT needs to raise an additional \$50,000 to complete this conservation mission.

Please consider helping by sending a tax-deductible donation to JULT with the Davis Farm listed on the memo line, or a Pay Pal donation through our website at www.jult.org. Our mailing address is JULT, P.O. Box 80, Jericho, VT 05465.

Together, we can help conserve the Davis Farm for today and tomorrow.



Welcome to Mills Riverside Park, VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

ARPA survey results

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

As 2021 comes to a close, we want to reach out and thank those who provided American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) survey input. The hundreds of responses you submitted provides better understanding of community need in the wake of pandemic impact. If you follow the link below to the *Join In Jericho* site, you can access a chart indicating ranked funding priorities. You will also see numeric indicators outlining how each priority was ranked. In the opening weeks of 2022, we will continue to winnow the narrative feedback, come back to the community for review and deliberate further via public forum. By way of reminder:

The Town of Jericho will be receiving \$1,493,000 in federal economic relief funding. These one-time funds will provide municipalities across the state with the unique opportunity to identify infrastructure and economic relief projects. Funds have to be committed by December 31, 2024 and projects completed no later than December 31, 2026.

ARPA funds can be committed to six categories:

- support public health expenditures related to the pandemic;
- address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency;
- serve low income communities and individuals, families, and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic;
- replace public sector revenue lost due to the pandemic;
- provide premium pay for essential workers;
- invest in necessary improvements to water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

We urge you all to continue participating in this process in 2022 by posting your ideas and suggestions! I'd like to thank our Town Planner, Katherine Sonnicks, for creating the survey questions and maintaining the ARPA page on the *Join In Jericho* site! We urge you all to "Join In" if you aren't already subscribed.

Here is the link to access the survey results for download: <https://jerichovt.org/arpa-funding-priorities>.

Bolton town meeting 2022

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Although we were hopeful that we would be able to return to a "more traditional" in-person Town Meeting in 2022, it appears that may not be a safe option as COVID-19 continues its unwelcome impact across our state and country. The Bolton Select Board is waiting to see if the Legislature will enact special temporary legislation when the Legislature reconvenes in January 2022, as they did last year — ACT 162, allowing all towns to hold virtual informational public hearings and voting by Australian Ballot for all warned articles, including those articles usually voted from the floor, due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

If that is the case, the Select Board will take advantage of that option, and there will be no in-person Town Meeting in 2022. Like last year, if that is the case (no in-person Town Meeting), there will be a virtual public informational hearing held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

No matter what Town Meeting 2022 ends up looking like or being, any voting by Australian ballot will take place as usual on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at Smilie School, including the election of Town Officers.

While we always hope that elected officers will choose to run for their seat again, that is never a given. We also have a unique situation this year with the Select Board: four of the five Select Board seats will be open for election due to the resignations of the two members who were elected in March 2021. Candidates are required to be registered voters, and currently, petitions signed by 1% of the total number of registered voters will be required to run for office. In Bolton that is 1% of 976, or 9.76 signatures — please round up to 12! Petitions for office and an accompanying Consent of Candidate form must returned to the Town Office by the statutory deadline of 5:00 PM on Monday, January 24, 2022.

Offices open for election:
Cemetery Commissioner – 3-year term – currently held by Penny Tinker; undetermined if seeking reelection.

Town Constable – 1-year term – currently held (appointed) by Jonathan Dennis; seeking election.

Town Moderator – 1-year term – currently held by Leslie Pelch; seeking re-election.

Select Board – 2-year term – currently held by Mica Cassara; not seeking re-election.

Select Board – 3-year term – currently held by Janet Metz; seeking re-election, but of the two-year term.

Select Board – 1 year remaining on a 2-year term – currently held (appointed) by Andrew Pond; seeking election.

Select Board – 2 years remaining on a 3-year term – currently held (appointed) by Paula Gervia; seeking election.

Please contact the Town Office for petitions, consent of candidate forms, and/or if you have any questions: 802- 434-5075 or clerkbolton@gmavt.net.

Please stay tuned for further Town Meeting 2022 updates.

Westford Town Center Area Community Wastewater updates

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner

A public informational meeting on the community wastewater system is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at

News continued on page 2



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News continued from page 1

Westford School. Hybrid attendance options will be available. Full information about this event can be found at <https://www.westfordsfuture.com/events.html>.

November and December have been busy months for the community wastewater project. Project information is always available at www.westfordsfuture.com. Here are some updates on specific aspects of the project.

Funding commitments: The Town is still waiting to receive word from the State of Vermont on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be allocated to the Westford Community Wastewater Project. Things are looking very positive, but the pandemic and other factors have delayed hearing about a finalized award. As soon as we learn more, we will update residents on the results.

Engineering progress: You may have seen the engineering team from Green Mountain Engineering (Alan Huizenga, Brad Washburn, and Alex Huizenga) visiting property owners in and around the Town Common. They have verified building plumbing and exits, which is essential information for final design engineering for those properties who would choose – voluntarily – to connect to a community system. Based on responses to the service area property owner survey and meetings with the engineering team, 19 of the 34 eligible parcels in the service area plan to connect to the system, and another seven are considering whether to connect.

Maple Shade Town Forest Leach Field evaluation: You also may have seen a drill rig on the Jackson Farm property during the week of November 7. As a normal and required part of the engineering design process, a drill rig took soil borings and conducted large-scale hydraulic tests of the proposed leach field (wastewater disposal) area on the Maple Shade Town Forest property. This involves taking soil borings to establish the depth to clay layers and bedrock underneath the disposal field, pumping water into the ground, and taking readings at a monitoring well to assess how much wastewater can be applied safely. The testing found that the leach field area has very deep, well-drained soils, with 34' depth to bedrock and no groundwater. This is excellent news for the effectiveness and safety of the site's use as a wastewater disposal site. It means that the area can safely manage projected system effluent in a way that is protective of

groundwater, and protective of nearby properties and wells, and will have superior resiliency and longevity. It further establishes that securing the property of the Maple Shade Forest in which this site is located provides for many long-term benefits to the Town and its residents. Additional engineering evaluation and design will now be prepared and reviewed with State regulators to determine a final capacity number and site layout.

Westford 1705 Rt. 128 project updates

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner

The Planning Commission would like to comment on several recent Front Porch Forum posts regarding the 1705 VT Route 128 property and the avenues the Planning Commission is exploring to leverage that property for the benefit of the Town. Over the course of the next several weeks and months the Planning Commission will provide additional information to the community about the process and progress of our efforts. There will be ample opportunity for public comments and critique as the process slowly moves forward. To be clear, the project is only in its concept phase at this time. Refinements and changes based on public input will occur before any particular plan moves forward.

At this time, it may be helpful to take a step back from the misunderstanding a few people in the community have about this project and identify and describe the other organizations the Town is working with and how they can help create a space that benefits the Town and the Common, and is something the community has a say in helping to create.

The Town is currently working with three organizations whose work is focused on helping communities find and build community spaces and housing. The three organizations are the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC); Champlain Housing Trust (CHT); and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity (GMHfH). We are working with these particular organizations because they can help secure funding for housing, recreational, and civic uses without the Town having to use taxpayer money.

The Vermont River Conservancy was founded in 1995 with

the initial goal of protecting public access to Vermont swimming holes. Over the past 25 years the scope of VRC's work has expanded to address climate change impacts by conserving and restoring critical floodplains and conserving "river corridors" through conservation easements with willing landowners to allow rivers to freely meander and reduce sedimentation. VRC also works closely with partnering organizations to remove "deadbeat" dams that no longer serve an economic function but impede fish passage and fragment aquatic habitat. VRC works closely with members of the communities where its conservation projects are located to best restore the connections between ourselves and our rivers.

The Vermont River Conservancy has been fully supportive of the Town's community effort to enhance the Westford Common by considering options for public access to the Browns River and appropriately scaled affordable housing. This project fits well with VRC's mission to conserve important lands along Vermont's rivers.

VRC is in discussions with the landowner to purchase the property. Those discussions have not yet resulted in a purchase agreement. If those discussions result in a sale of the property, VRC will establish permanent public river access to the Browns River and then deed a parcel of the property to Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) for \$1 and a parcel to the Town for \$1. The Town can use its parcel for civic purposes such as a new Town Office. CHT will use its parcel to create affordable housing units that will be sold to individuals and families. VRC obtains its funding for such projects from a number of organizations, including the Vermont Housing & Conservation District.

Champlain Housing Trust is a community land trust that supports the people of Northwest Vermont and strengthens their communities through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable homes. Founded in 1984, it is the largest community land trust in the country. CHT owns and manages approximately 2500 permanently affordable apartments, stewards 640 shared equity homes (which have served over 1100 families), operates a revolving loan fund that provides affordable home repair loans and project management to low-income Vermonters, and runs a statewide manufactured home replacement program.

CHT also offers home buyer education, pre-home purchase counseling, financial literacy education and mentoring, foreclosure and delinquency intervention services, and an eviction prevention program. Its 130 staff members serve the communities of Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties in Vermont.

Champlain Housing Trust is looking forward to partnering with the Town of Westford, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, The Vermont River Conservancy and others in the Town on the proposed project to provide public access to the Browns River and to create size appropriate affordable housing in Westford.

Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity (GMHfH) has been building safe and perpetually affordable homes for local working families in Chittenden County since 1984. The homes they build, made possible by financial donors and volunteers, are purchased by families for the cost to build the homes.

There has been a lot of discussion about the need for "affordable housing," but people may wonder what that means. Affordable housing is generally defined as housing for which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs. GMHfH builds homes for ownership, where the family buys the home and begins to build equity. Currently, GMHfH built homes cost about \$160,000 to build but appraise for \$225,000 to \$300,000, and typically have a \$900 monthly payment for mortgage, homeowners' insurance and property taxes.

Homes built by GMHfH are guaranteed to be permanently affordable through its partnership with the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. The requirement for permanent affordability is written in the deed and remains with each home each time it is sold.

For more information about Vermont River Conservancy: <http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org>.

For more information about Champlain Housing Trust: <http://www.getahome.org>.

For more information about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.vermonthabitat.org>.

Join Cambridge Troop 39

Cambridge Troop 39 is recruiting — here are some of the troop's upcoming activities: West Point Camporee (7000 scouts) the biggest camporee in the USA; ice climbing in the Notch; ice fishing on Lake Champlain; white water in May in Maine; Gettysburg battlefield in June; summer Camp in July in the Adirondacks; Allagash Wilderness waterway in August.

We train in the gym on the climbing wall, and teach you how to camp, live, and survive anywhere. If you are 11 or older or if you have a child 11 or older, we are here, and Scouting is the place for you. Rifle shooting and shotgun shooting merit badges start soon! We are also scheduling a Battleship overnight.

Don't miss out! Contact Roger Allen, rallen@thexyz.net.

UJFD looking for volunteers

Have you ever thought about helping out your community? Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) has openings for firefighters, fire police, emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, and advanced emergency medical technicians. You need no experience, We will train you or send you in the right direction to get specialized training.

If any of this sounds interesting to you, please reach out to us anytime at 802-899-4025 during the day or info@ujfd.org anytime.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Women-owned businesses

Vermont Women's Fund is collecting state-wide data to create a full, clear picture of the women and their work in this part of our economy and to channel information about access to funding and support. No matter the size of your business, if you own 51% or more I hope you'll participate.

Here are links to the project and to a survey you can use to send them your information.

Project: <https://vermontwomensfund.org/our-impact/impact-stories/vwf-launches-this-way-up/>

Survey: <https://thiswayupvt.com/survey>

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COMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 8

Cambridge Blood Drive, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville. The Department is happy to announce the return of its annual blood drive! Please visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zIpSponsor=alexthefighter> to sign up for an appointment. Last time we had to turn away any walk-ins, so please plan ahead and schedule your time slot!

Saturday, January 8

Pride Hike: Forest Management, 12:30–3:00 PM, Hinesburg Town Forest. LGBTQA+ hikers will explore something a little different this month, meeting at the Hinesburg Town Forest to tour an active forest management project with Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper to walk the management area and talk about forests, forest management, birds, and forest ecology. Pride Hikes are a collaboration between Audubon Vermont, the Pride Center of Vermont, and Outright Vermont. Learn more at <https://vt.audubon.org/events/pride-hikes-forest-management-hinesburg-town-forest>. To register, contact gcauser@audubon.org.

Pine Island Christmas Tree Drop Off, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Pine Island Community Farm, Colchester. Done with your Christmas tree? It's a great snack for goats! Join us to recycle your tree and feed the goats! Please be sure to remove all of your decorations. We want to make sure your trees are set aside for the goats, so please bring your tree only during this event. We'll be there to take care of it! The event is outdoors with physical distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings will be required for participants who are unvaccinated and encouraged for those who are vaccinated. Sponsored by Vermont Land Trust. Please contact Maya, maya@vlt.org, with questions and accommodation requests. For more information, go online to <https://vlt.org/event/pine-island-christmas-tree-drop-off>.

Wednesday, January 12

Free Agewell Grab & Go Senior Meal, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Pick up the meal of turkey burger, vegetable gravy, sweet potatoes, beans, roll, carrot cake, and milk. To register contact Donna Lewis, 802-434-3155 or bellyacr@gmavt.net by Friday, January 7.

Wednesday, January 19

Old Forests: Mosses, Mushrooms, and Mammals, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online (register at <https://vlt.org/event/mosses>). Old forests are mossy ground, down and standing dead wood with animal cavities, and mushrooms in abundance. This richly illustrated talk will explore elements — other than trees — that we can see in old forests in the winter. It's a great time to see mosses, lichens, and fungi. It's also a great time to see animal tracks, tree cavities, and mystery nests. This talk is the first in a series of three online events and three summer in-person events related to old forests. Presenters: Liz Thompson, Director of Conservation Science, Vermont Land Trust; Bob Zaino, Natural Community Ecologist, VT Fish and Wildlife Department. Sponsored by the Vermont Land Trust. Please email maya@vlt.org with questions and accommodation requests.

Saturday, January 22

Understanding Forest Management with City Market, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Hinesburg Town Forest. Join Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper for "Understanding Forest Management and walk an active forest management project at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF). Done well, modern forest management can be restorative and regenerative, helping create more diverse, vibrant, resilient forests with great wildlife habitat, helping forests recover from the effects of human land use and creating old forest attributes sooner than they would naturally occur. At the same time, forest management generates local, renewable resources which get turned into building materials, paper, power, and more. Like local food, local wood supports our working landscape and our rural communities and mitigates the use of resources produced under more adverse ecological and social conditions elsewhere in the country or the world. Please bring an open mind and all the questions you've never had a chance to ask about forest management. Learn more and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-forest-management-tickets-223503042617>.

Saturday January 29

Winter Wildlife Ecology and Forest Management, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Hinesburg Town Forest. Join Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester for the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Andrea Shortleeve, Wildlife Biologist for Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, for a free, public walk of an active forest management project at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF). This walk will highlight winter wildlife ecology, wildlife tracking, and how the active management of the HTF is expected to influence wildlife habitat and behavior. Meet at 1:00 PM at the HTF trailhead on Hayden Hill Road East, 0.3 miles from the intersection with Texas Hill Road. Please note that the Hayden Hill Road East trailhead is not accessible from Hayden Hill Road West, and that if you plug "Hinesburg Town Forest" into your GPS it will send you to the incorrect trailhead. Please come prepared to spend two hours out in the winter elements, including some walking over slippery and uneven surfaces.

Volunteer to drive for Meals on Wheels

Happiness knocks when you volunteer to deliver a meal! Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a nutritious meal. The moment you knock on that door, you make a connection. It might be a quick hello or a conversation, but the impact lasts a lifetime. Not just for those receiving the meal, but for you, too.

We need your help. The time commitment is based on your availability; it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. We have a critical shortage of volunteers in Burlington, Winooski and Essex.

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Office: volunteer@agewellvt.org, 802-662-5249, or <https://www.agewellvt.org/giving-back>.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. January 9: Gaye Symington. February 13: Sarah Ward. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be exclusively held over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 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

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

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) 802-899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 802-899-4583.

Church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

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. 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

Jericho Congregational Church — "An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message" — on the Green in Jericho Center; Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Peter Anderson. Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages; Fellowship at 9:30 AM and Worship Service at 10:00 AM. Nursery care provided. Youth group meets Sundays, 6:15 PM, in our Sunday school building. To contact us: 899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org.

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. The building is accessible — all are welcome! In addition, online offerings include Monday evening Lectio Divina, Tuesday Vespers, and Centering Prayer on Friday mornings. Good Shepherd also hosts offers the monthly online Racism in America Forum. Access information and more about the church is at GoodShepherdJericho.org. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. 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 AM. 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; Calvary has a new phone number: 802-899-0453. All are warmly welcome!

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Make 2022 the year of caring

By Bernie Paquette

How will we move into the New Year?

We can hope for a better tomorrow, a more sustainable way of living, more equitable use of resources, a more caring, sharing, giving society. We can hope for change in our relationship with the earth, nature, all life. We can hope to stay clear of covid, and other dangers.



But where we have the most leverage is to move to, to live in, a society where others, even those we do not personally know, care. A society or community of mutual caring; a trust that there are people who will care deeply if someone is not safe, healthy, happy.

Can we as a community come up with breakthrough ideas for a wholesome life no matter the challenging context or conditions, in the New Year of 2022? Here are some ideas that I think are worth implementing or discussing related to caring for ourselves, each other, and caring for the earth.

Help to fill the *isolation gap* of today's adolescents (and perhaps other age groups as well). Bring back adult voices, mentorship, and peer companionship. Early on, guide a child on a nature walk, introduce them to one of the arts, fly a kite with them, read together, and discuss the readings... One day of such an investment may well reap dividends for a lifetime.

Create a Google doc; join a community group to write a story (fiction or non-fiction) together. What will your theme, topic, message, or plot be?

Adopt a wild bird, mammal, or insect species. Observe wildlife in your backyard. Find out what is there, and when, what they eat, where they nest, what their life cycle is like. Find the joy in discovering LIFE going on in your yard. Share with others, including taking photographs of the species and posting your observations on iNaturalist.

Organize a back-to-nature walk to explore, observe, identify, plants at a local park or woodland. Sit down with a half-eaten pine cone, or a scouring rush, or a spring ephemeral, and ask each member to comment on what they see. Utilize slow and still and micro observations to heighten your experiences and senses.

"We won't see the magnitude of our ignorance, of our excitement, or of the useful knowledge embedded in the living environment until we set out to explore all of it." ~ E.O. Wilson (Entomologist, Biologist)

Open up a small tool and appliance repair shop. Help reduce our single-use or short-lived product life practices. Open up a small garden tool lending shop, perhaps in conjunction with the library.

Start a Bakery and Café Conversation shop in Jericho. Think Paris in Jericho.

Bring civics to the forefront. Does our constitution lend itself to minority rule more than majority rule? How do we want to define democracy given our understanding of society today? What does a system of government shaped by every citizen having the right to a vote of equal value, look like?

Will we as a society ever come to value free time over things as a measure of wealth?

Buy less and live more. Determine an experience you would enjoy that would replace a thing you might otherwise purchase. Consider slowing the activity: slow birding, slow walking in the woods or your backyard. Sit or lay down to watch the stars, enjoy a sunset picnic, search for four-leaf clovers, eye the frost formations on plants and window panes...

Community columns continued on page 7

The Mountain Gazette

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HEALTH NEWS

Get the most protection with a COVID-19 booster shot

Vermont Department of Health

COVID-19 booster shots are free, safe, and widely available in Vermont for anyone age 16 and older. Booster shots are offered at public clinics, pharmacies, and by many health care providers across the state.

Vaccines are effective against the worst outcomes of COVID-19, but that protection drops over time. A booster dose gives your body the most protection possible against COVID-19. This is especially important as we continue to face new, more contagious variants of the virus.

The sooner you get your booster, the sooner you can be fully protected from COVID-19.

Visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine> to get more information and find a location near you, including many walk-in clinic opportunities.

Richmond Rescue annual fundraising drive

By Michael Chiarella

Richmond Rescue Director of Operations

Our annual fundraising campaign mailing should be arriving in your mailbox shortly.

In past years we have raised nearly \$18,000 and we hope to surpass that number this year. We urge you to make a donation to Richmond Rescue to support all of the great programs we provide to the community other than 911 ambulance service:

- CPR and First Aid Training
- Bike helmet giveaways
- E911 signs, with free signs given to low-income households (100 of our 940 signs have been donated at no cost); for information: <https://www.richmondrescue.org/e911-signs>.
- Free car seat fittings
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) placements throughout our community

You can donate online at <https://www.richmondrescue.org/donation> or mail a check to 216 Railroad St., Richmond, VT 05477.

News and events from Healthy Lamoille Valley

Greetings from Healthy Lamoille Valley!

Wishing you safe celebrations! As you celebrate this holiday season, please remember to monitor all substances in your home. Most youth who misuse substances get them from their homes or the homes of a loved one or friend. Monitor and lock these items to keep our kids and teens safe! Read more on our website: <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/safe-celebrations>.

Looking for recovery options in the new year? Check out the many great programs that our friends at the North Central Vermont Recovery Center (www.ncvrc.com) and Jenna's Promise (<https://jennaspromise.org>) are hosting! These programs are friendly and open to all at no cost.

Looking for help quitting nicotine in 2022? Check out our new quit help page with local classes, support groups, and additional resources! <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/quit-help>

CSWD ends management of Richmond site

Thursday, December 30 was the last day the Chittenden Solid Waste District operated the Drop-Off Center (DOC) at 80 Rogers Lane, Richmond (off VT Rt. 117). Please visit <https://www.casella.com/richmond-transfer-facts> for information about Casella Waste Systems' operation of this location after 12/30/21.

We truly appreciate your patronage and most of all, the relationships we have built with our customers at this site over the past 27 years. We invite you to use CSWD's other Drop-Off Centers for your day-to-day trash, recycling, food scraps, and special recycling, and to say hello to the Richmond DOC Team who will continue their great work at our other sites. Visit <http://www.cswd.net> for details on all our locations, to make an appointment at the CSWD Environmental Depot for your hazardous waste, or to learn about all the other ways CSWD can help you reduce and manage your waste.

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

Upcoming Local Events:

Teens and Cannabis: A look into the data on the impacts of legal retail markets on youth, Thursday, January 13, 7:00 PM, Zoom. In-depth look at cannabis data as it relates to youth in Vermont and around the country. Presented by public health expert John Searles, PhD. Learn more and register at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/teens-and-cannabis>.

Tobacco Prevention Taskforce Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Zoom. Work together to address underage tobacco and vaping in your community! Register in advance at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/taskforce-jan>. Join our new online group! Email Alison, alison@healthylamoillevalley.org, to learn more.

Involvement Opportunities and Community Resources:

Pilot Parent/Caregiver Community: Our children and teens need us more than ever. Parents and caregivers need support, too. Consider signing up for our new pilot online community for parents and caregivers to support each other in supporting our kids/teens. Read more at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/pilot-community>

Looking for events in your community? Check out Live Your Why: Passport Edition for Lamoille Valley 5th-8th grade youth and their families. Visit our website to learn more! <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/passport>

Multi-unit housing property owners, managers and tenants: Healthy Lamoille Valley wants to connect with you about becoming a smoke and vape-free property. If you are interested or want to be part of a small focus group, contact Alison, Policy and Outreach Coordinator, at alison@healthylamoillevalley.org.

New Retail Cannabis Resources: Lamoille Valley towns are all in different places related to retail cannabis at the moment. Healthy Lamoille Valley is creating resources to support you as you navigate this issue in your town. Learn more at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/new-cannabis-resources>.

Community Spotlight! Congratulations to our 2021 HLV 3-4-50 mini-grant awardees on their project successes! Get all the project highlights and learn more about our 3-4-50 partners and the Vermont Department of Health's 3-4-50 program at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/3-4-50-partnerships>.

Diabetes management workshop offered

This free seven-week online workshop is led by trained facilitators and meets once a week for 2.5 hours. In a small group setting you will learn to better manage your diabetes as well as make positive changes to your overall health.

Your workshop leaders and fellow participants will guide and support you to:

- Solve problems and create plans for action
 - Make healthier eating choices
 - Get more physical activity into your daily life
 - Better monitor your blood sugar levels
 - Prepare for how to safely monitor and manage your diabetes during times of illness
 - Find healthy ways to manage your stress
 - Be an active partner in working with your health care team
- You must have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes to participate in this program.

The workshop will be held online via Zoom on Thursdays, January 20-March 3, 2:00 - 4:30 PM

If these dates and times do not work for you, please visit <http://www.MyHealthyVT.org> for information about other classes available. Sponsored by Lamoille Health Partners, Northern Counties Health Care, and Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital.

If you are interested please contact Rorie Dunphey, Regional Coordinator, at roried@protonmail.com or 802-324-9198.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Priorities for the 2022 legislative session

Kesha Ram Hinsdale, State Senator, Chittenden District

While this is a fairly somber start to the new year with omicron cases rising and the end of the pandemic still out of sight, I hope you are finding hope, joy, and warmth as we turn the page on 2021. Our legislative session gets underway in just a few days, and I have appreciated your time and input on critical issues facing you and your families.

Before the session begins, I wanted to share some of the key priorities for discussion, and specifically, legislation that I will bring to the table:

Affordable housing and homeownership: According to a December 2021 Apartment Vacancy Survey, the vacancy rate in Chittenden County is 0.8% — its lowest point in 20 years. Access to affordable, available housing and homeownership will be a main priority of my committee, Senate Housing & Economic Development. I am introducing a comprehensive housing bill this session that includes the creation of first-generation homebuyer grants, municipal land banks, increased funding, and reduced red tape for housing creation in existing neighborhoods and town centers, a Bill of Rights for the unhoused, and resources for mobile home communities and weatherization.

Climate action: Together, we can curb climate change and build the economy of the future while centering equity and ensuring no one is left behind. For over a decade, I have worked to advance an environmental justice policy for Vermont so that all Vermonters can enjoy clean air, clean water, and a healthy home and neighborhood. My bill, S.148, is now a priority of the Vermont Climate Council for passage, alongside recommendations for increased funding in weatherization and sustainable transportation, our greatest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. If we get this right, it's a win-win for our environment, our health, our economy, and the future.

Pensions: Our frontline workers are our most critical resource. The state needs to keep its promises for their retirement security. We need a sustained increase in pension funding, along with a meaningful one-time boost to make up for past underfunding. This will pay down our liability and stabilize the retirement system. Once we reach a sustainable path forward, I will work to codify our retirement promises so we do not put our civil servants through this undue stress every decade.

Criminal justice: We have put too great a burden on our

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

The legislative session ahead

By Thomas Chittenden, State Senator, Chittenden District

For the last 11 months I've been one of your Vermont State Senators representing the Chittenden County senate district. During that time, I have sponsored 26 bills and resolutions, served on the Senate Education and Senate Transportation Committee, and was appointed by the Senate to serve on the Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board as well as the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee for the legislature. It has been an honor to represent you and I hope you know I am committing as much attention to this role as I have free moments in the day.

This coming session I expect more important work by the legislature to manage the continued impacts of the pandemic on our children, our economy, our infrastructure, and our health and safety. Integrated in this work will be opportunities to build back better by addressing our affordability crisis, growing our housing stock, and inviting more economic activity to Vermont in environmentally sustainable ways. This pandemic is a reflection point for us to rethink how we pay for our transportation infrastructure to align with our climate goals, how we fund and deliver 21st century education, and how we get every home served by electricity to also be served with broadband internet service.

We can't keep raising taxes on our current Vermonters because it is driving too many of us from the state. The answer is to adopt policies that create more Vermont taxpayers, allowing us to spread the cost of government over a larger tax base — reducing our individual burdens. But this requires Vermont to grow; and to grow we need to modernize our statewide permitting rules to reduce investment uncertainty. I want the next IBM to lay their roots deep in the Green Mountain state, bringing good jobs, opportunity, and improved quality of life with modern green infrastructure. To do this, we need to modernize Act 250 to streamline the permitting process, eliminating redundancies with local regulations, and a faster track for public infrastructure projects. If we want greener transportation, greener housing, and greener government, we need policies that invite, attract, and keep more opportunity and investment here in the state.

As we start prioritizing the one-time dollars out of D.C., my priority is going to be on legacy infrastructure projects. The best thing State Government can do to foster economic activity aligned with our social and environmental justice goals is to build transportation infrastructure that streamlines the free flow of goods, services, and people throughout our state. I'm excited about what we are doing to electrify vehicular transport and the emerging conversations about creative ways to pay for a greener transportation network. This is the time for us to make our roads as smart as these new cars using them.

I ran for this office because I wanted to hear more of our elected officials advocating for Vermont to grow. In every conversation, I am applying a lens on state policies with a critical eye on how to attract more Vermonters, more investment, more housing, and more opportunity to the Green Mountains. I want to see our statewide grand list grow to broaden our tax base with 21st century infrastructure that invites more people to Vermont.

As I look forward to the second half of this biennium, I welcome your thoughts on what priorities you want your senators to have. As a new legislator, I am primarily focused on learning the issues, the processes, and the complex architecture of our State Government while offering my voice when called on and to amplify the voice of others when needed. In my short time in this role so far, I am constantly working to educate myself on the evolving and broad issues before the legislature. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me on issues you want your representatives focused on and your reasons why.

criminal justice system to solve the problems of poverty, inequality, and mental health. We must advance a new approach, while allowing victims of police misconduct to access justice. With Sens. Sears and Baruth, I have introduced legislation to end the doctrine of qualified immunity. I am also introducing a number of other reforms to advance equitable public safety, including funding municipal community safety conversations, ending the sentence of life without parole, eliminating cash bail, and banning no-knock warrants.

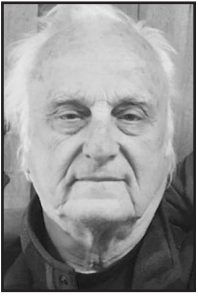
Paid family leave and child care: As families face daily stressors, from close contacts to closed child care facilities, it is a reminder that paid family leave is currently a missing piece of a healthy economy. Many of us are still in the fight to pass President Biden's *Build Back Better* agenda, which includes four weeks of paid family leave for working families and greater child care subsidies. I have sponsored and championed paid family leave and universal child care access for over a decade, and will continue to do all I can to pass meaningful legislation for working families at the state and federal level.

Redistricting: Following the 2020 Census, the Vermont House and Senate legislative districts will be redrawn. A significant change is coming to Chittenden County with the breaking up of the six at-large Senate seats. I serve on Senate Government Operations, which oversees this process, and we will work to balance the foundational principle of *one person, one vote* with the unique contours and character of our neighborhoods and towns. It is a process with a lot of moving pieces and a key piece of voting rights and access. Stay tuned.

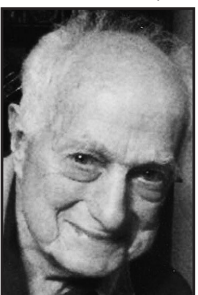
Reproductive rights: The Vermont Senate has advanced an amendment to the Vermont Constitution to enshrine the right to an abortion and reproductive freedom. This has become even more important than we anticipated given the potential of *Roe v. Wade* to be overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. This session, the House will vote on the amendment and, when it is approved, Proposition 5 will be on your ballot in November of 2022. If passed, we will be the first state in the country to explicitly codify reproductive liberty in our constitution.

My hope is this gives you a sense of our challenges and opportunities this session. Please reach out if you have further questions, thoughts, or feedback about these issues or any others. Thank you for putting your trust in me. It's an honor to serve as your State Senator and I carry your experiences and insights with me into our work every day.

PEOPLE - OBITUARIES



Günter W. Klein of Jericho, VT died peacefully at his home on Monday, December 6, 2021, 18 days shy of his 85th birthday. Günter was born in Berlin, Germany, the son of Werner and Johanne (Laskowsky) Klein. Günter's life began in Germany, but spanned across the ocean to Canada as a teenager, working to build the Canadian railroad. Due to a workplace injury, he moved inside and became a chef for those continuing with railroad construction. It was there that he learned his lifelong passion for creating delicious recipes for those around him, which he carried throughout his life. After Günter's time with the railroad he returned to Germany where he finished his education, graduating from Gauß Berlin (University) and becoming an Electrical Engineer. As a young man, Günter traveled throughout Europe, often by bicycle, and in the company of his friends. He skied the Swiss Alps, swam in the Baltic Sea, and picked apples along the roadside on his way to France. The stories he later shared about his adventures are nothing short of storybook worthy. In the late 1960s Günter moved to New York, taking a position with IBM, with whom he made his career for more than three decades. In 1968, Günter met and married his angel, the love of his life, Cynthia Donerly. The couple moved to Los Gatos, CA to begin their life together. Travel was a passion of Günter's, one he introduced his new wife to, and one the two of them shared for many years to come. IBM took them back across the ocean to Germany for a year. When they returned to America, they built their home, their family, and subsequently their life, in Jericho. Günter's self-proclaimed greatest accomplishment was being a father. He would often say that his children were his purpose in life. As a family man, Günter instilled the importance of education and lifelong learning into his children and his grandchildren, all of whom were his greatest treasures. He was a man of great integrity, selflessness and generosity. Günter was kind and gentle, and everyone who met him speaks of how even in the briefest of interludes, he left a positive impact on them. He would offer a helping hand to anyone who needed it. Hard work was nothing he ever avoided and challenges were something he welcomed. He had an infectious laugh and a unique sense of humor. Günter loved doing things himself, and was a heck of a handyman! He appreciated the simple things, which truly were of the greatest importance to him. Günter was a phenomenal cook, preparing many treasured recipes, often tracing back to his German roots, with his apple pancakes, rouladen, and "Opa's macaroni and cheese" topping the list! He was a lover of all things outdoors. He loved hiking, walking, and "surveying his Ponderosa." His bird feeders were full year-round. He enjoyed gardening and would anxiously await the fruits of his labor each summer. He loved riding his bike, especially alongside Lake Champlain. He enjoyed skiing, both downhill and cross-country, and was an avid swimmer in the ocean, the lake, or a pool, but he particularly loved the ocean. Günter adored animals, especially dogs. There were many furry members of his family over the years, beginning with a team of Huskies that pulled him and his sled through the winter snow. Throughout his life, Günter had a passion for reading and once he picked up a book, you were guaranteed to lose him in it until he finished the last page. Later in his life, he and Cynthia renewed their passion for travel and began "cruising," with their final voyage being a lifelong dream of sailing to Alaska. Just like he dealt with all experiences in life, Günter managed the end of his life with strength and grace. In his final days, Günter's family surrounded him to share their memories of his life and their lives together. His wish to be in his home when he died was honored, holding the hand of his beloved wife for a short time, her heart for eternity. Günter leaves Cynthia, his wife of 53 years; his son Michael Klein and wife Dawn of Jericho, his daughter Heidi Gray and husband Michael of Athol, MA; his grandchildren Alexander Klein of Valatie, NY, Erin Klein of Raleigh, NC, Johanne Heuer and Ethan Heuer of Athol, MA; his brother Wolfgang Klein of Berlin, Germany, his sister Hanna Schacht of Berlin, Germany, his niece Karin Schacht of Berlin, Germany; and many treasured friends. Günter was predeceased by his parents Werner and Johanne Klein, and his sisters Gertrude Klein and Ingrid Schwartz-Schultz. There will be a celebration of Günter's life planned during the warmer weather in 2022, Günter's favorite time of the year.



William ("Bill") Richard Drucker of Jericho, VT passed away peacefully on Friday, December 10, 2021. He was born April 5, 1922 in Chicago, IL to Henry Drucker and Mary (Larzelere) Drucker. Following graduation from New Trier High School, he received a B.S. from Harvard College, where he was captain of the swim team, and his M.D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Following an internship year at the Osler Medical Clinic, he was on active duty with the U.S. Navy for two years, stationed in Cairo, Egypt. His time was divided between research and caring for patients during the cholera epidemic. This was the beginning of his lifelong research interest in the understanding of and the care for patients in shock. After returning to the U.S., Bill completed training at Yale New Haven Hospital and a surgical residency at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. After rising in the academic ranks to the level of Professor at Western Reserve University School of Medicine (now Case Western), he accepted the position of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. Subsequent positions include Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Virginia, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Rochester, and Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences before "retiring" to Vermont where he was an Adjunct Professor of Surgery at the University of Vermont. He was the author of over 100 scientific papers, numerous book chapters, and a book titled *The Curse of Cholera*. He was an editor for the *American Journal of Surgery*, *Canadian Journal of Surgery*, and the *Journal of Trauma*. His leadership positions included the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (President), the American College of Surgeons (Governor, 2nd Vice President), the American Federation for Clinical Research (Chairman of the

Midwestern Section), National Institutes of Health (study section chair), and the National Library of Medicine (Board of Regents.) He received multiple honors through his distinguished career, including induction into Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha honor societies, selection as a Markle Scholar in Medical Sciences, and Honorary Fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh). Throughout his career, he maintained a strong interest and expertise in mentoring others, helping them through surgical residency, or choosing appropriate research activities. He thoroughly enjoyed weekly teaching sessions with medical students, receiving several Teacher of the Year citations. He was an avid woodworker, leaving behind countless handmade wooden bowls, trays, pens, and picture frames along with two wooden train sets, two dollhouses, and many other gifts that were distributed to family and friends. He was a passionate rose gardener and enthusiastic photographer, often combining these hobbies. His house had multiple pictures he had taken of roses he had grown, and then mounted in frames that he had built. Bill's love of camping led to multiple family camping trips across the United States and Canada. Bill is survived by three children: John and wife Terry Swanson (children Max and Robin), Bob and wife Joan Drucker (children Eric and Jenny), and Nancy and husband Peter Macone (children Katie and Will); daughter-in-law Jaylene Drucker (children Dawn, Nick, and Kirstin); spouses of grandchildren (Brooke, Luke, and Scott); six great-grandchildren, a great-great-granddaughter, his brother Bob and wife Rosie, sister Margaret Drucker, sister-in-law Sue Frank, and his many loving and supportive nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his lovely wife Barbara, son David, and twin sister Jane. The family plans a celebration of his life at a later date. The family invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting www.aurfh.com. For those who wish to honor Bill's memory, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the UVM College of Medicine Department of Surgery to support the annual John H. Davis, MD Endowed Lectureship in Surgery and other research and educational activities. Donations in his honor should be sent to: UVM Foundation, 411 Main St., Burlington, VT 05401. Online donations can be made at go.uvm.edu/givemed, select "Other" and type John H. Davis Fund.

Richard M. Brace Jr., 60, of Jeffersonville and North Hyde Park, VT died Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at his hotel surrounded by loved ones. He was born June 27, 1961 in Middlebury, VT, the son of Richard M. Brace Sr. and Sandy Brace. Richard spent the first part of his life in Addison County, VT working on dairy farms, and later moved to Lamoille County where he and Juanita Larose became friends and business partners and ran the Deer Run Motor Inn together. Rich was a kind and caring person with a heart of gold. He always tried to help anyone he could. He was a great son, brother, uncle, and friend. He enjoyed antiques, his cars, and loved his flower gardens, especially stargazer lilies.



Gertrude (Trudy) Bapp Murphy passed on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Trudy was born on the 21st day of 1921 and passed on the 21st day of the 21st year of the 21st Century. Born on May 1, 1921 in Underhill, VT to Fred and Hattie (Brown) Bapp, Trudy was the last born of sixteen children, twelve who lived to become adults. She was educated in Underhill schools, then graduated from Burlington (VT) Business School. She met Clifford (Skip) Murphy in Burlington and had their first date on New Year's Eve 1939. It was love at first sight and they were married on October 1, 1940. In 1943, son Michael joined the family and they moved to Moretown, VT. Daughter Mary and son James came along. She worked hard with her husband on the farm in Moretown. They raised their family and welcomed many others into their midst. Friends, and brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews galore would come and spend time at the farm, and made wonderful memories that have been treasured over the years. With a strong work ethic, Trudy worked in Moretown for Ward Lumber Company, then in Ward's General Store. She then became a clerk in the Moretown Post Office and eventually became the Postmaster of that office in Moretown. She was immensely proud to serve her community. In younger years she was an active member of the Moretown Methodist Church, the PTA, and other community groups. She will be remembered for her keen ability to remember dates, times, and events. Her beloved husband Skip died in 1995 and her faith was sorely tested when son Michael died in 2002, but her profound belief in the Lord gave her the strength to continue on. She lived with her daughter and husband until 2014 when, requiring more care than could be delivered at home, she became a resident of Mayo Residential in Northfield, VT where she enjoyed her time and made new friends. She enjoyed her 100th birthday celebration at Mayo, despite COVID restrictions regarding family visitors. She enjoyed going over all the cards and well wishes that she received for that centennial achievement. She leaves behind her daughter Mary and son-in-law Edward Blake of Moretown, her son James and his wife Candy of Hooksett, NH, and her daughter-in-law Phyllis Murphy of Northfield; grandchildren George Murphy (Beth), Sean Murphy (Lori), Heidi Higgins Cutler (David), Mark Blake, Jacob Murphy, and Kathleen Murphy; "special" grandchildren Diane Albano and Dick Thompson; Mark's daughter Teresa Martin (Norm) and their children Alexis and Norm; great-grandchildren Heather Lessor (Riley), Nathan Cutler, Matthew Cutler, Nicole Cutler, Michael Sean Murphy, Brian Murphy, Tara Murphy, and Isabella Aguilar-Vargas; one sister-in-law Ruth Bapp; many nieces and nephews; and an incredibly special great-great-grandsons Ryder and Maverick Lessor. She was so proud to hold and love those fifth generation babies! She was predeceased by her parents and siblings, husband Clifford (Skip), her son Michael, and grandson Johnathan Murphy. Mom found the heavenly gate and ended her journey here on earth the evening of the Winter Solstice after living her life to the fullest and a remarkable 100 years. She now joins those who have gone before, but her love and spirit will remain forever in our hearts. And the Lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Services will take place at a later date. Memorial gifts may be made to Mayo Continuing Care, 71 Richardson St., Northfield, VT 05663; or Moretown United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 516, Moretown, VT 05660; or a charity of your choice.



Michael Patrick McKeown, 73, of West Bolton, VT left this earth as he chose, in the comfort of his home with a panoramic view of his snow-covered fields. Mike died on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, escaping several months of failing health and a body wracked by lung cancer. A jokester to the end, he spent his final days drinking ginger ale, eating maple ice cream, and recounting almost 52 irreplaceable years of life in his beloved West Bolton community. It was a rare day that he didn't climb aboard his Massey Ferguson 1533, fixing, hauling, plowing, or just tooting around town, always stopping to chat with friends and neighbors (the Old Guard — Ed, Ernie, Jingles, John, Joss, JR, Kevin, Mike, Nick) or new faces just passing through. A Mike story might have taken a while, but was filled with humor, great perspective, and vivid recall of his travels — a porch rocking chair and a cold drink provided his final stage for listening, gazing upon his fields and orchard. Born to the late John McKeown and Florence (Cochran) McKeown on February 18, 1948, Mike grew up in Richmond, VT, graduating from Richmond High School in 1966. He attended Champlain College on a soccer scholarship and then began a 40-year career as a commercial pipefitter and member of Local #693. His reputation as a water wizard was well known, turning wrenches with both hands. His favorite word was FREE, giving new life to cast-off machinery, rebuilding broken contraptions, creating useful structures — a smokehouse, a barn workshop, a log splitter, bee hives, a chicken coup, and sawmill — to name a few. Not much he couldn't fix or get running for a buck fifty! Mike married Brenda Norton on December 4, 1971, recently recognizing their 50th anniversary. Together they built their home on Black Fly Hill, where they raised their two daughters, Kirsten and Bronwyn. Always akin to outdoor activities, his girls benefited from his tutelage in sports and all things in their natural surroundings. He made sure they understood mechanics, chainsaws, tire changing, and the like. His grandchildren were no less the benefactors of his busy hands, as he patiently taught fly tying, cribbage playing, cheese smoking, bonfire building, and fishing. Mike loved reading and American history was his first choice. Strangely, the radio in his F150 was tuned to classical overtures, more soothing to his hearing aid-refined ears. Recently, he was elated to know that JBJ would be returning to center field at Fenway... *Go Sox!* Over the years, the family enjoyed special times at the Marble Island and Northern Québec camps, with an annual summertime trip to the coast of Maine. Mike amused himself as a longtime member of the West Bolton Golf Club, joining his golfing partner Lane for countless tee times and laughs. Most of all, he relished his seasonal trips to his fishing camp at Lac La Loutre, his most cherished place on earth. This is where he laid down a fly line with beauty and grace over his venerated trout waters. Truly magical to watch! Fortunately, Mike was able to fly fish throughout North America with Bruce, Chris, Dennis, Scott, and Steve in tow, compiling more fish tales than anyone's ears should have to hear! It can be said that you'd have one foot out the door for an hour and a half while Mike finished his storytelling. Understand, when we suggest that Mike had an engaging gift of gab, he always managed to run into someone he knew wherever his globetrotting took him! For now, the silence is heartbreaking. Left to cherish his storytelling with a chuckle and an eye roll are his wife Brenda McKeown; daughter Kirsten McKeown; daughter Bronwyn McKeown and son-in-law Chris Haggerty; grandchildren Lena, Virginia, and Orin Haggerty; brother John (Alice) McKeown; sister Susan (Joe) Bauer; Norton family members; many much loved nieces and nephews; and his treat-seeking Great Danes Birdie and Brick. Mike was predeceased by his parents and sister, Patricia Burdick. No funeral or calling hours are planned. A spring 2022 gathering of remembrance will be held in Mike's revered fields of home. Please feel free to remember Mike in giving to a cause of your choice. Or, take the opportunity to make a new friend whenever you can. We are forever and enthusiastically grateful, humbled, and blessed by the enveloping support and love of our Bolton community! We received special care and devotion from Jody and Dennis Plouffe, every single day in helping Mike to go along. We smile through tears!

On Friday, December 10, 2021 **Rosemary Turner** left this beautiful world to be with her Lord. Rosemary was born on June 21, 1940 at Coopers Hospital in Camden, New Jersey to John J. O'Neill and Cecelia Kennedy. She loved to read, garden, and spend time with her grandkids. She loved cooking, baking, and hosting family meals, was a crossword puzzle enthusiast and really enjoyed giving back to the community. She was very proud to hold on to 36 plus years of sobriety, dedicated to helping others with sponsorship, and spent countless hours as a volunteer for VT State 4-H Foundation and Vt 4-H horse program. Rosemary is preceded by her first husband Thomas Reed Montgomery in June 1969, birth mother, Cecelia Inez Kennedy September 1943, sister Inez O'Neill, brother Bill in March 2017; step mother Erma Jeannine O'Neill April 2011. Rosemary is survived by her husband David A. Turner, to whom she married June 16, 1972. Sister-in-law Nina O'Neill. Children Thomas Reed Montgomery, Joseph (Ross) Montgomery, Andrea Scott (Turner), and Cynthia Shangraw (Turner), and her grandchildren Kayleigh and Ashley Scott, Thomas and Emma Montgomery and Cora Shangraw. In lieu of flowers we are asking that donations be made to the Boston Children's Hospital, Vermont 4-H Horse program, or the Shriners Hospital for Children. A celebration of life will take place in the spring.

Can we use our differences for the betterment of each of us instead of exaggerating or magnifying our differences against each other? Can a community be defined to include people unlike each other, people seeking shared use of resources, not necessarily known to each other, not all of the same persuasion but all together for each other? — Bernie Paquette

Community columns continued from page 3

Exchange goods/resources within the community before buying new and before trashing an item.

Switch out CFL for halogen light bulbs. CFLs contain hazardous mercury; hardware stores accept the CFLs for safe disposal.

Need help with something? Ask your town folks and neighbors for help. Our communities are full of talented, caring, kind people willing to share their skills and talents with others.

Start a Ten by Ten movement: Replace a 10x10' section of lawn with native wildflowers, and or shrubs/trees. Speak out (and donate) for the conservation and preservation of what little agricultural land there is left in our communities. How can we place more attention on land management to care for the land, be stewards of the land, instead of only extracting from the earth?

If our environment has an effect on who we are, how we behave, this current environment truly is testing us. The less we feel in control, the more challenging it is to be consistent in our character. In 2022, who shall we test out to be? What social norms will survive? Perhaps more importantly, which will evolve? Will we hold hope to return to what we know as normal, or will we envision new ways of living, explore them, and embrace fundamental changes?

Is it too simplistic to think that as adults we can still have that childhood interest in snowflakes, slippery ice, bright moonlit nights, building a snowman, sledding, skating, playing outdoors until our fingertips and lips turn blue, eating hot cookies, sipping hot chocolate, observing and asking why and how, a thousand times over being forever curious about all forms of life, and laughing at the silliest things, making music with spoons, sticks, old cans, finding joy in nearly everything outdoors in nature?

And what of our self-identity? Can we use our differences for the betterment of each of us instead of exaggerating or magnifying our differences against each other? Can a community be defined to include people unlike each other, people seeking shared use of resources, not necessarily known to each other, not all of the same persuasion but all together for each other? And if so, what are the practical workings of such a community?

Might we increase our ability to reason and converse in reasoned, rational, and empirical debate in a respectful tone, to gain societal consensus — as opposed to relying on laws, and therein the not-so-subtle threat of punishment and loss of freedom?

Are we a product of our environment or is our environment a product of who we are? Disruption seems to abound, change inevitable; can we only imagine retaining the status quo, can we only hope for a return to “normal?” *Or can we utilize the tectonic shifts to break the ice of customs, habits, cultural traditions that no longer serve us and who we are as human beings?*

A group of folks came by to view our non-traditional yard of pathways twisting through a diverse array of plants. One expressed to us, “Thank you, you have given me ‘permission’ to do this (less lawn to mow, less weeding, more natural nature-friendly landscape in my yard).”

These meandering thoughts are partly based on my readings, *my perceptions*, and my attempt to look beyond what

is, and what went wrong. To properly stir the mix, to allow breakthrough ideas to float to the top, we need many voices, many creative thinkers discussing and debating ways to break some of the molds and create new trends.

What are your ideas for being caring and kind to the earth, nature, yourself, and your fellow community members? How will you remain well? What really makes you happy? How will we empathetically take care of each other? How will you vibrantly embrace, experience, and taste life in 2022?

Hoping you laugh, dream, try, and do good in the New Year — Bernie

Two misconceptions about forests

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

As I write this, Chittenden County is settling into winter, last night's rain notwithstanding. As December progresses you might start to hear the buzzing of chainsaws and the thrum of skidders in the woods, logs piling up by the side of your road. You might see a forest that you know and love change, the forest floor dotted with bright-topped stumps and scattered with the tops and branches of trees.

Good forest management is more than just cutting valuable trees: it seeks to be regenerative, to improve conditions for wildlife, to make forests more resilient in a changing climate, to protect biodiversity, to benefit our communities and future generations. The ability to tell healthy forests from unhealthy forests — and responsible forest management from irresponsible forest management — is unintuitive to most people. It's not something we're born with — it's something we need to develop. As such, we sometimes evaluate the health of our forests and the quality of forest management based on a couple misconceptions.

The first common misconception is that forests should look neat and tidy. Nothing could be further from the truth: forests which are resilient and adaptive in a changing climate, which provide diverse habitat for wildlife, which clean our air and our water, which sequester and store carbon, often defy our sense of order and aesthetics. Features that look “messy” to most people — like dead wood on the forest floor, dead-standing trees, big, old declining trees, an irregular gap-filled canopy, and pockets of young trees and shrubs — fundamentally support the expansive web of life that is a forest. This doesn't mean that any messy forest is good (a forest which has been poorly-managed will probably also look messy) but it does mean that a forest isn't unhealthy because it looks messy.

The second misconception about forests is that they never change. Because trees grow so slowly and live such a long time, it's tempting to think that forests are defined by their stability, their ability to resist change. In reality, forests are dynamic, always changing, and they are defined by their resilience — their ability to stay healthy while they change. As much as the death of trees may seem sad and scary, it is a normal, natural, and even beautiful, part of how forests work.

Following forest management, as with a natural disturbance,



STOCK PHOTO

the forest will look and feel different. When I manage forests I embrace the messiness and the dynamism, telling loggers to leave tree tops and limbs un-lopped, to leave dead trees in the woods, to create gaps of different shapes and sizes to encourage the development of different sizes, ages and species of trees. The result can be jarring: a tidy forest turned untidy, a familiar forest made different. Even if you know that healthy forests are messy and dynamic, as you walk through a freshly-managed forest next spring it may be hard to understand how this could ever be part of something beautiful.

While you can appreciate some of the benefits of forest management, like local renewable resources, right away, the ecological benefits take time to reveal themselves. Forest managers in Vermont rely on natural regeneration rather than planting trees, and so — as in a forest following a windstorm — there is a lag between the disturbance and when its benefits are realized. This lag can be a stressful time, and so in the years following management we need to remind ourselves to be patient, to let the forest's natural resilience work.

This summer, I walked through an area managed three winters ago at the Hinesburg Town Forest. In July the area was exploding with life, green filling every space. Raspberry and blackberry canes looped around young trees, goldenrods and asters blooming in yellow and purple. Birds nested in the thick understory and dove through canopy gaps, catching insects on the wing. Salamanders wriggled into rotting wood as the trees above them reached their limbs up into the blue sky.

Of the many lessons that forests can teach us, cultivating patience and equanimity are perhaps two of the most important. Like many of the best things in life, forests and forest management are complex and nuanced, and learning to appreciate them takes time.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he's been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he's written at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Village spirit in Underhill Center

To the Editor,

Musings...

Over time the village of Underhill Center has lost some important elements of its character and sense of community. It happens. We let go of the seasoned and make room for the fresh!

Maybe it's the winter season, maybe it's the the determination and resilience of the human spirit? Maybe be it's just the basic desire for change? Maybe it's all those factors woven together?

What I do know, living right in the village is that not all is lost. We have a post office where someone puts fresh annuals in the window boxes each year and handmade birdhouses appear on the fence, free for all! We have a skating rink with lights! A river path to wander and meditate by! We have crosswalks for pedestrian safety! A few someones who tend the eclectic gardens and greenery! We have two groups of carolers who bring song and good cheer to those in “town!” Signs to mark the still fresh water that flows through! We have a historically restored schoolhouse and, just beyond, a diverse playground and pond! And, more!

My goodness! What a lot to be filled with and thankful for! Let's all celebrate together with vigor and honor!

Betsy Chapek, Underhill Center

More on Village spirit in Underhill Center

To the Editor,

We must not forget the crowning jewel of Underhill Center, the majestic St. Thomas Church, watching over our little village since 1891. This poem was written by Underhill Center resident M. Laura Leddy in 1903:

THE CHURCH BELL

When the sun from the brow of the mountain
Our valley with splendor fills,
The silvery tone of the church bell is heard O'Er the distant hills,

Blended with notes of songbirds
And the ripple of sparkling rills.

When the day has reached its noontide
We hear it peal forth once more,
Telling the same old story
It has told so oft before,
And it seems to never tire
Telling it O'Er and O'Er.

Again, when the day is ended
And the sun sinks down in the west,
When the evening dews are falling
And the birds have gone to rest,
It tells the archangel message
First given to Mary blest.

To waken the hearts of the faithful
It rings on the Sabbath day,
It rings for the youth and maiden
Attired in bridal array,
And with tones that are slow and solemn
Rings for the soul passed away.

Thine is a sacred mission,
Loved bell that we all hold dear,
Over the hills and mountains
May your voice ring far and near,
From the little church in the valley
Through many a coming year.

Rev. Richard Calapan

St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center

(Per an AP story on December 28, 2021, “Because the process began two years ago, it's a coincidence that Vermont lawmakers would be considering the Reproductive Liberty Amendment while the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case that could severely erode a right that has stood for half a century.” If Vermont's amendment passes in the Legislature this session, it will go to the voters in an election in the fall. Link to AP story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/state-legislatures-us-poised-act-abortion-rights-81969309>. — Editor)

VT's Reproductive Liberty Amendment

To the Editor,

The right to reproductive liberty is not just about abortion. If anything, abortion should be a last resort. What needs to be highlighted when discussing this law is everything that comes beforehand. It's the right to proper education in schools (to all genders!) It's ensuring access to preventative contraceptives. It's accurate and available advice on how to find and use the best-fitting one. It's about the destigmatization of women's sexuality and freedom.

I am 17. Like most of my peers, I am sexually active (wake up call to any unknowing parents!) The right to reproductive freedom means making sure that I and other teens are free to be properly educated and make good decisions based off of that education. It means that somebody like me could get access to birth control, even if my parents were against it (another wake-up call: restricting contraceptive access will not prevent intercourse). Reproductive liberty means having the support to understand and properly take on the risks and responsibilities that come with sexual activity.

Abortion is tragic, no matter what you believe about the status of an unborn child. It is a reflection of grave shortcomings — not just by the two conceiving parents — but by their entire

community. Despite believing this, I still think the option needs to be made available as a last resort for those who have no other option. A woman cannot be solely held accountable for an unwanted pregnancy, yet she is the one who will have to face the primary consequences if it is carried out. I don't think we can ethically deny a person the choice to decide to do what is best for themselves and the life they do not feel they are ready to introduce into the world.

I believe that if we shift more of our focus on creating a sexually educated and supportive community, we will increasingly reduce our need for abortions anyways. The focus of reproductive liberty is education and prevention, not just termination.

Thank you if you've read this in its entirety. I am honored to be part of a community where these sorts of open discussions can be had.

Corinne Owens, Underhill

Re: VT's Reproductive Liberty Amendment

To the Editor,

My husband and I are also opposed to the Reproductive Rights Act, and urge everyone to vote against it. Do we really want to codify in our Constitution the killing of innocents in Vermont? Reproductive decisions should be made before conception, when no one is hurt by the decision. Deciding after conception involves the lives of two people, one of whom is perfectly innocent, totally vulnerable, and worthy of the respect that his or her humanity deserves. Hasn't Vermont always stood up for “the little guy?” Isn't the child in the womb the littlest of the “little guys,” and therefore worthy of our protection and love? Who have we become if we condone and promote this injustice to another human being?

Marie Chamberlin
Underhill

Vermont's Reproductive Liberty Amendment

To the Editor,

I wanted to share information regarding a proposed state constitutional amendment in case you weren't aware and wanted to lend your support.

The recent U.S. Supreme Court hearing sadly affirmed that reproductive health care is under threat in our country. We can act: <https://reprolibertyvt.org>.

In 2022, Vermont can protect reproductive rights here — no matter what happens in Washington, D.C. — with the Reproductive Liberty Amendment.

The Reproductive Liberty Amendment is a proposed state constitutional amendment that would protect every Vermonter's right to make their own reproductive decisions. If passed by the House in the 2022 Legislative Session, the amendment will

Letters continued on page 10

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2022

6558 VT RTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487

802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net

www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

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

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

TOTAL REGULAR CIRCULATION - 4500

(During the pandemic it has varied at the present time we are back up to 3500 and rising. We plan to be back to full circulation by May 2022.)

OPEN RATE

\$8.25 COLUMN INCH

Column width 1 7/16"

Listings below are measured width x height

Business card - \$33.00

3 1/4" x 2"

1/16 page - \$49.50

3 1/4" x 3"

1/12 page - \$66.00

3 1/4" x 4"

1/8 page - \$99.00

3 1/4" x 6"

5" x 4"

1/4 page - \$170.00

3 1/4" x 12"

5" x 8"

6 1/2" x 6"

1/2 page - \$290.00

10 1/4" x 8"

5" x 15 1/2"

Full page - \$390.00

10 1/4" x 15 1/2"

Business directory ads: \$18 each, must buy 5 consecutive issues (\$90.00 pre-paid)

No changes. Size 3 1/4" x 1 1/2"

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Purchase six ads of any size and run within 12 month.

Call Brenda Boutin, advertising manager at 802-453-6354 for details

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Inserts 1-4 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" Cost \$45.00 prepaid per 1000

Must purchase full circulation

Publication First and Third Thursday/Month

Deadlines: Thursday before publication

Copy - 12:00 Noon

Advertising 5:00 PM

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

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

www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Jericho town meeting 2022 information

For 2022 we are anticipating returning to a regular Town Meeting format where the municipal budget and other Town Meeting Articles are voted by a voice vote on the floor of Town Meeting, except for the Town and School Officers. The Town and School Officers as well as the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District budget will be voted on by Australian ballot. If you are interested in running for office, a nominating petition and consent form will need to be filed with the Jericho Town Clerk by 5:00 PM Monday, January 24. Early ballot voting will be available by Wednesday, February 9.

Australian ballot voting for Jericho voters will be at the Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho from 7:00 AM — 7:00 PM Tuesday, March 1.

Town Meeting will begin at 9:00 AM at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho at 9:00 AM Tuesday, March 1.

For more information, go online to <https://jerichovt.org/Elections>.

Westford Food Shelf has a new freezer

The Food Shelf has received many generous and unexpected gifts since the beginning of the pandemic. Among these was an offer from an anonymous donor to help us obtain something big from our wish list. They worked with us to decide what might have the greatest impact, and ultimately gifted us a brand new upright freezer. They also helped us hire an electrician to ensure it could be safely installed, and a new vacuum cleaner!

These are massive improvements for us. We are over the moon to be able to offer our visitors frozen meats, prepared meals, vegetables, dairy products, and other goods. We began stocking up the freezer once the electrical work was complete, and it is now serving our patrons.

Thank you to this donor and to the many others who have done so much for the folks who visit the food shelf. It's hard to think we might ever say thank you enough.

If you'd like to stop by the food shelf, please do! We are a no question, no paperwork operation. All welcome! Masks required for anyone who is not vaccinated, and encouraged for all.

Camp Ethan Allen Training Site trespassing

By Marcus Tracy

National Guard Public Affairs

Camp Ethan Allen Training Site

Safety considerations require the Vermont National Guard to maintain the security of Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho at all times.

The main gate, located at 113 Ethan Allen Road, Jericho remains the only authorized point of entry to CEATS.

Numerous training areas operate on CEATS, at times including multiple and simultaneous live-fire ranges. Trespassing risks the safety of the trespasser and can inhibit military training.

CEATS security officials will refer trespassers to local law enforcement for citation or other action.

Persons interested in learning more about CEATS can find general information, including the recently launched public tour program, at <http://www.vtguard.com/CEATS>.

For more information on the registration events, contact Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Officer Maj. Scott Detweiler, 802-227-2779 or john.s.detweiler.mil@army.mil.

Jericho dog registration 2022

By Jessica Alexander, Jericho Town Clerk

Happy New Year !

The dog tags for 2022 have not arrived at the Jericho Town Clerk Office yet; we may not receive them until the end of January. They were hoping to get them to us by the end of the year, but nothing has arrived as of December 31. I will put out the A-frame sign out front when the new 2022 tags arrive. In the meantime, now is a good time to be sure your dog's rabies vaccine is up to date. If you know that it is expiring before April 1, it might be proactive to set up an appointment for your dog with the veterinarian early in the new year so that the dog license can be issued timely for April 1, 2022.

A new tab has been added to the dog registration page called *Dog Registration Quick Renewal Response*. This is shorter than the full dog registration tab and you can renew multiple dogs in the same family during the same response. It also lets you indicate if you plan to stop by the Town Office or if you wish to have the tags mailed to your dog. We have noticed an increase in postage when mailing dog tags because they need to be hand stamped vs. machine sorted.

And Dear Chitara, Brody, Dottie, Pepper, Homer, Hailey, Dolly, Finley, Cheri, Jimmy Hendrix, Paisley, Remmi, Max, Nina, Sheldon, Tosh, Billie, Millie, and Fletcher. Please provide an up-to-date rabies vaccination certificate to the Town Hall ASAP so that your 2022 dog license can be issued as soon as they arrive.

December 9, 14 Westford Selectboard meetings draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Keep yourself informed about what the Westford Selectboard is talking about!

Read the draft minutes of the Thursday, December 9 Selectboard meeting online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-09-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Read the draft minutes of the Thursday, December 14, 22 Special Selectboard meeting online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-14-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Read the draft minutes from the Wednesday, December 22 Selectboard meeting online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-22-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Westford Common Hall 2021 community report

2021 has continued to present challenges to all of us as the pandemic wears on. At the Westford Common Hall, we've used that time to get systems and procedures into place to help take us into the future. We are excited to now be available to the community as a space where people can gather for life celebrations, music, and events. You can see our calendar of events or sign up to use our space here: <https://westfordcommonhall.org/events>.

You can also read our 2021 report with more details about our year here: <https://westfordcommonhall.org/news/2021-community-report>.

Thank you for your continued support of the WCH, and we hope to see you in 2022 for Winterfest and many other exciting events!

Jericho closes Twin Meadows Trail to public access

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

On December 29, the town placed signs at the end of Twin Meadows Drive and the trail approaches to the HOA common land. The Town of Jericho is prohibiting public access at this time.

We request that neighbors who hike and walk dogs on the Jericho Town Forest trails adhere to this guidance.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Jericho Town Administrator John Abbott, jabbott@jerichovt.gov.

Gently-used children's winter clothing needed

Happy Winter! Cambridge Community Food Shelf and Clothing Bank is now accepting gently used children's winter clothing. Please, children's clothing only! Sizes infant to 16. The clothing must be:

- Clean (no animal hair due to allergies);
- seasonal winter clothing only;
- winter jackets, coats, sweaters, snow pants, mittens;
- no shoes or boots, please.

Please drop off children's gently used winter clothing only when the Food Shelf is open: Tuesdays 1:00 - 7:00 PM. Unfortunately, bags left outside get discarded because local critters get to the clothing before we do.



Mountain Gazette

Publication & Deadline Dates 2022

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at noon. The advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

Publisher of the Mountain Gazette

6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

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

On the web at www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

DEADLINE DATES:

THURSDAY

December 30

January 13

January 27

February 10

February 24

March 10

March 31

April 14

April 28

May 12

May 26

June 9

June 30

July 14

July 28

August 11

August 25

September 8

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 10

November 24

December 8

PUBLICATION DATES:

THURSDAY

January 6

January 20

February 3

February 17

March 3

March 17

April 7

April 21

May 5

May 19

June 2

June 16

July 7

July 21

August 4

August 18

September 1

September 15

October 6

October 20

November 3

November 17

December 1

December 15

SPORTS NEWS



Westford rink coming soon, if we wait for it to be OPEN!

By the Westford Recreation Committee December 27: The Westford Rink is looking good and is almost ready.

Despite the fact that it has been shoveled and looks skateable, please stay off the ice for one or two more days in order to ensure that it's completely frozen below.

The weather is looking promising for good, solid freezing in the next couple days, so we anticipate being able to open the rink for skating by early to mid-week.

December 28: The town ice rink is closed until further notice.

We are hoping for just the week, but unfortunately it was skated on while closed, and not fully frozen. We are now fighting the battle of cracked ice and water springing in the corners.

Please obey the CLOSED sign. We are hoping to salvage the rink for the rest of the season.

Thank you, The Westford Recreation Department

BRLI registration open; girls softball returns

Registration is now open for the 2022 Browns River Little League season for boys and girls in Jericho and Underhill, aged 4-12! Register online (only) at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com.

Girls' softball is returning to Browns River Little League (BRLI) in Spring 2022. Registration is now open for girls age 9-12 (and advanced 8-year-olds following evaluation).

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY January 26, 2022 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Randall & Christal Clark to reaffirm a previous DRB approval for an approved two lot subdivision. The property is located at 83 Browns Trace which is in the Low-Density Residential Zoning District.
A request to the DRB by Peter & Vera Benes for a final plat review for a proposed two lot subdivision. This property is located at 49 Orr Road which is in the Low-Density Residential Zone District

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Additional information related to this application may be viewed at the Jericho Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours.

Chris Flinn Zoning Administrator cflinn@jerichovt.gov

OFFICIAL WARNING

ANNUAL MEETING JERICHO UNDERHILL LIBRARY DISTRICT

The legal voters of the towns of Jericho and Underhill in the County of Chittenden and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, Vermont on Thursday January 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles:

- Article 1. Election of a Moderator
Article 2. Act on the Report of Trustees
Article 3. Shall the District authorize the Trustees to borrow money for the temporary needs of the District?
Article 4. Adoption of the budget
Article 5. Other business thought proper when met

Dated at Jericho, Vermont, November 18, 2021

Sven Lindholm, Chair

[Signature]

Connell Gallagher

[Signature]

Nicole Gruet-Matthews

Sharon Lockwood

[Signature]

William McMains

[Signature]

Barbara Yerrick

[Signature]

Carolyn Greene

[Signature]

Vacant seat

Vacant seat

The Board of Trustees, Jericho Underhill Library District

SCHOOL NEWS

CES preschool screening

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2022? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program invites families with eligible preschool students to call 802-521-5613, to make an appointment for a developmental screening.

Children in the community of Cambridge/Jeffersonville who will be age 3 and 4 by September 1, 2022 are eligible. The screening will take place on Monday, January 10, 8:00 - 9:00 AM or 9:30 - 10:30 AM.

Screenings will take approximately 60 minutes. During this time parents will fill out a brief developmental questionnaire about their child while educators interact with the children to gain information about each child's development in the areas of speech and language, social/emotional, motor and cognitive.

Record year at MMCTV, and links

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Seasons' Greetings from everyone at MMCTV! The pandemic may be ongoing, but our communities continue to connect online and safely in-person on video. There's been no shortage of public meetings, many employing hybrid meeting set-ups MMCTV installed in our three towns, allowing for both in-person and online participation, with ample patience and support of town staff/boards.

In 2021, we edited/archived a record 419 videos online, including many local meetings (see MtMansfieldCtv.org).

Our most-viewed video in 2021? Jericho Town Clerk Jessica Alexander's Town Meeting preview, at https://archive.org/details/jericho-town-meeting-2021-update-clerk.

Here are links to three videos of local interest we'd like to share:

Gary Irish: History of Riverside and The Flats: https://archive.org/details/gary-irish-underhill-flats-history-12052021.

Racism in America Forum: Young and Black in Vermont: https://archive.org/details/riayoung-black-in-vt-12152021mpeg-4.

Roll for Perception: A short film by students at the Mansfield Cooperative, with a peer pressure theme: https://archive.org/details/mansfield-coop-perception-fiction-12152021.

Love our work? You can always make a donation at http://MtMansfieldCtv.org!

Letters continued from page 7

become a 2022 General Election ballot measure.

With reproductive rights on the line, we in Vermont can take a stand and say: "Our reproductive decisions are ours to make, without interference from politicians."

You can pledge to vote YES on the Reproductive Liberty Amendment at https://reprolibertyvt.org.

Rebecca Wojtecki Jericho)

Westford's proposed wastewater system

To the Editor,

I have been in Westford since 1971.

I served on the school board for five years and guided a bond issue through to expand the school. I know what it feels like to be criticized... it comes with the job. It is part of the process.

My views and cautions are based on these and many other town experiences.

I have retired and do not want to run things at the nuts and bolts level. I am leaving that to the new folks.

These convoluted plans just do not make sense to me as presented since it is not clear that a majority of the residents agree on what the future of the common should be.

My recommendations:

Pause these projects. Separate the two projects, 1705 and wastewater. Get better agreement on what the town common should be. Right now this doesn't exist.

Before any bond vote we need good solid engineering plans that can provide cost benefit analysis. We need a solid presentation to the community that can justify any additional tax burden, present or future. Right now this is not available and likely won't be available in time for a March vote.

Joseph Franz, Westford

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

How to charge an EV

By Ruth Machell Julianelle

Underhill Energy Committee Member

The Underhill Energy Committee is continuing to answer answers people have about electric vehicles. These FAQ's are not intended to be a binding, finally definitive document, but should give enough information and resource websites that a reader can get a general appreciation of facts. If a reader wants updated or detailed information, they should talk directly to dealerships and reference web sites with updated information.

How do I charge an EV?

An EV comes with a 120V charger (considered Level 1) with a standard 3 prong plug which can be plugged into a standard 120 V grounded outlet. This is the slowest method, about three times as long as a Level 2 but can be charged almost anywhere. Level 1 and Level 2 chargers use the same connector on the car.

Faster charging can be done on a 240V, 32 amp system (considered Level 2) which requires special installation at a house. A Level 2 system may take 8-12 hours to fully charge a completely depleted battery, and just a few hours after a daily commute.

Typically EV owners do not let a battery drain completely and they stop charging at 80%, which is best for the life of the battery. An owner may charge daily or a couple times a week at home. Battery capacity may reduce with increased cycles so it may be better for the battery to charge once every few days for a longer time, rather than every day for a shorter time.

Owners should check with their power company to determine if there are special rates and times for charging. Green Mountain Power offers the following EV Charging Rates:

<https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/ev-charging-rates/>

Commercial charging stations are available. There are many that are Level 2, with the same capacities as a home Level 2 station. The fastest charging systems are known as "DC fast chargers," sometimes referred to as Level 3. There is a growing network of DC fast chargers, typically along major highways, that enable you to regain 100 miles of range in about 30 minutes, depending on a number of variables such as the charge level of the battery, the max charging rate of the car, the max charging rate of the DC fast charger, the miles per kWh of the car, and the temperature. Not all EVs come with DC fast charging capability as standard.

Plug designs can vary depending on the car company, model, and type of charger. Adaptor plugs can be purchased so that a car may be able to use varying charger models.

An owner should be aware of certain restrictions on use of the charging spaces. Some charging stations begin to charge a surcharge once the battery is fully charged. An owner will have to disconnect and move the car to avoid these surcharges. There may also be fines if simply parking in a charging station without charging, even if you have parked an EV.

Comparisons:

Level 1

- payment is on electric bill
- usage is similar to running a hair dryer or a vacuum cleaner
- for every hour of charge you can drive 4 to 6 miles

Level 2

- payment is on electric bill if at home or an account or credit card if commercial
- usage is similar to running a clothes dryer at home
- for every hour of charge you can drive 18 to 25 miles

Level 3 (DC fast charger)

- payment is on an account or credit card
- for every hour of charge you can drive 150+ miles

The State of Vermont is becoming increasingly interested in providing Fast Charging stations: <https://governor.vermont.gov/press-release/governor-phil-scott-announces-new-electric-vehicle-charging-stations-be-installed?emci=ae7fa1a7-c47a-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&emdi=8b8b6d97-4180-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&ceid=7176725>

For more description of the charging experience and equipment check out these articles: EV Charging Stations: How to Find, What Type You Need, How to Pay (<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a30031153/ev-charging-guide/>); Charging 101 | Go Electric Drive - Accelerate the Good, Powered by EDTA: <https://www.goelectricdrive.org/charging-ev/charging-101/>; Alternative Fuels Data Center: Developing Infrastructure to Charge Plug-In Electric Vehicles, this site includes diagrams of plug types: https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_infrastructure.html; Department of Energy - Charging at Home: www.energy.gov/eere/electricvehicles/charging-home.

Update from Westford Common Hall

At the December Board meeting for the Westford Common Hall, we were able to move forward some important priorities regarding building maintenance and also for use of the building.

This month had an electrician come to install a secondary electrical panel. This is a particularly exciting development because it enables the Food Shelf to run its newly-donated freezer!

Learn more about our December meeting, actions, and an upcoming concert here: <https://westfordcommonhall.org/news/december-update-from-the-westford-common-hall>.

Lamoille Fibernet CUD receives \$1.2 million DPS grant

By Val Davis Executive Director, Lamoille FiberNet CUD

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) was recently awarded a grant by the Vermont Department of Public Service through the Vermont Community Broadband Board. Lamoille FiberNet is one of nine CUDs across Vermont working to bring high speed, synchronous fiber internet connections to Vermont's communities. Lamoille FiberNet CUD serves Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morrisville, Stowe, Waterville, and Wolcott, and is in negotiations to add Elmore and Waterbury to their district.

The grant, which covers costs associated with pre-construction and capacity, was for \$1,193,885. Val Davis, executive director of Lamoille FiberNet, said, "These funds will go a long way in allowing us to file the necessary applications and complete pre-construction planning and engineering as we are planning to break ground during our first construction season beginning in Summer 2022." Costs covered include a pole study and pole applications, which are required to be able to attach fiber to the utility poles in LFCUD's service area.

Lamoille FiberNet CUD is partnering with North West CUD to bring economies of scale to their work. The two CUDs have entered into a memorandum of understanding and are working together as they negotiate with ISPs (Internet Service Providers) and a construction partner to complete the fiber build out.

More information is available at <http://www.lamoillefiber.net>.

Group asking Gov. Scott to act on PFAS

Vermont PFAS/Military Poisons Coalition

As reported by *Seven Days* (Volunteer Group Finds PFAS in Water Samples From Winooski River) and *VT Digger* (Volunteers find PFAS in second location near National Guard base), the Vermont PFAS/Military Poisons Coalition has been conducting citizen science testing of PFAS in various locations in Vermont. Since its inception more than a year ago, the all-volunteer coalition has been working to educate the public about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), more commonly known as "forever chemicals," and to mobilize grassroots, intersectional advocacy to demand public and environmental health action on PFAS chemicals.

While it was encouraging that Vermont passed Senate Bill 20 (an act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in some consumer products) last year, so much more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by PFAS in our environment. The poisoning of our air, water, and soil must not be allowed to continue and time is of the essence. Even at very low concentrations (parts per trillion), PFAS undermines our immune systems and causes serious health effects. Remediation of these chemicals from the environment is far too expensive and difficult a task (if not impossible). The far cheaper and far more effective alternative is to prevent their release into our air, water, and soil in the first place.

Like Governor Whitmer of Michigan (October 27, 2021), we call upon Governor Phil Scott to issue and sign an Executive Directive limiting state purchases of products containing PFAS. Governor Scott can easily take this action on behalf of our environment without having to go through the Legislature. Now that the health and environmental dangers of PFAS contamination are being studied and reported on every day, the floodgates of PFAS litigation have been opened. At present, manufacturers are the primary targets for lawsuits, but municipal and state governments and quasi-governmental bodies (like solid waste districts) are increasingly at risk of being sued.

We need our state government officials and offices to act more quickly since the legislative process at the state and national level is so slow. Through such an Executive Directive, Governor Scott can require the State of Vermont to procure PFAS-free products whenever possible, a critical step toward using the state's purchasing power to pressure businesses to stop using PFAS and toward smarter, safer alternatives. Vermont needs to lead with science, work to keep families safe, and protect people (and its employees) from toxic contaminants.

Please contact Governor Scott at <https://vermont.force.com/vermontce/s/governor-office-ce> or 802-828-3333 and ask him to issue an executive directive immediately to limit state purchases of products containing PFAS. Wouldn't this be a great way to start the New Year in Vermont?

(Vermont PFAS/Military Poisons Coalition includes Vermont Environmental Advocates, Lake Champlain International, Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Water-Wise Vermont, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Burlington, WILPF US Earth Democracy Committee, Vermont Traditions Coalition, Marguerite Adelman, Sylvia Knight, Nancy Price, Henry Coe, Pam Ladds, James Ehlers, Kai Mikkil Forlie, Karl Novak, Jane Hendley, Teresa Gerade, Nancy Wright, Nancy Rice, and Robert Ackland)

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The Youth Commission, a program of Young Tradition Vermont, will be the featured artist for the Westford Music on Series Sunday, January 9, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. the White Church). These high school musicians play and sing in traditional style. Each year a teen is selected during an annual competitive youth festival. The winner goes on to create a small ensemble of four or five members who arrange a program of original compositions with a mentor/master artist of their choosing, then perform together for a year at various festivals and events throughout Vermont. This year's commissioned artist is Hadley Stockwell of Charlotte, a junior at CVU High School. She has been playing fiddle for nine years and trumpet for six. Joining her in the ensemble are Ben Munkres of Cornwall, Maeve Fairfax of Burlington, and Winslow Solomon of Richmond. A rare chance to see budding new talent and developing professionals in the world of excellence in the arts! For more information call Mike Kirick, 802-363-0930.

Music Beyond Borders chamber music at Spruce Peak January 16: In this inspiring and intimate evening, enjoy timeless works from across the globe by Schumann, Shaw, Piazzolla, and Beach, performed by a fabulous classical quartet. Sunday, January 16, 7:00 PM at the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. For more information or for tickets, go online to <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/events/spruce-peak-chamber-music-society-music-beyond-borders/>.

Unbound and Bradley Borthwick: Objects of Empire will be at the BCA Center, Burlington, Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM through February 5, 2022. Come explore our fall exhibitions! *Unbound* features the work of three New England artists — Rachel Gross, Rob Hitzig, and Kirsten Reynolds — who explore contemporary approaches to abstraction through their use of geometric, shaped forms that push outside the boundaries of the common rectangle. *Bradley Borthwick: Objects of Empire* examines the shared cycles of civilization, combining exquisitely hand-carved marble and cast beeswax reproductions of headstones and amphora with a rhythmic soundscape to create an experiential exploration of memory, place, history, and cultural connection. BCA Exhibitions are funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and Vermont Arts Council.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce the return of MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, through May 2022. For this festival, MNFF Selects presents *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*. The series illuminates the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. Passes: \$105 to cover all films; individual

tickets \$16 (under 12, \$7); can be purchased at www.midfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. COVID-19 protocol: All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated; and all attendees, including children under 12, must wear masks while inside the theater.

Upcoming films in the Series:

From The Wild Sea [PG] Sunday, January 16, 2:00 PM. Directed by Robin Petré, this stunning and poetic documentary portrays the heroic efforts of a network of marine wildlife rescue volunteers who work tirelessly to save sea animals from oil, plastic and escalating winter storms. In depicting the complex collision between humans and nature, the film deftly oscillates between the perspectives of humans and animals.

Duma [PG] Sunday, February 20, 2:00 PM. In this drama directed by Carroll Ballard, an orphaned cheetah becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film and inspired by a true story, *Duma* offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassion in a beautiful and grand landscape.

Buck [PG] Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM. Directed by Cindy Meehl; winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, *Buck* is a revealing examination of the life of acclaimed "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people.

Grizzly Man [R] Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM. Director Werner Herzog delivers a heartrending docudrama that centers on amateur grizzly bear expert Timothy Treadwell, who periodically journeyed to Alaska to study and live with the bears. He was killed, along with his girlfriend Amie Huguenard, by a bear in October 2003. Winner of the 2006 Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary, *Grizzly Man* is an epic tale of the profound and fraught relationship between a man and the animals he dared to befriend.

The Rider [R] Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM. The highly acclaimed second feature from Oscar-winning director Chloe Zhao tells the poignant story of a young rodeo cowboy who, after suffering a near fatal head injury, begins a search for new identity, seeking to know what it means to be a man in the heartland of America. Focusing on life in the indigenous community of the Pine Ridge reservation, Zhao offers a penetrating vision of masculinity and humility set in a world where humans and animals intimately co-exist.

For more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: <http://www.midfilmfest.org>.

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