



Stevensville Cabin restoration update and workshop April 6



In 2017 Sara Lourie purchased the cabin, pictured above, near the Nebraska Notch trailhead at the end of Stevensville Road in Underhill, and set out to restore the historic building. Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber, pictured left at work, will demonstrate traditional building and restoration techniques on one of the last frontier-era log cabins in Vermont, at his workshop in Huntington on Sunday, April 6, 1:00 – 3:30 PM. The workshop is open to the public; please register at stevensville.cabin.info@gmail.com.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Miles Jenness (Vermont Heavy Timber) will demonstrate traditional building and restoration techniques on one of the last frontier-era log cabins in Vermont, at his workshop in Huntington on Sunday, April 6, 1:00 – 3:30 PM.

In 2017 Sara Lourie purchased the cabin near the Nebraska Notch trailhead at the end of Stevensville Road in Underhill. Although it was dilapidated and slated to be torn down, she set out on a project to restore the historic building. Seeking advice from Devin Colman (Vermont State Architectural Historian) and historical building restoration specialists, it became clear that the only way to save it was to take it down.

Jenness, who specializes in historical log construction, was the one to do this — carefully labelling each of the logs and noting how the cabin was put together — and is now starting to put it back together, from the ground up. In the fall of 2024

Dave Okalita, a restoration mason, rebuilt the foundation. The neighbors donated logs, and students from the Forestry Program at the Essex Center for Technology processed them and cut and processed additional logs from the Essex Tree Farm. Since then, Jenness has been repairing the logs, and hewing new ones where necessary, in his workshop in Huntington. Now he is ready to share his journey so far. He will be joined in speaking about the project by Sara Lourie.

The workshop is open to the public, but please register in advance by emailing Sara at stevensville.cabin.info@gmail.com as space is limited. In lieu of a fee for the workshop, donations towards this project to save an important piece of Vermont's history are appreciated.

For more information see: www.stevensville-cabin.org.

Cambridge Recycle news

By Jackie Battoe, Cambridge

With spring on our doorsteps we are looking forward to another year at the "Mall." This is also a time of the year our faithful volunteers take a break after winter. For those of you who know us, Cheryl is on vacation until May, Jamie is gone for a week, and others have commitments. Our hours will be shortened temporarily. We will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please visit us during these hours. We will announce when hours are extended again.

We ask that all people donating get approval on their items. When folks just drop off items without approval we are often left to pay for their disposal and we are on a limited budget based on donations and bottles and cans.

We are also committed to the over a 16-year legacy of the "Mall." We would like to increase our pool of volunteers. It is time to add recyclers of all ages who are interested in volunteering. We want to continue our mission to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. We are trying to assist our customers to fight inflation by offering household items. Please consider offering some time to assist us and donating reusable items.

All are welcome to take a walk through the "Mall" and say, "hello."

Black bear abundant in Vermont

Vermont's most reclusive big-game animal is remarkably abundant. Black bears inhabit most of the state, other than the Champlain Islands. Vermont has one of the densest black bear populations in the country, approximately one bear for every three square miles, most commonly found in the Green Mountains and Northeast Kingdom (but can be almost anywhere — Editor). VT Fish and Wildlife has advice about living with bears, online at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/press-releases/composting-bears-mind>.

PHOTO FROM VT FISH AND WILDLIFE



Cambridge town-wide reappraisal, VT Rts. 15W, 104

By Dale Copping, Cambridge Lister

Beginning April 1, Jordan Matte of Vermont Appraisal Company will start assessing residential properties located on VT Rt. 15 West from the roundabout and VT Rt. 104 and side roads. Jordan will be in the area from 9:00 AM to approximately 2:00 PM daily until complete.

We will try to schedule times with property owners. If you have not provided contact information it would be helpful if you responded to listeners@cambridgevt.org or call 802-644-2251 ext. 3. Our office hours are 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Monday-Wednesday.

For those that do not provide contact information, Jordan will stop and measure and photograph the exterior of your home and ask for permission to inspect the interior.

Green Up Day is only four weeks away

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3, and all in Jericho are welcome to a Green Up Day Breakfast at the Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center, from 8:30 – 10:00 AM.

Volunteers are needed to join the planning team, help set up the day before (Friday, May 2 time TBD), and to help clean up on Saturday, May 3, 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Please reply to Jen, jen.lawson1972@gmail.com, or to ccjvermont@gmail.com if you can help!

Mud season in Bolton

By Brian Roberge, Bolton Town Administrator

It seems like we may be experiencing our first taste of mud season (March 17) here in the next few days. Please be mindful that in Vermont mud season makes road conditions vary with the day, and often times they can be safe one day and treacherous the next. Please travel with this in mind and use caution, drive attentively, and with your safety and others' in mind.

Our road crew are monitoring conditions and responding to them as best as they can.

To help us, please share mud season road condition updates with the Town Administrator at townadmin@boltonvt.com with a date, time, and rough location/photo to help us keep pace with the possibility of some muddy dirt roads.

Cambridge Historical Society March oral history talk: Gert Gonyo

By Peter Opstrup, Cambridge

An oral history with Gert Gonyo, who spent her summers in the 1940s and '50s as a young girl with her aunt and uncle, Gertrude and Robert Burns. They operated a family farm at the top of Cady Hill Road in Cambridge. Gert talks about her experiences there and what it was like living at the self-sufficient farm, which had minimal modern amenities.

The video of this program is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8ey6OKBqCU>.

CAR Bunco April 12 at the CCC and Silent Auction

By Sam Lotto, Jeffersonville

The Cambridge Area Rotary (CAR) is once again hosting the world famous — locally loved — Bunco Fundraiser at the Cambridge Community Center on Saturday, April 12.

Part of the offerings at the Bunco fundraiser is they silent auction, which helps raise funds for all the community services and activities Rotary supports.

Want to donate to Bunco's silent auction? We love that our local merchants and a few of our Rotary friends donate items for our silent auction.

For Bunco details and ticket purchase, go online to <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4785/page/bunco>.

If you would like to share something with us, please contact Sam Lotto, 802-793-0856 or alotto@ublocal.com.

We appreciate all the support we receive!

Jeffersonville Church Spring Sale May 24

By Melody Tobin, Jeffersonville

On Saturday, May 24, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, the Jeff Church (16 Church St., Jeffersonville) will hold our annual Spring Sale. We are now accepting items. We can take a limited amount of clothes depending on the size. But please, no computer equipment, ski or winter ware, helmets, electronics, large furniture, or textbooks.

Call Becky at 802-644-8827 or Melody at 802-644-2409 to make arrangements for pick up or drop off.

Thanks so much for donating to this worthy cause. This town has always been so generous with their giving!

Notes from the Town of Jericho

Neighbors: In March we featured Jericho Development Review Board member Justin Willis. Read more online at <https://jerichovt.org/Celebrating-Each-Other>.

Planning Commission: The PC continues work on drafting zoning changes to enable growth in our village areas and to make it easier to add housing in our community, whether that's building new, adding on, or making room inside existing buildings. Chris Shaheen, new Town Planner for only six months, is making a real impact! Chris is directing the PC's efforts to modernize Jericho's land use regulations and prepare for new state laws and funding opportunities. Later this spring, the PC will be ready to share our work with the public for feedback, before we forward recommendations to the Selectboard this summer.

Town Hall Art Project: Call to Artists: Fur, Feathers and Fins - Whether domesticated, wild or fantastical, established and emerging artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography that captures their interest in any form of fur, feathers and fins. Get details and registration materials online at <https://jerichovt.org/town-hall-art-project>.

SUMMER CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

SUMMER 2025
**DAVIS MEADOW RIDES
HORSE CAMP**

Week 1
Ages 6 - 9
June 23-27
8 am-12 pm

Week 2
Ages 10 and up
July 7 - 11
8 am-12 pm

Week 3
Ages 6 - 9
July 28 - August 1
8 am-12 pm

ACTIVITIES

- Riding
- Anatomy
- How to care for horses
- Horse painting
- Horse bathing
- Crafts
- Other fun horse-related activities

No riding experience required

dvselea@gmail.com,
(802)923-0369, or visit
DavisMeadowRides.com
for more information, pricing,
and registration
52 CILLEY HILL RD
JERICHO



Davis Meadow Rides Horse Camp is for kids ages 6-9 and 10+ who love horses and want to ride and learn about them and enjoy horse-related activities — riding, anatomy, caring for horses, horse painting, horse bathing, crafts, and other fun activities. There are three Monday-Friday camp sessions: June 23-27 (ages 6-9), July 7-11 (ages 10 and up), and July 28-August 1 (ages 6-9). The camp is located on Cilley Hill Rd., Jericho. To learn more and to register, go online to <https://davismeadowrides.com/> or contact 802-923-0369 or dvselea@gmail.com. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Online VT summer camp finder — Now is the time to research summer camp opportunities for kids! VT DCF has a great partnership with Vermont State Parks — go online to <https://campfindervt.com/> to learn more about camp opportunities across the state for kids! Is a Day Camp best for your kids? Sleepaway camp? Special themes? Find out more by following the link and have a GREAT summer!

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration is open — If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife (VT F&W) Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer. The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques,

swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities. Conservation Camps open June 22 and continue until August 22. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment, and financial assistance is available. Information and registration are available at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>. For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call 802-522-2925.

Chittenden County Soccer School 2025 — Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2025, to be held Monday-Friday, July 14-18, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. There are half- and full-day camp options; age groups range from 5 to 16+!

All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the “love of the game” to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

Please email Eric Barker of Underhill, barkereric15@gmail.com with any questions, or visit our website at <http://chittendencountysoccerschool.org>.

Saxon Hill School summer camp — Registration is open for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho. Weekly camps at Saxon Hill provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. The camps engage children ages 3-6 with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure, counselors will aim to focus each week on children's interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open! Camps run weekly from June 16-August 22, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

Summer Fairy Camp, Underhill — Registration for Poker Hill Arts summer Fairy Camps is open. These usually fill fast — find information, pictures, videos, and dates at our website <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/magical-fairy-camp>.

Poker Hill Children's Theatre may still have openings for the week of July 28-August 1. This musical theatre camp located in Underhill is for students entering second grade through fifth grade. If your child loves singing, dancing, arts and crafts, and water time, this is the camp for them! Here is the link for more information and to register: <https://bit.ly/410wT5j>.

Canciones y Cuentos: Kids Spanish Camp — Sing songs, read stories, play games, make art, and move your body! All levels, ages 4-9 at the Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. The session will run Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM July 28-31; \$275 for the four-day session, or sign up two kids for \$500. Contact Christie Moulton, christiemoulton@gmail.com, to register. Campers should come with a water bottle, morning snack, and lunch.

The lineup of Burlington City Arts' (BCA's) 2025 summer camps is live online at <https://bit.ly/4fZmACP>. At BCA's award-winning camps, students work closely with professional teaching artists for a full week of in-depth studio arts experience. Every camp includes high-quality art materials and a final celebration. Come for a half-day, or pair a morning and afternoon camp together at BCA Studios to make a full-day experience. Camps at the BCA Center run for the full day. Registration for all classes is open and class waitlists are active. Browse the digital guide online at https://issuu.com/btvcityarts/docs/bca_summertime_catalog_2025_mech_single-pages.

Retribe's 2025 Summer Camps — Registration is open for ReTribe summer camps in Underhill. We invite teens to embark on a Rite of Passage at one or both of our teen retreats:

Adventure Game Theater: Ages 12-19. July 3-12. Transform through a live action adventure. Become a hero, a rogue, a sorcerer. Face death and protect life as you fight with foam swords and magic. Does your teen love D&D, fantasy series, or improv? This retreat is for them! Sign up at www.retribe.org/adventure-game-theater.

Inner Journeys: Ages 14-19. July 20-August 3. Being a teenager can be overwhelming. During this two-week retreat we'll engage with practices to help us find our center, connect with peers, and feel at peace among the forest and streams. Discover more of yourself using transformative practices including Breathwork, a wilderness solo, shamanic journeying, and meditation. Sign up at www.retribe.org/inner-journeys.

Retribe also offers Day Camps for ages 5-12, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Choose among seven weeks. Is your kid ready to unleash their wild side venturing on quests, playing games, and practicing earth skills this Summer? Check out our youth camp options at www.retribe.org/day-camp.

Questions? Reach out to Julia Martin at ReTribeTransformation@gmail.com or 609-933-0877.

Water Wanderings offers summer camps for everyone from infant to adult with camps for youth, teens, young adults, and families. It's a great way to get outside, learn, and play. Campers sleep in tents, build fires, canoe, and learn through doing with our curriculum that explores creativity, sustainability, equity, ecology, and outdoors skills. 2025 camps are as follows:

- Youth, ages 9-12: Monday July 7-Friday, July 11 (four nights);
- Teens, ages 13-15: Monday, July 14-Monday, July 21 (seven nights);
- Young Adults, ages 16-18: Wednesday, July 23-Wednesday, July 30 (seven nights);
- Grandparents Day: July 31;
- Family Camp I: Monday, August 4-Wednesday, August 6 (two nights) For families with kids ages 1-7.

Our Family Camp II: Thursday, August 7-Saturday, August 9 (two nights) is full.

All camps happen on the Green River Reservoir in Hyde Park and have a maximum group size of 12. The youth and teen camps have three counselors and nine campers while the young adult camp and the family camps have two counselors and ten campers. For more information (including sliding scale cost), go online to <https://www.waterwanderings.org/register.html>.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho. Most Sundays, Calvary worships at 9:30 AM at the Jericho church; Sunday, April 27, worship will be held at St. James, Essex, 10:00 AM. The next Soup/Supper (held the last Thursday of the month) will be April 24, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it!

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

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

Jericho Congregational Church

“An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message”

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT
Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson
Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages

Fellowship time at 9:30 AM

Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery care provided

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

St. Thomas Catholic Church

“Worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass”

On Green Street in Underhill Center

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Domenico Pizzonia; Deacon: Peter Brooks

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

Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras, 802-899-4632

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

Waterville Union Church

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

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

5¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF GASOLINE

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GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE

COFFEE 12 OZ.

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

4-H NEWS

Chittenden County 4-H hosts Invitational Horse Quiz Bowl

4-H'ers from four counties met on the University of Vermont (UVM) campus in Burlington, VT on Friday, March 14 for the 2025 Chittenden County Invitational 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl. The annual competition, hosted by Chittenden County 4-H, attracted 18 participants from Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, and Washington counties. It consisted of several buzzer rounds with different questions for each age group.

These covered a diverse range of topics including horse breeds, gaits, feeds and nutrition, anatomy, equine diseases, famous horses, and the Vermont 4-H horse program. Points were awarded to the first competitor to buzz in with the correct answer.

Results were as follows:

- 8- and 9-year-olds: Fiona Adams, Milton (first); Avery Halverson, Georgia (second);
- 10- and 11-year-olds: Saige Prisco, Milton (first); Nora Kidder, Cambridge (second); Avery Minor, Fairfax (third); Ian Kascha-Hare, Milton (fourth); Grace Peterson, Essex (fifth); Catherine Baker, Milton (sixth);
- 12- to 18-year-olds: Jane Curry, Burlington (first); Emma Babyak (second) and Claire Romano (third), both from Fairfax; Kinzi Grindle, St. Albans (fourth); Josie Kascha-Hare, Milton (fifth); Hallee Dixon, Colchester (sixth); Elizabeth Stinton, Northfield (seventh); Aubri Richards, Fairfax (eighth); Lily Key, Hinesburg (ninth); Maeve LaBossiere, Westford (tenth).

Mary Fay, Westford, organized the competition, which also provided valuable practice for participants planning to enter the annual State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Saturday, April 12 in Rutland. She was assisted by Martha Blades, Jericho, who served as registrar and scorekeeper. Moderators were Amanda Gifford and Mikayla Tobey, both from Fairfax; Jaimie Grindle,

St. Albans; and Martha Manning, UVM Extension 4-H educator for Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

To learn more about the Vermont 4-H horse program, contact the State 4-H Extension office at 802-656-7630 or 800-571-0668 (toll-free in Vermont).



The 2025 Chittenden County Invitational 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, Friday, March 14 at UVM, Burlington, attracted 10 competitors, ages 12-18. They were (front, from left): Jane Curry, Burlington; Emma Babyak and Claire Romano, both from Fairfax; Kinzi Grindle, St. Albans; and Josie Kascha-Hare, Milton; (back) Hallee Dixon, Colchester; Elizabeth Stinton, Northfield; Aubri Richards, Fairfax; Lily Key, Hinesburg; Maeve LaBossiere, Westford.



Competing in the 10- and 11-year-old age group at the 2025 Chittenden County Invitational 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, held Friday, March 14 on the University of Vermont campus in Burlington, were (front, from left): Saige Prisco, Milton; Nora Kidder, Cambridge; and Avery Minor, Fairfax; (back) Ian Kascha-Hare, Milton; Grace Peterson, Essex; and Catherine Baker, Milton.
PHOTOS BY MARY FAY

COMING EVENTS

Easter week services and events

Holy Week morning devotions — During the weekdays of Holy Week (Monday-Friday, April 14-18), the churches in Essex, Jericho, and Underhill will again join together for a time of centering and nourishment. All are welcome to gather each day at 6:45 am for a 15-minute devotion (scripture, song, and reflection led by area clergy) followed by a time of refreshment (yes, that includes coffee). There will also be a parallel children's devotion (target age PreK-elementary) offered each day at the same time. On Friday, the children will join the group in the sanctuary, leading the morning devotion. Whether you're deeply familiar with the old, old story or curious to hear it for the first time, you are most welcome to join in the journey. All devotions will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

Annual Ecumenical Good Friday Walk — Area churches will again gather for a Good Friday Walk on Friday, April 18, 12:30 – 3:30 PM. All are welcome to join the pilgrim procession as we recall Christ's suffering and death in contemplation and connection with our neighbors. Clergy from several congregations will lead brief reflections along the way, this year drawing from the text of Psalm 22. The walk begins at St. Thomas Church, Green St., Underhill Center and proceeds down River Road and into Underhill Flats, stopping at the covered bridge, the United Church of Underhill, Calvary Episcopal, and concluding at Catalyst on Raceway. In order to leave room at St. Thomas' parking lot for their 3:00 PM mass, please arrange to be dropped off at the church, or carpool and use the lot at Moore Park. Thank you in advance to all the drivers who will proceed with extra vigilance as the group makes its way from Underhill Center to Raceway on April 18.

Calvary Episcopal Church Holy Week and Easter schedule: Palm Sunday (April 13) 9:30 AM; Ecumenical Holy Week Devotions (Monday-Friday, April 14-18), held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 6:45 – 7:15 AM; Maundy Thursday (April 17) dinner, 5:15 PM, and service, 6:15 PM at St. James in Essex Junction; Good Friday (April 18) Stations of the Cross at St. James, 12:00 PM; Ecumenical Good Friday Walk (April 18) leaves from St. Thomas Catholic Church at 12:30 PM; Easter worship with Communion (Sunday, April 20) at 8:30 AM. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453.

Jericho Congregational Church, on the Green in Jericho Center — Palm Sunday Service, April 13, 10:00 AM; Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, 7:00 PM; Easter Sunday Service, April 20, 10:00 AM. 802-899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org.

The United Church of Fairfax Easter Services: Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 20, 6:00 AM, Bellows Farm, 1408 Main St., Fairfax (VT Rt. 104 northbound, Brick Farmhouse on the left just before VT Rt. 104A). Please join us as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. This is a rain, shine, or snow event, so please dress appropriately! Questions? Please contact ucffairfaxvt@gmail.com. Easter Service, Sunday, April 20, 10:00 AM, 8 Fletcher Rd., Fairfax VT. Please join us as we come together with hopeful hearts and a renewed faith as we remember what the resurrection of Jesus represents. Questions? Please contact ucffairfaxvt@gmail.com.

Good Shepherd reschedules Valentines Day Brunch — April 6

It was unfortunate that the worst storm of the year happened to blow through at the exact same time as our annual brunch. Thankfully, we were able to reschedule the event!

Please join People Helping People Global (PHPG) for our Spring Brunch and Silent Auction at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM on Sunday, April 6. The event is open to any and all people!

Also, we are thrilled to have the talented Smokey Newfield Project joining us! They are an outstanding group of musicians and should not be missed!

Tickets may be purchased in advance by using this link: <http://phpgmicrolending.org/valentinesday> and will also be available at the door: adults \$20, kids and students \$5, kids under 3 free. Family tickets are \$50.

All proceeds from this event go directly toward PHPG's economic development projects in Central America. PHPG will issue microloans to families in the Granada region of Nicaragua with the money we raise. Your attendance and support are greatly appreciated!

Ongoing Events

It Takes a Village Women's Circle meets on the last Tuesday of the month (April 28), 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Waterville Town Hall, 544 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. Pot-luck — so if you can please bring something to share; if not, whatever the reason, just bring yourself! Also bring a journal and pen. Donation based; suggested donation \$5 goes to the upkeep of the Waterville Town Hall. But all are welcome, always! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1071704021631117?ref=newsfeed>

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

Burlington Literature Group — a weekly virtual book group that meets weekly, Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, on Zoom. We welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group has been in existence for years meeting in a physical space but, since the pandemic, has changed to online Zoom sessions. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60 to 100 pages, discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com. Our next book is Thomas Pynchon's postmodern epic *Gravity's Rainbow*. Here's the schedule: March 25: Beginning through Chapter 1 "with a look that says try to tickle me."; April 1: Chapter 1 "TDY Abreaction Ward" through Chapter 1 "would you say the next one will fall?"; April 8: Chapter 1 "The very first touch." through end of Chapter 1; April 15: Chapter 2 through Chapter 2 "But perhaps, in the hours just before dawn..."; April 22: Chapter 2 "The great cusp -" through end of Chapter 2; April 29: Chapter 3 through Chapter 3 "That's where I broke through the speed of sound..."; May 6: Chapter 3 "The Zone is in full summer" through Chapter 3 "They both start cackling insanely there, under the tree."; May 13: Chapter 3 "Slothrop comes to in episodes" through Chapter 3 "and the dogs run barking in the backstreets."; May 20: Chapter 3 "Bye Bye Schaper, Outreach and Education Coordinator, URSWMD Board" through Chapter 3 "orchestra plays *Tristram Shandy*."; May 27: Chapter 3 "They come out into the last of the night"; June 3: Chapter 3 "Safe passage through a bad night..."; June 10: Chapter 3 "The Schwarzkommando have got to Achtfaden" through end of Chapter 3; June 17: Chapter 4 through Chapter 4 "There are things to hold on to..."; June 24: Chapter 4 "You will want cause and effect." through Chapter 4 "just at the other side of dawning, you can see a smile."; June 24: Chapter 4 "In her pack, Geli Tripping" to End.

Mountainsong Community Chorus — Thursdays. 6:30 – 8:00 PM, at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). If you love to sing, come join Mountainsong, a volunteer-run community singing group which harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings. Whether you learn by ear or read music, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a "great" singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing. We have almost no performances, except maybe to sing a few songs for a local assisted living facility and one short event

Coming events continued on page 5

Join the Jericho Underhill Land Trust for a **Spring Wildflower Walk** at Mills Riverside Park May 3, 2025 10am-12pm

Join Michele Tulis for her Annual Wildflower Walk and talk about the spring ephemerals, their medicinal uses, origins of their names, and strategies for survival. We will walk 1 to 2 miles, slowly.

Everyone is invited, all ages. Meet at the parking area. Stay as long as you wish. We look forward to seeing you there!

See flowers like these!

A NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM BY BESS O'BRIEN

JUST GETTING BY

Vermonters struggling with food and housing insecurity.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

FREE SHOWING | AFTER-SHOW Q&A WITH FILMMAKER BESS O'BRIEN
APRIL 14, 7 PM | MMUUF BARN | RTE 15 JERICHO

Brought to you by:
Jericho Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
Jericho Underhill Food Hub
Jericho Affordable Housing Committee

We are committed to providing accessible options for all guests, including those with disabilities. The barn is wheelchair-accessible. If you require other special accommodations, please let us know by emailing DCD@uic.jerichovt.gov or calling (802) 899-9979 x 101.

Just Getting By — The Jericho Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, in partnership with the Jericho Affordable Housing Committee and the Jericho Underhill Food Hub, will present a free screening of Bess O'Brien's recent documentary on food and housing insecurity in Vermont on Monday, April 14, 7:00 PM at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Meeting House (the Barn) on VT Rt. 15. O'Brien will lead a question-and-answer session with community members after the movie.
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MAKING SWEET MEMORIES SINCE 1986

Handmade in Vermont

Blue Mall, So. Burlington • 802-863-8306
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The Mountain Gazette
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One letter per writer, per calendar month.
Must be signed for attribution with writers address and phone number. Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net

HEALTH NEWS

35TH ANNIVERSARY

Jiggety Jog

5K RUN • WALK

To benefit the
McClure Miller Respite House

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, May 31, 2025

Malletts Bay School
609 Blakely Road Colchester, Vermont

8 am Registration | 9 am Run/Walk

Register Today!



Join us in participating in the 35th annual Jiggety Jog 5K, presented by NorthCountry Federal Credit Union. Every dollar raised ensures compassionate, high-quality care is available to our community at the McClure Miller Respite House.

2025 Healthy Lamoille Valley biennial surveys

From Healthy Lamoille Valley

It's time for Healthy Lamoille Valley's biennial community and parent surveys! An opportunity to help create a safe and supportive place for youth.

Be eligible to win! This year our raffle prizes are your choice of a \$50 gift certificate for your favorite Lamoille Valley pizza or a Vermont family state park season pass, car pass, or state park equivalent worth up to \$90. Complete at least one of our surveys to be entered to win one of four prizes. Drawing on Thursday, May 1.

Take the Healthy Lamoille Valley Community and Parent Surveys — <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/surveys-2025/>.

Realiza la Encuesta de Healthy Lamoille Valley para la Comunidad y Padres — <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/encuestas-2025/>

These surveys provide valuable information about underage substance use issues in our community and what can be done to help. Who can use the results of these surveys? You can! Survey findings will be available on the Healthy Lamoille Valley website starting in mid-May. Results can be used to understand issues around underage substance use in your community and see what areas need work like increasing awareness of health risks or finding new ways to support and value youth.

The Healthy Relationships Project

The Healthy Relationships Project is offering several important online trainings this spring focused on child safety and prevention. These trainings offered by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT, www.pcavt.org) are open to everyone — parents, caregivers, educators, and anyone who cares about protecting children. These interactive trainings offer practical skills and knowledge. Continuing Education Credits are available for various Vermont professionals.

- Thursday, April 3: *Keeping Adolescent Youth Safe on the Internet*. Understand digital risks and how to protect teens online.
- Thursday, April 17: *Brain Development and Learning Consent during Childhood*. Discover how to teach empathy and consent from a young age.
- Thursday, April 24: *TECHNICOOOL: Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet*. Learn how to navigate digital risks for younger children.
- Monday, April 28: *Everything Everyone Needs to Know to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*.

Learn more and register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/pcavt-19838347108>. For more information about PCAVT: www.pcavt.org.

Let's work together to create safer communities for our children. Please share with anyone who may be interested.

Colorectal cancer screening can save your life

From the Vermont Department of Health

If you're 45 years or older, getting checked for Colorectal Cancer regularly is important. Colon cancer often doesn't show any symptoms, but screening can find growths in your colon before they turn into cancer.

All health insurance plans in Vermont now cover colorectal cancer screening. Talk to your health care provider and learn more: <https://www.HealthVermont.gov/cancer-screening>.

(I know that a colonoscopy is not the most enjoyable experience in life, but I once lost an elder friend whose colon cancer was stage 4 when it began causing symptoms and was found. Likely my friend had never been screened. Better a brief bit of unpleasantness than to lose years of life. Just my opinion — Editor)

Strep throat

Parents have been asking me some painful questions about strep throats and why we need to treat them with antibiotics. Well, I don't want this condition to be sorely missed by anyone so I shall share some important information.

Strep throat, though unusual to see in children less than two years of age, is one of the most common childhood illnesses. When recognized and treated early, strep throat rarely causes a problem.

However, when missed strep throat can cause a type of life-threatening shock, result in kidney disease, or progress to something several weeks after the sore throat that we call rheumatic fever. This is a serious form of heart disease that can also affect the joints, skin, and even neurologic system. Preventing these complications is why we treat all cases of strep throat with antibiotics.

When does a sore throat need medical attention?

A sore throat caused by a virus usually occurs in association with other viral symptoms like a runny nose, cough, hoarseness, red or runny eyes, and/or diarrhea.

Strep throat on the other hand usually may just involve the throat, which will look red with white patches in the back, swollen glands on the sides of the neck, and enlarged tonsils also covered with white patches. There may also be fever, headache, rash, and/or belly pain.

If you have any suspicion that your child's sore throat might be due to the strep bacteria, please have their throat tested for strep. If the test is positive, begin treatment with an antibiotic, usually a type of penicillin.

Your child with strep is contagious until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and until there has been no fever for at least 12 hours. Please keep this in mind when it comes to deciding whether to take your child to their health care professional or send them back to school.

A full course of antibiotics is still required — for ten days, even if your child is no longer contagious with strep — to ensure its eradication.

Can strep throat be prevented?

There is no vaccine for strep throat. And even if you have it once, you can get it again.

You can reduce the chances of your child being infected by having children not share their food, drinks, or towels with other family or friends, and to sneeze or cough into their elbow and not their hands.

Handwashing, of course, is a great way to minimize the spread of this bacteria.

Hopefully, tips like these will be easy ones to swallow when it comes to knowing the importance of recognizing and then treating strep throat.

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

Howard Center news, announcements

Join us for Perspectives 2025: Confronting Stigma, Cultivating Compassion on Tuesday, May 13 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, South Burlington. Featured speakers include Alexandra Collins, Ph.D.; Ashley C. Ford; Anne Lamott; and Damon Tweedy, M.D. Learn more and register at <http://howardcenter.org/conference>. Sponsorship opportunities available. Questions? Contact conference@howardcenter.org or 802-488-6912.

At Howard Center, we are proud to support individuals with developmental disabilities by offering a full range of support services to children, adults, and families. Our programs help individuals become involved in their community, build social connections, maintain employment, and live as independently as possible. We believe that communities are enriched, too, when individuals are given opportunities for inclusion, independence, and self-determination. Learn more about our developmental disability services and all the ways we help in this short film: <http://youtu.be/xWvldgIgljI>.

Check out the latest essay in our Community Perspectives series, written by retired Howard Center Chief Client Services Officer Catherine Simonson. She reflects on the urgent need to address Vermont's growing mental health and substance use challenges — and why investing in the behavioral health workforce is key to meeting these needs. Read it here: <http://howardcenter.org/commentary>.

Howard Center helps people and communities by providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs. For services, call 802-488-6000.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

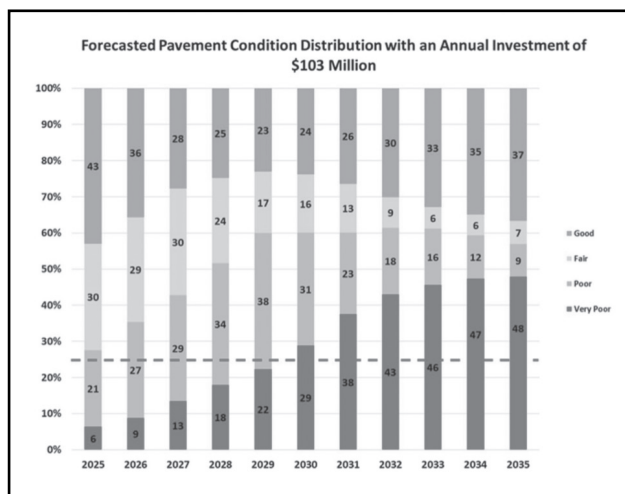
From the State Senate — transportation funding

By Rich Westman, Lamoille Senate District

rawestman@gmail.com
March 15

Town meeting week is always a good time to reflect as we take a break before we head into the second half of the legislative session. What did I learn from the first couple month of the session and what now do I need to think about for the next two and a half months?

As the new Chair of the Senate Transportation, I've been working to help the committee and my colleagues in



"We've been paving at a rate of around \$103 million dollars a year. If we continue at that flat rate we are going to see a significant deterioration of our highway system. The following report for Vermont Agency of Transportation tells a worrisome story: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/Senate%20Transportation/Agency%20of%20Transportation/Program%20Updates/W~Jeremy%20Reed-Highway%20Network%20Conditions-2-21-2025.pdf>. The chart on page 6 suggests that by 2029, if we stay on the same track we're on, we'll go from 26% of our roads in 2025 in poor or very poor condition to 60% in poor or very poor condition." — VT State Senator Rich Westman, Cambridge

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

the Legislature understand the fiscal reality of Vermont's Transportation situation. In the Senate Transportation Committee we have been digging into the finances of the Transportation Fund and of road construction.

We all know the shift to electric cars is affecting our revenues because of the lack of fuel taxes. But most of us don't think about the fact that the efficiency of our gas and diesel cars and trucks is reducing revenues, too, for the upkeep of our roads. I saw this in a publication from Texas about their transportation problems recently: "the primary source of the loss of revenue is a 25 percent rise in the overall vehicle fleet fuel economy." The fact that fuel efficiency was the biggest reason for a lack of revenues for the upkeep of our highways isn't a total surprise, but it certainly is worth taking note of.

In addition, we're all traveling more miles on our roads across the country. "Travel on U.S. roads in 2024 rose 1% to 3.28 trillion miles, setting a new yearly record and topping pre-COVID 19 levels for the first time," according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In Vermont, more than \$12 million in General Fund one-time surplus moneys are being transferred to the T Fund. Even with that and the T Fund relieved of over \$20 million worth of expense for Public Safety (State Police), now to be paid for by the General Fund, we're having trouble keeping up in the upcoming FY26 Budget.

In next year's budget (FY26) as presented to us, we're looking at sending less money to towns for their roads and we're looking at paving about 100 miles less on the state system than we are this year (FY25). Projections are that next January, as we begin to look at putting the FY27 budget together, we will be more than \$30 million short in State Transportation Funds.

We match Federal dollars for road construction. The State/Federal match for Interstate Highways is 90% Federal and 10% State, and on regular state highways — like for example VT Rt. 15 — the match for construction is 80% Federal and 20% State. The average combined match of the state is about 17%, balancing Interstates and the rest of the system. A \$30 million state funds' shortfall would translate into Vermont being short on match for Federal dollars we're eligible to draw down. I've seen estimates that we could leave as much as \$180 million in Federal dollars on the table in Washington if we had a match shortfall of that much. To put that in perspective, Vermont has never not drawn down our full allotment of Federal dollars.

We've been paving at a rate of around \$103 million dollars a year. If we continue at that flat rate we are going to see a significant deterioration of our highway system. The following report for Vermont Agency of Transportation tells a worrisome story:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/Senate%20Transportation/Agency%20of%20Transportation/Program%20Updates/W~Jeremy%20Reed-Highway%20Network%20Conditions-2-21-2025.pdf>.

The chart on page 6 suggests that by 2029, if we stay on the same track we're on, we'll go from 26% of our roads in 2025 in poor or very poor condition to 60% in poor or very poor condition.

When I took over as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee in January of this year I knew Transportation was in difficulty, but I have to admit it's going to be more challenging than I even would have expected.

Legislative update

By Thomas Stevens, Washington-Chittenden House District
tom@stevensvermont.com

March 16

It was a great treat to visit all three Town Meetings on March 3-4. Vibrant, local democracy at its best. Thank you all for hosting us and giving us time to speak our piece.

This past Friday (March 14) marked Crossover Day for policy bills in the House. Next Friday (March 21) will be Crossover Day for money bills, including Ways and Means (taxes), Transportation, the Capital Bill (investments in state structures) and finally, the Appropriations bill. These together make up the bulk of our annual expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026, and will eventually include the Yield Bill, which will set the statewide tax rate for Education funding based on the school budgets passed on Town Meeting Day. Not all communities and districts have voted their school budgets yet, and so the total increase over last year's rates will not be known for several weeks.

These bills, once they pass the House, will move to the Senate, and Senate bills will make their way to the House. Each side will contemplate the other's bills and will pass them back and forth until the bills are agreed upon by both houses. There is no guarantee that every bill will pass, and there is no guarantee that every need will be met by our work. We have a very tight budget this year, as it is the first year since 2020 without substantial federal funding based on the COVID-19 crisis.

As you may have heard, the Governor vetoed the Budget Adjustment Act after it passed both the House and Senate. His specious reasoning focused on \$1.8M we appropriated to keep unhoused Vermonters, including over 400 children — truly our most vulnerable residents — in hotels until the end of June. Our bill also included funds for more affordable housing, millions of

Legislative reports continued on page 6

Coming events continued from page 3

for family and friends at the end of the season. We sing most weeks, although you can come as often as you are able, and if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week for using the space. We also ask for a small contribution for purchasing music (to be announced when we have our first meeting). Questions? Contact: Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219 if you have questions, or just show up on a Thursday evening! We look forward to singing together!

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

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

The Underhill Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month (April 9) at 6:30 PM. Meetings are at the Old Schoolhouse, 32 Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center, spring through fall and at the Town Hall in the winter. Visit our website for more information about the Underhill Historical Society: <https://underhillhistoricalsociety.org/>

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

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

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

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

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

Coming Events

Wednesday, April 2

Richmond Congregational Church blood drive, 12:00 – 5:45 PM at the Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Appointments are required; reserve yours by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for more information and to make an appointment. Or you may contact dthomas@gmavt.net or 802-434-3654 for further assistance.

Thursday, April 3

Learn Together Webinar: Community Organizing, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom or 2nd Congregational Church, Church St., Jeffersonville. Learn what we can do to organize ourselves to be more effective in resisting the harmful effects of these policies. Presented by Vermont Interfaith Action Executive Director Melissa Battah and other organizers. Join us downstairs in the church; or to watch on your own, register online at <https://bit.ly/3QCzVI> (short for <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/6oHIAaf-SWCzKWfBxw8dSg>). Questions? Contact pastor, the Rev. Sally May, at revjeffucc@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 5

Native Bees in VT, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Morrystown Centennial Library, Richmond St., Morrisville. VT Center of Ecological Studies biologist Spencer Hardy will introduce us to the world of native bees, with a focus on the 350 wild species found in the state, leaving participants with a deeper understanding of these important pollinators and the small actions we can all take, from our backyards to the grocery store, to make our communities more bee-friendly so these fascinating insects can do their vital work. Spencer grew up in eastern Vermont and now splits his time between the Center and the Farm Upstream in Jericho, where he runs a native plant nursery focused on bee-friendly trees and shrubs. More information: <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/events-1>.

Reclaiming Tradition: Green Burial, Home Funerals and Shrouding, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, ReTribe, Maple Leaf Road, Underhill. Join End of Life Doula Lindsey Warren for a workshop about the cross-cultural history of shrouding, followed by an introduction to green burial and practical tips for those interested in shrouding for home funerals and green burials. After a lunch break, we join together in a hands-on shrouding practice. Workshop fee \$40; if this is out of your reach, please use Promo Code SLIDINGSCALE25 for 25% off or SLIDINGSCALE50 for 50% on the final registration step in your cart. For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.lindseywarrendoula.com/workshops>.

St. Thomas Church Calcutta, 4:30 PM, Mansfield Barn, corner VT Rt. 15 and Browns Trace, Jericho. A “Calcutta” is an

elimination jackpot game coupled with dinner and entertainment. There will only be 100 “balls” sold for a chance to win the \$2000 cash Grand Prize. The event also features multiple prizes during the evening, raffles, a silent auction, and a cash bar. Cost: \$130 per ball, which includes a buffet dinner for two (or buy one dinner/one ball for \$90, email stthomasvtcalcutta@gmail.com first for assistance). Dinner catered by Jericho Café and Tavern. Doors open at 4:30 PM, with dinner served at 5:45 PM. Buy tickets online at <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-st-thomas-catholic-church-calcutta>, email stthomasvtcalcutta@gmail.com, or visit the St.Thomas website <https://www.stthomasvt.com/calcutta-2025>.

Saturday, April 12

Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, The Pop, Red Pine Circle, Essex Junction. Rally for mental health at the Vermont School Counselor Association's first ever Pickleball Fundraiser! Enjoy casual or competitive pickleball games for players of all ages, abilities, and skill levels while benefiting the Vermont School Counselor Association. \$30 for players age 13 and up; 12 and under register free. Having fun and staying active are critical pieces of taking care of our mental health, and this fundraiser is no exception. Join us for a few hours or a full day of fun, community, and the joy of play! There will be a cash 50/50 raffle, other raffle prizes, corn hole, ping pong, and delicious food from Famous Frankie's Food Truck (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM). Never played before? There will be Pickleball lessons available. No paddles? No worries! The POP will provide equipment as needed. Register at <https://www.vermontschoolcounselor.org/event-6080246>.

Greek Pastry bake sale benefit, 11:30 – 1:00 PM, Dormition Greek Church, Burlington. The Spring Take-Out Bake Sale organized by the women of the Dormition Greek Church as a fundraiser that donates proceeds to charities including local ones like COTS and Feeding Chittenden. Pre-order online at <http://www.greekphiloptochosvt.org> by Sunday, March 30, then pick up your delicious homemade Greek pastries and Spanakopita on Saturday, April 12.

Habitat for Humanity 101 Info Session, 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston. Looking to get involved in the community? Searching for affordable housing? Want to know more about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity? Come to an information session to learn more about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity's programs — the organization's mission, volunteering, and homeownership program. No registration is necessary, and there will be a free craft for kids ages 6+. Visit <http://vermonthabitat.org> to learn more about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity.

Drive-Thru Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser, 5:00 – 5:30 PM, Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington. This sixth annual fundraiser sends 100% of the proceeds to support Machia Wilderness Camp, a non-profit summer camp that inspires youth to be responsible stewards of the earth through hands-on, nature-focused skill building and leadership development. Menu: fresh homemade lasagna (meat or vegetable), bread sticks, tossed salad, and a generous slice of maple fudge and chocolate fudge. Pickup is in the parking lot of the church at 5:00 PM, 5:15 PM, or 5:30 PM. Minimum suggested donation of \$15 per meal. Reservations required — RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DAAAE29A31-54661406-drivethru#> or contact events@faithsbvt.org or 802-863-6764 with the number and type of meals you'd like to reserve (beef or veggie), your name, and contact email or phone number. going directly to the camp. Please bring non-perishable food items for our Feeding Champlain Valley and SB Food Shelf collection. Learn more about Machia Wilderness Camp at <https://www.machiacamp.org/about>.

Cambridge Area Rotary (CAR) Bunco fundraiser, 6:00 – 10:00 PM, Cambridge Community Center, Jeffersonville. CAR is once again hosting the world famous — locally loved — Bunco Fundraiser. Roll the Bones at Bunco! Dice have been in

used since prehistory and were once referred to as knucklebones, thus “roll the bones.” Try your luck! The goal is to roll as many sixes (Buncos) as you can. You play at a table with three other people and by the end of the evening you'll meet everyone who's playing that evening. There'll be Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction items, snacks, Lot Six Beer, and more! The Bunco fundraiser helps raise funds for all the community services and activities CAR supports. For Bunco details and ticket purchase, go online to <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4785/page/bunco>. If you would like to share something with us, please contact Sam Lotto, 802-793-0856 or alotto@ublocal.com. Find more information at <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeAreaRotaryVT>.

Monday, April 14

Free showing of Just Getting By, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Join your neighbors to see this film that tells the stories of Vermonters living with food and housing insecurity. These interviews deepen our understanding of what it is like to find affordable housing, struggling to feed one's family, and navigate support systems. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by filmmaker Bess O'Brien, Kingdom County Productions. The film also introduces advocates and community organizers who are trying to support these Vermonters to make ends meet. Sponsored by Jericho's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Jericho's Affordable Housing Committee, and the Jericho Underhill Food Hub.

Wednesday, April 16

Knotweed Management Talk at Jericho Research Forest, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, University of Vermont Jericho Research Forest and Conservation Center, 127 Tarbox Rd., Jericho. Do you like to fish? Want to learn about invasive species in Vermont? Join UVM's Rubenstein School students for a hike, chat, and chew to learn about Japanese Knotweed in Jericho Research Forest. Learn from keynote speakers Jessica Wikle of UVM and Dave Barch of Trout Unlimited on the impacts of knotweed on trout populations, streambank health, and what to do about managing it. Enjoy a short hike and pizza from the JRF wood fired oven!

Saturday, April 19

Backyard Compost Workshop and Organics Recycling Facility Tour, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, CSWD Organics Recycling Facility/Green Mountain Compost, 860 Redmond Rd., Williston. Discover how your kitchen scraps and yard waste are transformed into nutrient-rich, eco-friendly compost that's perfect for your garden and essential for building healthy soils. This interactive experience combines practical composting tips and troubleshooting with an up-close look at the composting process in action. After the workshop, join us for a tour of our Note, you will be walking and standing for at least 30 minutes on the tour. Sign up online at <https://bit.ly/41NvBtL> (short for https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACAB23A6FDC25-49839354-composting#).

Saturday, April 26

April Bird Monitoring Walk, 7:30 – 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Birders — current, experienced, newbie, and would-be — welcome! Join our monthly monitoring walk to record birds at the Museum's trails, forest, and meadow. Learn something new, share what you know, or both! Please bring your own binoculars, and dress for weather. We recommend bringing tick repellent and a water bottle. Maximum group size 12 people. Free; suggested \$5-15 donation. Register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum> or call 802 434-2167. This one is just in time for National Go Birding Day (<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/go-birding-day/>)!

*If life were predictable it would cease to be life,
and be without flavor.*

— Eleanor Roosevelt

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Westford School advocacy April 6**To the Editor,**

Westford Community, thank you for all the work you have done to advocate for your kids and our school in February. If you are willing, our work is not done here. Although the EWSD school board voted to consolidate the WES middle school into EMS, many of us are concerned about the timing of this move, and the future of WES.

We will be hosting a public forum on Sunday, April 6 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (babysitting will be available at the library) which will include speakers from the Vermont Rural Community School Alliance, the University of Vermont, Vermont legislators, and the media. WES will be represented. The EWSD Board, Admin, and the new superintendent are all invited. We need your presence and testimonials.

Without a clear, forward-looking plan for the future of WES, the school faces a serious risk of closure. The consolidation would immediately remove 30% of our student population, increasing per-pupil spending by 34%. This is not financially sustainable.

Therefore, we are proposing that plans to consolidate WES middle school are postponed for ONE YEAR. To be clear, this is not a no-vote campaign for the school budget vote on April 8.

If you are FOR this consolidation, this pushback is not against you or your ideas, beliefs, values, etc. There are many details about the consolidation and the future of WES that have not been addressed. If consolidation is truly the right move, it needs to be done right.

Attend the forum on Sunday, April 6 — parking for able-bodied folks in spots at the Common or at WES to walk or carpool. Reserve parking at Westford Common Hall for those who need close access to the building. No parking on White Church Lane.

Kirsten Tyler, Westford

Senate School funding bill S.104**To the Editor,**

Thank you for publishing the article by Andre Roy about school funding reform (*Mountain Gazette*, March 20, 2025, page 1).

For further details on Senate school funding bill S.104, summarized in the article, readers can click on the following link

Legislative reports continued from page 4

dollars for Medicaid, protection against discrimination (which is so important in light of how the Trump administration is trying to take a wrecking ball to equal rights and funding for so many elements of government, including for veterans, affordable housing, farmers, and education), and millions of dollars to protect our Veterans Home and other nursing homes that are struggling under the weight of how expensive it is to provide this care.

I say “specious” because the “message” we received after the election was that Vermonters wanted to see compromise in the dealings between the Legislature and the Executive Branch. We held up our end, and passed a budget that agreed with over 95% of what the Governor proposed. Where we differed was what to do with the over 1400 households of unhoused Vermonters on April 1. When we did this last year, we saw an increase in illnesses and fatalities related to living outside, and there was no desire to repeat that error. We chose compassion. This is not to say the system needs to be overhauled — it does — and there will be bills this session related to doing just that. But what the Governor proposed — sending money to municipalities and expecting them to manage their unhoused populations without time to plan and in a way that would only last three months — is not a plan worth considering without more input from the General Assembly and the organizations that we enlist to help with this societal problem.

As of this writing, no plans have been made available about how we will resolve this veto. To many of us, it is short-sighted and potentially life-changing for so many vulnerable Vermonters, from children to veterans to the elderly — again, people who are already threatened by the Trump and Republican destruction of a social fabric that keeps so many people alive. That said, the General Assembly remains at the table in a spirit of working together. I expect the Governor to join us.

As for how those federal cuts will affect us, it is too early to tote up the damage. If threatened cuts happen, as they have for essential USAID programs overseas, Vermont will see losses of federal dollars for Medicaid, education, housing, and more in the coming weeks. We will let you know as best we can, when we know.

In the meantime, please enjoy the sunshine! The sap is running hard, and fresh syrup is on its way!

Please stay in touch.

Weekly legislative update

By Theresa Wood, Washington-Chittenden House District
twood@leg.state.vt.us

March 22

The couple of weeks after the cross-over deadline (the date by when bills need to be out of committee in order to be considered by the other body), are always busy with votes coming to the floor. A number of bills passed out of the House this week and are headed to the Senate.

- H.137 – a bill updating the regulation of insurance products and services;
- H.125 – a bill requesting a report and current data to inform work on energy policy;
- H.231 – technical corrections to the Fish and Wildlife statutes;
- H.259 – a bill preventing workplace violence in hospitals;
- H.222 – a bill requiring participation in a domestic violence accountability program as a condition of a final relief from abuse protection order;
- H.461 – a bill expanding employee access to unpaid leave;
- H.480 – miscellaneous amendment to education law;
- H.482 – amendments to the Green Mountain Care Board’s authority to adjust a hospital’s reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer;
- H.319 – miscellaneous environmental changes;
- H.321 – miscellaneous cannabis amendments;

to the actual bill itself, as introduced to the Legislature on Friday, February 28 (this bill is now with the Finance committee): <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/S-0104/S-0104%20As%20Introduced.pdf>.

Readers who would like to contact their Vermont state legislators about the provisions in this bill can identify and find contact information for their Senators and Representatives at the following link: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/all/2026>.

Sharon Faelten, Underhill

Jericho’s proposed Raceway Road pedestrian lane**To the Editor,**

Here are a few notes on the presentation by the Bike Safety and Pedestrian Connectivity Committee at the DRML library on Saturday, March 22, and the resulting discussion.

The current plan is to place approximately 75 18-pound “moveable” bollards along one edge of Raceway Road, creating a four-foot wide “safe lane” running between Willow Lane and VT Rt. 15, for a two-month “assessment” period, during August and September of this year.

A majority of the attendees were not in favor of the plan, viewing it as unnecessary, inconvenient, and unsafe, with the remainder wanting to give it a try. Unanswered questions included:

- As the roadway varies in width, would one particularly narrow stretch not have bollards, creating a gap in the safe lane?
- Could the owners of Jeri-Hill Senior Housing work with the town to improve and the already existing sidewalk, to create a more direct link for residents to the VT Rt. 15 pedestrian crossing?

Several people asked about the plan’s approval process, and if it might come up for vote. Who exactly is deciding this? Several people commented that the survey should have included input from kids. One person commented about the difficulty of backing trailers into driveways when bollards are in place.

I have a few observations that examine the risks vs. the benefits of this plan. I am the property owner with the longest frontage on Raceway Road to be impacted by this “safe lane.” I have been a daily walker along Raceway on and off for 36 years. I have been the victim of a “pedestrian strike” in a pedestrian

- H.80 – updates to the Office of the Health Care Ombudsman;
- H.209 – a bill relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools;
- H.219 – a bill creating a family support pilot program for incarcerated parents/guardians.

Budget Adjustment — the House gave preliminary approval to the second budget adjustment act; agreement has been reached with the Governor on all matters except for sheltering homeless people.

Flood Mitigation in Waterbury — Town Manager Leitz, former Town Manager Shepeluk, and I gave testimony in the House Corrections and Institutions Committee in an effort to have the State transfer ownership of Randall Meadow (aka “the cornfield”). We have asked for it to be included in the Capital bill. We will follow progress on this closely.

Report from the VT House

By Brenda Steady, Chittenden-25 House District
bsteady@leg.state.vt.us

March 21

This week, my committee voted on H.91, An act relating to the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program. My committee consists of six Democrats, one Independent, and three Republicans. All the Democrats and the Independent voted in favor. I, along with another Republican, voted against the bill, while one Republican was absent.

My primary concern with this bill is the removal of the 80-day cap on the hotel/motel program. I find this proposal to be costly, and I am unsure if it will adequately address the homelessness issue. If you are interested in the financial details of this bill, a fiscal note has been completed. You can view it here: https://lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2025-2026-House-Bills/GENERAL-381670-v5-2025_H91_GA_Housing-HHS-Passed-v2.pdf.

On a related note, I hope Governor Scott’s proposal to extend the April 1 deadline for the Cold Weather Exception will be approved, allowing the most vulnerable — disabled individuals and families with children — to remain in the hotel/motel program through the end of June.

The Human Services Committee will be busy this week as we review several additional bills. If you’re interested in any of these bills, our committee meeting agendas are posted on the Human Services Committee website, and the meetings are live-streamed. Here is a list of the bills under consideration:

- H.248: An act relating to supplemental childcare grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program;
- H.15: An act relating to assistance for room and board at a Vermont post-secondary school for students served by foster or kinship care;
- H.184: An act relating to establishing a community health center pilot program;
- H.46: An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;
- H.269: An act relating to the federal benefits of youth in state custody;
- H.414: An act relating to the Vermont Commission on Aging;
- H.120: An act relating to the study and design of a long-term care trust fund;
- H.195: An act relating to universal basic income payments for homeless and runaway youth;
- H.151: An act relating to implementing the Restaurant Meals Program;
- H.143: An act relating to establishing a support service program for individuals who are DeafBlind;
- H.293: An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements;
- H.39: An act relating to the repeal of authorization for overdose prevention centers.

Thank you for staying engaged with these legislative updates. Let me know if you’d like more details on any specific bill.

crosswalk (when struck by a pickup truck whose driver failed to see a stop sign blocked by a city bus, four years ago on a college campus). How does a pedestrian get hit by a vehicle? Usually by a combination of something unforeseen or “unexpected” and errors or inattentiveness on the part of both the driver and the pedestrian.

Impracticality — Most of the time Raceway’s road surface is a combination of smooth surface and loose gravel and stones. Unusually large stone, larger than one inch, was spread in December 2024. After road grading, road surface can be loose until vehicles pack it down and potholes can redevelop rapidly. Within the planned stretch (Willow Lane to VT Rt. 15) there are chronically potholed areas which we all try to avoid, whether driving, biking, or walking, weaving around them as best we can. Vehicles tend to scatter loose gravel (and larger stones!) to road edges. Puddles tend to form along road edges. A four-foot wide “safe lane” full of loose gravel/stone and puddles won’t be pleasant to walk on. Pedestrians often walk in pairs (especially kids). A four-foot wide “safe lane” isn’t wide enough for pairs.

Safety — Parents want their kids to be able to walk safely to the Jericho Market or school. A child with sufficiently good judgement to safely cross busy VT Rt. 15, which frequently is without a working pedestrian crossing light, likely has sufficient judgement to walk along Raceway. The VT Rt. 15 crossing is the greatest of all these concerns.

What can go wrong here? A distracted driver knocks an 18-pound bollard into a child in the “safe lane?”

Solutions — Sometimes you need a combination of small solutions to solve a big problem. Could the town reduce posted speed limit to 25 MPH between Willow Lane and VT RT. 15? I assume they would have reduced the speed limit already if state regulations allowed, but maybe a short section at 25 MPH could be approved? Most of us try to drive close to speed limits. Could Jeri-Hill Senior housing get its existing sidewalk repaired? Could kids get more safety instruction at school? Could the town keep the VT Rt. 15 crosswalk signs operational?

In the event that the “safe lane” is created, please could the town highway crew fully treat the road to reduce dust, after grading the road and before the bollards are put in place?

What I’ve written here may give the impression of grim road conditions, but that is not the real story. Most of the time, most of the road is in good shape, a pleasure to walk on and fine to drive on. Raceway is unique. Clearly this committee wants to achieve something good. As a result, some of us will be inconvenienced.

Elizabeth Herries, Jericho

Information about S.60, VT Farm Security Fund bill**To the Editor,**

Jericho Underhill Food Hub is supporting Farmer organizations representing all types and scales of farms across the state to ask the VT Legislature to establish a Farm Security Fund, S.60. The Bill was passed unanimously out of the Agriculture committee. It will ensure farmers have financial assistance they need to recover from the impacts of extreme weather. It’s time to start adapting to the climate crisis and ensuring our farms can continue producing the food we need. Supporting Vermont’s farms means boosting rural economies, protecting the health of our land, preserving the heart of our communities, and ensuring a strong local food supply — critical as agriculture faces the same extreme weather challenges around the globe.

Here is more information about why Vermont needs this fund and an online petition you can send to add momentum: <https://www.nofavt.org/farm-security-fund>.

The full VT Senate has passed the bill unanimously. Contact House Representatives Graning and Squirrel to keep it moving forward. Find their contact information at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>.

Amy Golodetz, Underhill

Please support H.326 to ban rodenticides**To the Editor,**

Please help support H.326, a bill that would ban use of rodenticides in Vermont!

Rat poison does NOT just kill rats and mice! The animals eat this poison, then run outside where, becoming sick, they are easy prey for owls, hawks, foxes, opossums, even dogs and cats. The number of animals admitted to Wildlife Rehabilitators and veterinarians for secondary poisoning is rising drastically!

Please help us join California, Canada, the U.K., France, India, and many others in banning these substances, and the terrible toll on wildlife!

Contact your Vermont State Representative — find their contact information at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/>.

Carol Winfield, Westford

Gov Scott is keeping promises — a new beginning for Vermont**To the Editor,**

Governor Scott’s recent veto of the Budget Adjustment Act signals the end of one-sided policy-driven bills forced through the Vermont Legislature. With Vermont voters deciding last November to eliminate the Democrat/Progressive supermajority in the Vermont General Assembly, we restored the mechanism of checks and balances that ensures bills are honestly and openly discussed and evaluated for the best interest of Vermont. Gone are the days where the supermajority-led Legislature can simply override and ignore a Governor who received over 71% of the popular vote (over 266,000 votes!). Governor Scott is now doing exactly what he said he would do during the 2024 campaign — Make Vermont Affordable. The majority party legislators had/have forgotten how to cooperate and negotiate with the state executive branch and across the aisle to find common ground and the best solutions for Vermont. Overriding executive vetoes used to be easy, and no discussion or compromise were necessary.

When the Legislature had a supermajority, they didn’t have to acknowledge the Governor’s or the minority party’s ideas and thoughts, or for that matter those of the voters, into the law-

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

JURBIC: Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, Bolton Inverting Club

By Bernie Paquette, Jericho

We are “LIFERS” out to observe and record life forms in our Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, and Bolton communities. Join today and help us make our communities’ biodiversity records grow while enjoying our diverse wildlife neighbors. Free! Contact Bernie to join or attend a Bug Safari.

Who: These walks and meetups are appropriate for nature enthusiasts. They provide an opportunity and incentive to observe and record our wild neighbors in the community of life, with others having the same interest.

What: Ecological inventory and monitoring walks. The purpose of the Bug Safari Walks is to gather observation photos of life forms, invertebrates in particular, within our four communities, and record them on *iNaturalist*.

When and where: Bernie Paquette and Maeve Kim facilitate walks on an area or trail within the four communities from spring through fall. Duration: one to two hours. Stay as little or as long as you like. Bring a camera or a phone-camera and an interest in observing and recording nature in any of its life forms.

How: Each observer enters their photographed observations into the *iNaturalist* database, where data is stored and can be accessed by all — including scientists.

We also offer a few Backyard Bug Safari meet-ups for your backyard.

Contact Bernie (bernie.paquette@yahoo.com) if you are interested in either a JURBIC group or just Bernie and Maeve to come to your property for a “Backyard Bug Safari,” where we can help you record the invertebrates we observe there onto *iNaturalist*. (Duration approximately one to two hours).

Laugh, Dream, Try, and Do Good

Volunteer at Wood4Good

By Rick Heh, Underhill

Jericho resident Eric Axelrod runs Wood4Good, a 501c3 nonprofit that donates free firewood to Vermont families, from their work location on the Davis Family Farm in Jericho. This past winter they provided firewood to over 150 families.

Wood4Good is in regular need of volunteers in the following areas to make these donations possible:

- helpers to split wood on Saturdays and Sundays (no experience needed);
- farmers market staffing, 3-10 hours monthly commitment (community outreach);
- social media management, 5-15 hours monthly commitment;
- project management efforts, 5-15 hours monthly commitment;
- local business outreach, 5-15 hours monthly commitment.

Most important, please join in on the Saturday or Sunday splitting parties between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. They meet at 100-150 Cilley Hill Rd., Jericho on the Davis Family Farm. It’s easy to find, you can’t miss the huge pile of cordwood along the roadside. Park on the opposite side of the road, bring gloves, boots, hearing protection, and a smile. If you’re curious come

check it out, guarantee you’ll have some fun and meet some great people!

Wood4Good is hoping to open a new location in Waterbury or Fayston, to serve the Mad River Valley!

If you have any questions, contact Eric, 802-310-1949 or Eric@wood4good.org.

Please consider helping assist and grow this amazing charitable organization. Both physical and non-physical help is greatly appreciated. You can also make a donation online at <http://wood4good.org> or if it is easier, you can mail a check to Wood4Good, 14 Buttercup Lane, Jericho, VT 05465.

What’s happening at Mount Mansfield Community TV

By Angelike Contis

Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV) will hold its Annual Meeting at the Richmond Free Library on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30 PM. Lauren-Glenn Davitian, Public Policy Director of Burlington’s CCTV Center for Media & Democracy, will be our special guest, discussing the vital role of community media in Vermont’s civic life, past and present. Please join us for this evening, which will also include MMCTV board updates and light refreshments.

Fresh Eyes Behind the Camera — For the tenth year, MMCTV and the Richmond Free Library held a February break workshop. This year, students spent two mornings making the public service announcement *Breaking News at the Library* (<https://youtu.be/JzXcJLIOWa4>). We’ve also been providing tools and know-how to young people learning film skills with Joyful Horizons and are working on helping scouts from Troop 627 earn their moviemaking badge. MMCTV also covered a whopping 14 MMU home hockey games this season (<https://bit.ly/4bESvqU>). We also enlisted MMU students Verity and Ben to record a special MMU/BRMS/CHMS Day of Music choral concert on Wednesday, March 19.

Radio Updates — We continue to lay the groundwork for our new low power FM radio station WRUJ-LP (<https://mtmansfieldctv.org/wruj/>). This spring we’re launching a preliminary web-based radio station, which will feature a sampler of local content. The WRUJ tech committee is also working on a plan for our FM transmission, while the outreach/fundraising committee drafts a mission statement, works on a logo (latest version seen here) and solicits community input. Congrats to Jennifer Wolford and Christian Matthews for winning gift certifications to Burlington Records, drawn from participants in our online poll! If you’d like to get involved, reach out to us at mmctv@mtmansfieldctv.org. A special thanks to MMCTV board member Kate Blofson for her work on WRUJ!

How We Cover Community: Our Team in Action — Tom and Erin work behind-the-scenes most nights Monday-Thursday to stream hybrid meetings. Ruth edits/archives an average of nine meetings a week. Channel Manager Jim programs all these — plus a host of content from our 23 Vermont counterparts — into our two cable channels’ lineup. Underhill filmmaker Tegan covers local talks, including recent Community Senior Center

and Underhill Jericho Food Hub videos, as well as Legislative Update with Trevor Squirrel and Edey Graning.

In a time of increasing flooding and power outages, we spread the word on Emergency Preparedness for Individuals, <https://youtu.be/gLAQ6wy-mqc>. With new group Recovery After Floods Team (RAFT, <https://www.raftvt.org/>) organizing, Jim behind the camera, Angelike streaming live, and many Richmond and neighboring town staff in the room, Harry Schoppmann, Regional Coordinator for Addison and Chittenden VT Emergency Management (VEM) shared lots of information. The presentation is being cablecast on MMCTV and another 13 Vermont community media channels, as well as playing online.

Our neighbors the black bears

By Amy Ludwin, Bolton Conservation Commission

Learn about Vermont’s black bears with Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologist Jaclyn Comeau at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqWP-V-P6j8>. Comeau shares information about black bear biology, their behaviors, and common situations that lead to conflicts between people and bears, and provides practical steps we can all take to prevent these conflicts and keep Vermont a great place for bears to live.

Free workshops offered in April by Jericho Underhill Food Hub

The Jericho Underhill Food Hub (JUFH) is a network of citizens supporting local foods, products and agriculture. We do volunteer work to educate about fresh food and how to grow it, improve local food access and distribution, market and publicize local foods and farms, grow foods for local food shelves, support value-added local food production, and strengthen community by celebrating local foods together.

Let us know if you plan to come so we can give you any additional details: JUFoodHub@gmail.com.

- Saturday, April 5 at 10:00 AM: Make Your Own Yogurt with Ann Gnagey and Tom Barribault; United Church of Underhill kitchen, 7 Park St., Underhill
- Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 AM: Growing Blueberries with

Community columns continued on page 8

Letters continued from page 6

making process... that is not the case today.

The balance in Montpelier has decidedly shifted to a position where compromise and cooperation are now necessary to effect solid legislation, an unfamiliar position for the General Assembly majority which no longer has veto override assurance.

I commend Governor Scott and his efforts to make Vermont affordable through financial common sense and accountability to taxpayers, an approach that continues to be foreign to many VT legislators.

Thank you, Governor Scott, for your continued commitment to Vermonters.

Bruce Roy, Williston

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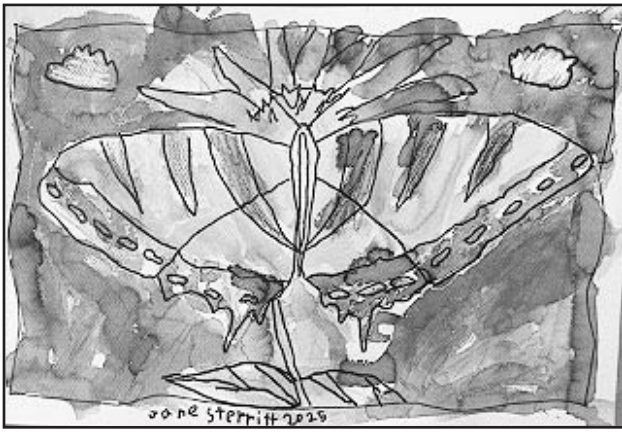
- Get up to \$9,500 off comprehensive home air sealing and insulation projects with an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor (or \$4,000 depending on household income)
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Income-eligible Vermonters may also qualify for free weatherization services.

Learn More — Use your phone’s camera to scan.

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LIBRARY NEWS



Poker Hill Arts K-5 after-school art class students are the featured artists at Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in April. “The children used crayons as a resist before painting their chosen animal with watercolors,” said instructor Chris Gluck, who has run the Poker Hill Arts after school, summer camp, and birthday party visual arts programs in Underhill for more than 25 years. Pictured above are two of the works on display at DRML: Butterfly by Jane Sterritt and Owl by Arrow G.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

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

The library is closed on Sunday, April 20, for the spring holidays.

Adults

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Health & Balance [registration required] This starter-level course in person and on Zoom is for older adults and people with chronic health conditions. Email instructor Jo Osborne at joannosborne2@gmail.com for the registration link.

Tuesday, April 1, 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Let’s Talk Teen Tech. Today’s parents are among the first responsible for introducing smartphones, video games, and Internet technologies to their children. How do we navigate all this? Together, that’s how! Join ReConnect, a group of local, concerned parents, for this caregiver led discussion, sharing experiences and concerns, and learning from each other in real life. This program as an age-focused continuation of “The Anxious Generation” book discussion series.

Tuesdays, April 1, 22, 29, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: French Conversation Chez Henry. All levels of French speakers, as well as the French curious, are welcome to this informal conversation group.

Wednesdays, April 2, 16, 2:00 – 5:00 PM: NEW! Sewing and Quilters’ Group. Volunteer Mary Stephenson will host this twice-monthly gathering of people who sew and/or quilt. Bring a project you’re working on.

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

Thursday, April 3, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Book Club of One. In this different take on a book discussion group, come prepared to introduce something you read in the last month — book, article, blog, etc. — and what inspired, challenged, or fascinated you. Connect with fellow readers in this fun, low-key environment.

Sunday, April 6, 2:00 – 3:45 PM: Sunday Afternoon Music Series — *Mama Tried*, a self-described “all-gal, foot-stomping, bluegrass, country, folk, and blues string band from Vermont,” will have you dancing in your seat. With Rebecca Padula on vocals, guitar, and ukulele, Linda Kallinger on fiddle and vocals, Clare Innes on banjo, ukulele, and vocals; and Kathy Mulligan on bass, each performance is a celebration. Admission is free.

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers (DRBL). Looking at real estate isn’t usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. Call 802-899-4962 or visit the library to reserve your

copy of *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 PM: The building committee is planning for the library’s future. The meeting is open to all. Those who wish to attend remotely may email Holly at drawsonmemlib@gmail.com to receive a link.

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

Sunday, April 13, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Vermonters Jackson Ellis reads from his new literary suspense novel *Black Days* and poet Julia Alter from her new collection *Some Dark Familiar*, which won the 2003 Sundog Poetry Award. They will have books available for purchase.

Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library Fireplace Room: book discussion series on *The Anxious Generation. How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt. ReConnect is a group of families from the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) working on the impacts of smartphones and social media on our kids and hosting a four-part discussion series focused on Haidt’s book. There will be podcast options as well, so feel free to join even if you don’t have time to read the chapters. The final meeting is April 15, Recap and Looking Ahead: What’s next for our community? If you don’t have time to read the whole book but would like an overview, here’s an interview with the author you can listen to: <https://www.goodinside.com/podcast/7065/the-anxious-generation-with-jonathan-haidt/>.

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: A Symphony of Two. Craftsbury Chamber Players violinist Mary Rowell and cellist Frances Rowell present a concert and chat, featuring the music of Haydn, Bartok, Schulhoff, and Bach, It’s a little history, a little science, and a lot of magic!

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM: DRML Board of Trustees Meeting. The monthly meeting is open to all. Those who wish to attend remotely may email drawsonmemlib@gmail.com to receive the link.

Thursday, April 24, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Plastic People: The Hidden Crisis of Microplastics. The Jericho Energy Task Force presents a screening of this award-winning documentary film that investigates the world’s addiction to plastic and the growing threat of microplastics to human health and the environment.

Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Legislative Update. Vermont state representatives Edye Graning of Jericho and Trevor Squirell of Underhill provide an update on Vermont’s legislative session and answer your questions.

Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Atlee Pine, an FBI agent with special skills assigned to the remote wilds

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Lisa Hoare; Covered Bridge Blueberry Farm, 128 River Rd., Underhill

• Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 AM: Grafting Your Own Apples with Spencer Hardy; The Farm Upstream, 100 Lee River Rd., Jericho

Additional information is available on our Facebook Page (Jericho Underhill Food Hub), through Front Porch Forum Calendar, or by contacting us at JUFoodHub@gmail.com.

LWV responds to President’s anti-voter executive order

The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in response to President Donald Trump’s signed executive order *Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections* (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections/>) that threatens Americans’ freedom to vote and tramples states’ constitutional authority to run their own elections.

“Let’s keep it real: this order is not about protecting elections; it is about making it harder for voters — particularly women voters — to participate in them,” said Celina Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “This executive order is an assault on our republic and a dangerous attempt to silence American voters. The President continues to overstep his authority and brazenly disregard settled law in this country. To be very clear — the League of Women Voters is prepared to fight back and defend our democracy.”

“The President can’t unilaterally change election law,” said Marcia Johnson, Chief Counsel for the League of the Women Voters of the United States. “This order is not only an attack on American voters’ fundamental freedom to vote, it is also plainly unlawful. The League is committed to working with our partners and legal advocates to pursue all avenues in fighting back against this dangerous order, and we will use every tool at our disposal to defend voters from unjust restrictions on their freedom to vote.”

The order’s extreme provisions include:

- Impermissibly requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote by altering the federal voter registration form. Nearly 80% of married women — more than 69 million American women — adopt their partner’s surname, and they would be unable to register to vote if the name on their ID does not directly match their proof of citizenship. Additionally, noncitizens registering to vote and then casting a ballot is already illegal in federal elections, and there is no evidence (<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/noncitizen-voting-already-illegal-and-vanishingly-rare>) to suggest that noncitizen voter registration and voting is occurring at any meaningful scale.

- Prohibiting the counting of absentee and mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but received after, which 18 states and Washington DC currently permit.
- Giving the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) the authority to review states’ voter rolls.
- Withholding federal funds from states that do not cooperate with the order’s provisions.

The League of Women Voters (<https://www.lwv.org/>) is a nonpartisan organization with expertise in voting and elections. Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy.

Vermont, can we go it alone?

...in a time when the building blocks of democracy are under assault

By Bill Schubart

I write about Vermont. Others with greater knowledge than I cover the national landscape. My feelings about how we’re doing as a nation are informed by the writers I follow and by reporting in *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, the *BBC*, and the *NY Times* which I review daily.

More recently, however, under Trump and the world’s richest man’s leadership, along with their Greek chorus of morally bereft sycophants, I’m watching my country slide into a precipitous decline.

To survive, a dictator must be able to control the educational system, the media, the electoral process, the judiciary, and strike fear in — or kill outright — media and citizen opposition. Mao Tse Tung, Kim Jung Un, Xi Jinping (Uyghurs), Hitler (Jews), Mussolini, Stalin (Georgians) all chose the latter. And in Russia, people are always falling out their own windows.

The five life-giving elements in a democracy are its free press and media, an independent judiciary, a flourishing public education system, free speech and civic engagement and free and fair elections. All are under attack in our country.

But true to my self-imposed job description, I’ll focus on Vermont and how we’re managing to sustain the pillars of democracy here and what if any difference our small state can or will make on the national scene.

In general, we have a media array that adheres to the philosophy of freedom of expression, welcoming multiple points of view. That’s not to say we couldn’t do better.

In for-profit journalism, the lifeblood of the media enterprise is subscription and advertising. Advertising for the most part has migrated to the Internet, where it’s more cost-efficient because it can target declared-interest consumers. This has radically reduced the existence of for-profit news organizations around the country.

In non-profit journalism the lifeblood is donations, voluntary subscriptions, and philanthropy. But in either for-profit or non-profit media, the only determinant of success is the relevance of its content for readers/viewers and the commitment of their readers/viewers to support them.

Are editors producing content that is of interest to their audience beyond pictures of their children playing soccer? Could we do better at keeping Vermonters up to speed on the critical beats that affect their daily lives — healthcare, housing, hunger and food systems, public education infrastructure and funding, environmental threats, taxation and regulation, criminal justice? Do editors welcome opinion pieces, commentaries, and letters with all points of view, even ones that might offend their subscribers, funders, and advertisers?

And how can our state and local news sources reach those Vermonters who gather their news from like-minded political echo chambers or social media sites? Are they even reachable? Democracy thrives on committed journalism, but sadly most of our news sources are skating on thin financial ice. We must step up our support.

As to the judiciary, I believe that for the most part we have an independent judiciary and Vermonters trust their courts to follow the law. Our main problem is that we’re woefully short of justices and courts and are denying many Vermonters the benefits of a speedy trial. This then has an impact on our correctional system where too many detainees awaiting trial do so behind bars. How about we shift our funding from building and maintaining jails to

advancing the timely administration of justice?

Meanwhile, Vermont’s public education system is under attack by the very leaders who should be sustaining it. The recent civic confusion about the cost-drivers in public education that caused some towns to vote down their school budgets was clarified in a report by the *Vermont State Auditor’s office*. The principal cost escalators in public education are healthcare and deferred infrastructure maintenance. Since 2010, healthcare costs have escalated from \$194M in FY10 to over \$300M in FY24, not including retired teachers’ health benefits. We are not overpaying our teachers.

Governor Scott has proposed a *wholly new system for public education in Vermont*. The devil, of course, is in the details. Vermonters will need to take the time to understand these to have an informed opinion. The plan in its current form claims it will reduce the cost of public education by creating five districts, down from the current 119, and encourages school choice, thus eliminating \$184M from the current \$214B cost.

The issues here are many. But using public dollars to pay for religion-affiliated schools is a direct violation of *Chapter 1: Article 3 of the Vermont Constitution*. The Vermont Agency of Education reported that some \$57 million of taxpayer funds went to private and religious schools in the 2024 school year. Unlike public schools, private schools can pick and choose which students they will take based on unpublished criteria. The *U.S. Supreme Court is poised to also weigh in on whether States can fund religious public schools*.

They key question Vermonters must ask is: how will the merger of 119 local school districts into five regional ones affect our vital sense of community connection?

What does the “*foundation formula*” for funding really mean? The state calculates what districts can spend on their schools and provides grants for that amount. Currently, local voters decide what their school districts will spend when they approve or reject budgets on Town Meeting Day, and the State pays that amount. Residential property tax rates are then adjusted based on how much each district spends per pupil and then each town’s fair share of Vermont’s more than \$2.4B Education Fund is calculated.

On the free speech front, Vermonters have always relished and practiced free speech pretty much undeterred. Civic engagement in our communities survives, but the Internet’s anonymity has potentiated cowardly bomb-throwing.

Growing up in a small town, we all knew each other, met one another while downtown shopping or at church, town meetings, the dump, or parades. This proximity encouraged civility even though there was plenty of disagreement on local affairs. By contrast, online chatter ignores civility for the most part, which only strengthens the deep divisions we’re seeing.

Some good news though... There is a *revival afoot to again teach civics in our public schools*.

On the whole, I believe Vermonters are adhering to core democratic ideals. The Internet has caused some fraying around the edges of our communities, as in civil discourse and the hollowing out of local retail that e-commerce has produced. My greatest sadness is to drive through the small towns I remember as a child and see old retail storefronts plywooded over, with nothing left but a gas station/convenience store selling fossil fuels, tobacco and vaping products, alcohol, lottery tickets, and ultra-processed foods. Luckily, there are signs that Vermonters are beginning to rebel and again “shop local.”

So perhaps the biggest challenge we face will be how we manage to retain our community schools and the vital adhesive value they impart to our identity as a state. Creating a statewide education superstructure is not a good first step.

Library news continued from page 8

of the southwestern United States, must confront a new threat and an old nightmare. Call (802-899-4962) or visit the library to reserve your copy of *Long Road to Mercy* by David Baldacci. To attend the discussion via Zoom, email Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com.

Thursday, April 24 at 6:30 PM: *Plastic People*. The Jericho Energy Task Force is celebrating Earth Week with a showing of the 2024 movie *Plastic People* at the Library. This award-winning feature documentary investigates our addiction to plastic and the growing threat of microplastics on human health. Almost every bit of plastic ever made breaks down into microplastics. These microscopic particles drift in the air, float in all bodies of water, and mix into the soil, becoming a permanent part of the environment. Acclaimed author and science journalist Ziya Tong takes a personal approach by visiting leading scientists around the world and undergoing experiments in her home, on her food, and her body in an urgent call to action for all of us to rethink our relationship with plastic. *Plastic People* won the Environmental Award at the Hamptons Doc Fest, the Jury Prize at the Films for the Earth Festival in Switzerland, and was named one of the best documentaries of 2024 by *Variety Magazine*. Light refreshments will be served at this waste-free event — please bring your own mugs and plates. For more information contact Catherine, catherine.mcmain@gmail.com.

Youth

Please note: children under age 8 must have a caregiver in the building at all times.

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby Toddler Story Time. For kids ages birth to Pre-K, with a caregiver. Join Mz. Abbey and the other story time regulars for singing, bouncing, finger games, and, of course, stories!

Fridays, April 4, 11, 11:00 – 11:45 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London. For kids ages birth to five, with a caregiver. Cozy up with your little ones in our Fireplace Room, while listening to stories, singing songs, and shaking the sillies out. If schools are closed on any Friday, this program is cancelled for that day.

Thursdays, April 3, 17, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [Registration required] [Ages 8+] Create your own short stop-motion video, or experiment with hand-drawn animation apps. To register, please visit the library or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Fridays, April 4, 18, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Chess Club [Registration required] [Ages 6+] Please note: Children under age 8 must have a caregiver in the building at all times. All skill levels are welcome to learn and to play. To register, please visit the library or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Tuesday, April 8, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Wings of Fire Club [Ages 8+] Come hang out, chat about Wings of Fire, and make some dragon crafts.

Tuesday, April 8, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Magic, the Gathering Club [Ages 8+] Whether you know the game well or are just starting out, this friendly group of gamers is ready to play.

Thursday, April 10, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Minecraft Social [Registration required] [Ages 8+] Play Minecraft with friends old and new. To register, please visit the library or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Fridays, April 11, 25, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [Registration required] [Ages 6+] Whether you build a giant ship or a tiny scene, there's no wrong way to play with LEGO. To register, please visit the library or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Tuesday, April 15, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Warrior Cats Club [Ages 8+] Explore the world of Warrior Cats and make crafts with other fans of the series.

Tuesday, April 22, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Oil Spill Science [Ages 6+] Test the absorptivity of different materials (called sorbents) to discover which ones are best at removing oil from water.

Friday, April 25, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Seed Planting [Kids of all ages] Start some colorful flowers from seed to take home or plant at the library and make a wildflower seed bomb to toss in a place where you have permission.

Wednesday, April 30, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt the Therapy Dog [All ages] Whether you want to read to him or just need a little dog time, Wyatt is here for you.

For complete details on these programs and all that the library offers, please visit our website at <https://www.drml.org/>.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

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

We want to remind you about our Home Delivery Program at Jericho Town Library (JTL). Patrons who are unable to physically access the library may sign up for our Home Delivery Service. This is offered on a one-time or recurring basis. Folks can request specific items or complete an interest profile on the JTL website. You can sign up by phone 802-899-4686, or contact Catherine at catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

Jericho Town Library is launching a new book/discussion group for adults, starting this spring: the Current Events & Societal Issues Book Club. This group is for adults interested in thinking about and discussing important issues in our local communities and in greater society. Each month, we will center our reading and discussion around a particular topic, with a suggested nonfiction book to help focus our conversation. For those who are interested in participating but cannot commit to reading an entire book, we will also share recommendations for relevant articles, podcasts, and videos. Interested? Please fill out this form to let us know what times and days work best for you, as well as what topics you might like to discuss: <https://forms.gle/eaRTFMdMHwDRiHXA>, or alternatively, reach out to catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org or call us at 802-899-4686.

Weekly events

Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, through April 21: The Artist's Way Creativity Group. Blocked, stuck, or adrift in your artistic endeavors? Curious about ways to live a more creative lifestyle? Join this journey through *The Artist's Way*, the landmark book by Julia Cameron about the creative process. Cameron's tried-and-true techniques of daily freewriting and weekly solo "Artist Dates" combined with the readings and exercises in the book will guide us along a path to higher creativity. You will need a copy of

The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity by Julia Cameron (often available inexpensively through online used book retailers), a notebook, and an open mind. Register online at <https://forms.gle/ZLAH9MPGGX81ZJfW7>. Contact Amy (amy@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) with any questions. Read about the book online at <https://www.npr.org/2023/09/05/1193447515/the-artists-way>.

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

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Story Explorers Playgroup, a read aloud and loosely structured playgroup for kids ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. Second floor.

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

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

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

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

Monthly or twice-a-month

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

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

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Hours: Sunday/Monday — closed; Tuesday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Come be a part of your library community as we March into spring! Along with snacks (thank you community members for your generous donations), conversations, and various sparks of inspiration, please join us for this month's engaging opportunities.

As always, programs are free and open to the public.

Programs

Tuesdays 2:00 – 6:00 PM, Wednesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Genealogy Meet-Ups/Drop-In. Come to an informal meet-up with some of our best local genealogists with over 50 years combined experience to find out more about your family's history. Want to know if your family's stories have some truth to them? Stuck on a particular ancestor and don't know where to look next? No registration required.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 AM: Story Time.

Tuesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM and Fridays, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: come practice American Sign Language. Feel free to come one or both days. All levels are welcome!

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Crafternoons.

Find program descriptions and more details on our website <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed.

Patrons of all ages are welcome; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. If you feel you need curbside service, for whatever reason, please email Bree at the library (westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

The Westford Library is proud to be a participant in the ChildSafe program — we have FREE gunlocks to take. This program is run by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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

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

Saturday, April 5, 10:30 AM: Story Time.

Thursday, April 10, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Writer's Group. Meets the second Thursday of each month. Facilitated by J Bruscini. Here you can have the opportunity to share and receive feedback on your writing with a low-stakes and supportive atmosphere. So far, together we have done timed writing exercises, responses to a Robert Frost poem, and free writing to our interests. One member is working on another novel! We hope to see you at our meetings soon to continue bringing to light the many shining voices of Westford.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Library hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

You can check out more than just books! Our library of things has snowshoes, a telescope, a microscope, STEAM kits, jewelry

supplies, Bloxels, and a C-Pen ReaderPen.

The library also offers passes to local museums and parks — you can view our full list of passes at <https://fairfaxvtlibrary.org/passes.html>.

As we have been for both winter and February break, the library will also be closed during BFA's April break. We will be closed from Monday-Saturday, April 21-26 while water and power are shut off for construction work. Make sure to stop in before April 21 to stock up on books! If you can't make it in, you can use Libby to borrow ebooks and audiobooks on your device while we are closed. If you have any questions about Libby, please feel free to contact us at 802-849-2420, or libraryfairfax@gmail.com, and we'll be happy to help! Apologies for this inconvenience; thank you so much for your ongoing patience and understanding.

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

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesday, April 2, 3:00 PM: Seed Bombs. Learn how to make bundles of seeds, perfect to gift, or just toss in a garden! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. This event takes place in the library.

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 30, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home! This event takes place in the library.

Fridays, April 4, 11, 18, 3:00 PM: LEGO Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed LEGO play after school. Registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. This event takes place in the library.

Wednesday, April 9, 1:00 PM: Egg Carton Flowers. Create floral wreaths and bouquets out of painted egg cartons! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. This event takes place in the library.

Wednesday, April 30, 3:00 PM: Bird Feeders. Use recycled materials to make bird feeders! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. This event takes place in the library.

Adult events

Saturday, April 12, 10:30 AM: Silent Reading Party. Book group too much of a time commitment, but still want to meet other readers? Come to our silent reading party! Bring any book you like and settle in for an hour of silent reading with your fellow book lovers. Afterward, you can discuss what you've read over refreshments! This event is geared toward adults, but all ages are welcome! Registration appreciated but not required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. This event takes place in the library.

Thursday, April 24, 3:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is *The Editor* by Sara B. Franklin. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or call us at 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

COVID-19 Tests are available at the circulation desk. We also encourage you to visit <https://covidtests.gov/> to order a set of four free at-home tests through the mail and to check the expiration date on your existing tests. Many tests have an extended shelf life, so check before you throw any away.

Trustee Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (April 14), 6:30 PM at the Library. All meetings are open to the public. Individuals may also join via Zoom.

Seed Library now accepting seeds! If you're a seed saver or are looking for a home for your unused seeds, consider donating them to the library. Seed donations must include the following information: plant type and varietal, harvest date, and location. If you are saving your own seeds, please note that we can only accept open-pollinated (non-GMO/hybrid) seeds. Email rhegg@richmondvt.gov with any questions. Stop in to "check out" some of our seeds generously donated by High Mowing, FedCo, and Seed Savers Exchange. If possible, plan to save and bring back some of your harvested seeds for next year! Stop in or email rhegg@richmondvt.gov for more information.

Seeking artists and collectors — We are currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2025. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, please contact us. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of thimbles, old books, feathers, nut crackers or anything else that would fit in our case that you would be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Call or email the Library.

Adults

Tuesday mornings through April 8: Tax Help with AARP. Volunteers working with AARP are meeting with seniors to prepare tax returns in the library community room. Call the library to schedule an appointment.

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

Saturdays, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Chess Club. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge for an all-ages chess club, which will be led by a local chess coach. BYOB (Bring Your Own Board) or use one of ours.

Children

Weekly/monthly children's programs at the library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Playgroup & Storytime. Join us for free play followed by stories and action songs in the Library Community Room. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant to age 5 and their grownups are invited to join the fun — we will start with Playgroup at 10:00 AM and then finish up the morning with a short storytime at 11:30 AM.

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State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale welcomed teachers to the Sixth Annual Educators Workshop sponsored by Vermont Holocaust Memorial (VTHM.) For more information: <https://www.holocaustmemorial-vt.org/>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

VT teachers learn new approaches to Holocaust education

On Saturday, March 22, approximately 50 teachers recently convened to participate in the sixth annual Vermont Holocaust Memorial (VTHM) Educators Workshop. “Teaching the Holocaust Using the Humanities: Integrating Photographs, Literature, Art, and Poetry to Tell the Human Story” focused on bringing the human experience of that genocidal period to Vermont teachers and students. The program was facilitated by Echoes and Reflections, a national organization committed to ensuring that U.S. secondary school educators have access to high-quality, reliable Holocaust education.

The proceedings were introduced by State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale. The Senator is an active member of numerous Vermont Senate committees, including the Senate Education Committee. “Educators are some of the most trusted sources of information and generational wisdom that we have in Vermont and in society,” said Senator Hinsdale. “Holocaust education is so very much alive and rich and critical today. There is sadly no better or well documented example of how to find your voice and how to combat structural and institutional bigotry and violence than the Holocaust.”

The workshop, conducted by Todd Hennessy of Echoes and Reflections, was at capacity. Mr. Hennessy was a Museum

Teacher Fellow with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and serves on multiple councils and advisory boards nationwide that work with Holocaust curricula, mandates, and resources. He has earned numerous awards and recognition for his work in Holocaust education.

“The past few years seem to present new challenges for all teachers, and the history of the Holocaust offers insights into teaching resilience, tolerance, and overcoming hatred,” observed Debora Steiner, cofounder and President of VTHM. “We are gratified that such a large group of Vermont teachers have again joined us to gather valuable resources to educate future generations about this dark chapter in history, ensuring that the memory of the victims is honored and that the lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant in our modern world.”

The workshop also featured Josie Raynes, a seventh-grade student at Williston Central School. Ms. Raynes is working with the Anne Frank Center at the University of South Carolina, to bring *Anne Frank: A History for Today* to Vermont. The exhibit tells the story of Anne Frank through photographs and “peer education,” in which Williston Central School students are responsible for most of the guided tours.

Ms. Raynes told workshop attendees her involvement was driven by her heritage as the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, and family stories of survival and resilience. “Anne Frank was someone, the same age as me, who endured all that she did, yet lived life with so much hope,” said Ms. Raynes. “The exhibition at Williston Central would not be possible without the support of the school’s administration, faculty, and parents’ help. I am hopeful that Anne Frank’s story will inspire everyone, as much as it has inspired me.”

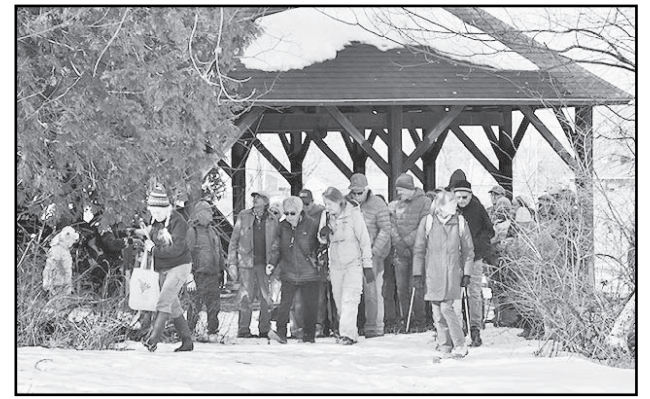
Feedback from attendees was enthusiastic, said Steiner. One educator noted: “I attended the workshop last year, and this year I was excited to attend with a cohort of educators from my district. I am looking for other ways to incorporate art and literature into my teaching of the Holocaust as an English teacher — trying to find ways to incorporate critical thought, humanity, and different perspectives.”

“I [was] very happy with [the workshop.] My eyes and mind were opened. I have so many new ideas, especially of how to incorporate poetry and art,” noted a teacher from Rutland. Another teacher, from Mills River Union High School proclaimed: “This is education that should not be ignored.”

The workshop was sponsored by the Vermont Holocaust Memorial (VTHM), the only Holocaust educational memorial organization in the state and a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization. To donate or for more information on VTHM and its offerings and events, please visit www.HolocaustMemorial-VT.org.

College news

Phoebe Doyle of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List at Emerson College, Boston, MA. Doyle is majoring in Media Studies and is a member of the Class of 2026.



Local folks setting out on Saturday morning, March 15 from the Mills Riverside Park Pavilion for an event hosted by the Underhill Land Trust, Bark, Buds, and Branches: the Winter Trees of Mills Riverside Park. UVM botanists Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington led the ramble the winter woods of the Park, helping attendees learn identify a dozen common winter trees. PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE



It's Mud Season!

Hillside

TRAILS CLOSED

To Riding – Bikes and Horses Until Memorial Day

JUPD
<https://www.millsriversidepark.org/>

Library news continued from page 9

Mondays, 10:30 AM: Baby Laptime. This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We’ll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing, and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. Designed for infants and early toddlers.

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

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Ongoing drop-in programs

Community Puzzle: spend some time working on a puzzle in the library. Puzzles rotate as they are completed.

Community Loom: collaborate on our community loom!
Pattern Swap, Puzzle Swap, Magazine Swap, Coupon Swap
Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main Desk 802-878-6955, Youth Desk 802-878-6956, Reference Desk 802-878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Phone: 802-879-0313

All programs are free and open to the public.

Accepting book donations! Two boxes accepted per household per week that are easy for us to carry. Fiction and nonfiction, juvenile and adult, hardcover and paperback, in very good condition that we may put into our collection or sell in our June book sale to benefit the Children’s Summer Reading Program. No library discards, textbooks, magazines, VHS, encyclopedias, multi-volume sets, technology or travel books over five years old, mildewed, stained, or smoky items please. Thank you!

We still have free COVID tests, harm reduction packs & gun locks! Copies of the U.S. Constitution, too!

All ages

Week of the Child Art Display — artists from Hand in Hand Childcare will display their art throughout the library during April.

Cache Odyssey — Essex Free Library is proud to be Vermont’s Cache Odyssey site, a nationwide geocache adventure with a unique letterbox-hybrid cache in every state. Great for families or seasoned explorers. Each cache is fully accessible. See www.cacheodyssey.com for more information.

Children’s and teens’ area

Thursday, April 3, 4:00 – 5:45 PM: Read to Chewy the Therapy Dog! Kids and families can sign up for a 15-minute slot and choose a book to read to Chewy and his human, Cindy Turcotte. Sign up on the website.

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

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

Saturday, April 19, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Read to Chewy the Therapy Dog! Kids and families can sign up for a 15-minute slot and choose a book to read to Chewy and his human, Cindy Turcotte. Sign up on the website.

Weekly activities

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

Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen. Come spend time rockin’ and reading!

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

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

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

Fridays: Grab’n’Go Craft Kits. While supplies last.

Adults

Thursday, April 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group, reading *The Marriage Bureau for Rich People* by Farahad Zama. Bursting with the color and allure of India, and with a cast of endearing characters, this novel has shades of Jane Austen and Alexander McCall Smith but with a resonance and originality entirely its own. (Good Reads)

Saturday, April 5, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Zentangle for adults with Julia Davenport. This art form welcomes slowing down, taking your time, and seeing what happens. Sign up on the website. If you register and can’t attend, please call to open the spot for someone else.

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

Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Zentangle for adults with Julia Davenport. This art form welcomes slowing down, taking your time, and seeing what happens. Sign up on the website. If you register and can’t attend, please call to open the spot for someone else.

Wednesday, April 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Scrabble/Conversation Français — French Conversation and Scrabble. Open to ages high school and up, for levels Elementary II and above. Improve your French while enjoying a friendly game of (French) Scrabble!

Thursday, April 17, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Trivia Night for adults and teens. Join us for some friendly trivia competition! Bring a group, bring a friend or bring yourself. Light refreshments provided.

Tuesday, April 22, 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Board Games for Ages 18+. Bring your friends and enjoy the library’s board game collection (or bring your own to share with the group). Light refreshments provided.

Thursday, May 1, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group reading *James* by Percival Everett. National Book Award and Kirkus Prize Winner. A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as told from the enslaved Jim’s point of view.

Thursday, May 8, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Evening Book Group reading *Gather* by Kenneth Cadow. Vermont Humanities’ Vermont Reads 2024 Selection, and Kirkus Prize Winner. A debut novel by a Vermont writer and educator portrays a challenging coming-of-age.

April is Financial Literacy Month! Celebrate it by attending these talks by Essex resident Cathy Duffy, Financial Planner at Baystate Financial and Champlain College adjunct accounting professor. Feel free to attend one, two or all three:

• Thursday, April 10, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PlanWell™ by Creating a Budget. A budget is the foundation of your financial well-being and the basis of your financial plans. Learn how to create an accurate, flexible monthly budget.

• Thursday, April 24, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PlanWell™ by Investing Well. This session covers the basics of investing and how different kinds of investments work.

• Thursday, May 1, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PlanWell™ for Retirement. Learn the basics of retirement planning — strategies, sources of retirement income, and key risks to consider.

Weekly events

Ongoing: Relaxation Station. Slow down, enjoy a hot beverage and a relaxing activity at our main table.

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

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

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

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

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

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

All Phase Property Maintenance, LLC

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Commercial

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Office: 899-2919 - Cell: 734-8247

Stephan Griffiths Jr. - Owner

Fully Insured

allphase87@gmail.com

Essex, VT 05452

HANDYMAN/CONSTRUCTION

Jay and Jeremy

HANDYMAN

emeryj1882@gmail.com

802-373-0018 or

802-370-8704

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PEOPLE NEWS

Obituaries



Edwin L. Lord III of Jericho, VT died peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Ed was a beloved husband, father, brother, friend, teacher, and mentor to the many lives with whom he crossed paths. Ed was born in Wilmington, DE to Edwin L. Lord Jr. and Kathleen (Strickland) Lord, who both predeceased him. He attended schools in Wilmington and Greenville, DE. Ed had a happy childhood growing up in Wilmington and Hockessin, DE, participating in band, sports, and scouting. Many of his fondest memories included

family visits to the coast of Maine and camping trips to Vermont, where he would eventually attend Johnson State College (JSC) and graduate with BS degrees in psychology and sociology in 1977. He later earned his master's degree in education from the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT. It was at JSC where he met the love of his life, Benita Sloboda, while working at the Prove Access Program. They married on August 16, 1980, a memorably rainy and windy day, at the Sloboda family farm in Hyde Park, VT. They welcomed two sons, Nathaniel in 1984 and Ian in 1987. The family settled in Jericho in 1988, where Ed was dutifully involved in all the boys' activities, including Little League, school projects and extracurriculars, and much more. Ed began working at the Baird Center for Children and Families in Burlington in 1980. For nearly 45 years, Ed was a teacher, mentor, interventionist, and a kind ear and shoulder for all the kids, families, and coworkers with whom he spent time at the Baird school, and later at the Jean Garvin School in Williston, VT. He retired in June 2024. As much as he loved spending time with his family, Ed left plenty of room in his heart for all the kids he worked with. Besides his family, Ed's greatest loves were music by the *Grateful Dead* and many other bands; a variety of craft beers from breweries both local and those he discovered elsewhere; quirky movies; traveling, camping and visiting historic sites; and the Boston Red Sox, even when they disappointed him. Ed will be missed for his hearty laughter, gift of storytelling and mostly his huge heart. Ed is survived by his beloved wife Benita, and by his two sons, Nathaniel Lord and his wife Angie Price of Greenville, SC, and Ian Lord of Burlington. He also leaves two brothers, Jonathan Lord and wife Susan of Hanover, PA, and Martin Lord of Wilmington, DE; niece Kaitlyn Lord of Scotland, and nephew Hunter Lord of Wilmington. Others include his brothers- and sister-in-law on Benita's side of the family, as well as several nieces and a nephew, all of whom took Ed in as a member of the extended Sloboda clan. He also leaves many dear friends, especially Laurie, Carolyn, and Fred. The family thanks the medical staff of the McClure 5 unit and ER at the University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington for their care of Ed during his brief battle with cancer. Thanks also to the hospice staff, members of the Baird and Garvin schools, and the many friends, neighbors, and family who cared for Ed and his family during this time. Donations in Ed's honor may be made to Howard Center's School Services Program (<https://howardcenter.org/mental-health/education/>) or to the UVM Health Network, Home Health & Hospice (<https://www.uvmhomehealth.org>) program. A celebration of Ed's life will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025, 1:00 – 4:00 PM at the Underhill Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill, VT. At his request this will be a casual gathering, filled with music and laughter, for all who want to share stories and memories about Ed.

Peter K. Duval, 60, of Underhill, VT was born in Burlington, VT on March 14, 1965. He was the son of Alfred and Sally (Herschede) Duval. The day after his birthday up on Mount

Mansfield, with his sunglasses on, wearing his pack, skis, and poles, he died on the mountain he loved. His annual birthday ski to Stowe, only a week away, has been enjoyed by a wonderful group of friends and family for many years. There are sure to be some memorial trips over the mountain in his honor. Peter's



biggest joy in life was time with his family and friends, especially his daughter Maura and his "spare daughters" Lily and Rachel Porth. Peter taught Maura the greatest lesson that he could: to trust in herself. He embraced her joys and supported them. After two years in Japan, Peter asked 9-year-old Maura how she wanted to return home. She chose Nepal, Paris, London, and Iceland, and that's where they went. He trusted her to carve her own path. The fact that it followed his to a Master's

Degree at the University of Vermont (Burlington) College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences was something he took great pride in and some amount of credit for. One of the highlights of his life was the hike Peter organized so his mother could realize her dream of completing the Long Trail. Three generations of Duvals joined the endeavor for a successful completion. Peter was an avid skier and sailor. He was a member of Malletts Bay Boat Club since he was a child and was active with junior sailing while Maura raced. He was preparing to set out on some open ocean sails, as he was always looking for a new adventure. Peter was a strong advocate for the environment and believed in being active for change in the world. He wasn't afraid to speak up or cause a stir. Peter had a generous loving heart, was kind, and quick to forgive. He was always happy to receive or give a hug, something he learned from his father. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Ellen (Dardano), his daughter Maura, his mother Sally and her partner Keith, his brother Jason and wife Yoshimi and their children Konoha and Biwa. He was predeceased by his beloved father Al, and brother Colin. In memory of Peter go for a hike, ski, run, sail, or clear a trail. "Don't forget to check for ticks." A celebration of Peter's life will be held at a later time.

Arlene Wheeler: the world lost a gentle soul and a generous heart with the death on Saturday, January 25, 2025 of Arlene Wheeler of Cambridge, VT. She was 52; the cause of death has not yet been determined. Arlene devoted her life and career to the care of children and animals struggling with life's challenges. Although she never got to fulfill her desire to be a mother, she was a surrogate mom to many who will never forget her. As one of them wrote in a tribute on her Facebook page, she was "one



of the best mentors I could have ever asked for, someone I could always turn to and call when I needed someone." Arlene was born January 14, 1973 at Fort Campbell, KY to Alfred and Estelle (Coderre) Wheeler. Her father was stationed there as a member of the U.S. Army. She was one of six siblings, including a twin brother Alfred, Jr. She attended Lake Region Union High School in Orleans, VT and the Community College of Vermont in Bennington, VT. In 2008, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Johnson State College, Johnson, VT. Arlene met her love, Corbett Sionainn, in 2008, and they married September 6, 2014. At the time of her death, Arlene was nurturing and supporting families and children through Lamoille Family Center. She previously worked for the Vermont Department for Children and Families, Cambridge (VT) Elementary School after-school program, and Laraway Youth and Family Services. In addition to children, Arlene cherished her many "fur babies," including her cocker spaniel Mattie and cats Smugglie, Gimli, Kali, and Saco. She never forgot her previous pets and had a soft spot for rescuing feral cats. Anyone

who gives so much needs to recharge their own batteries now and then. Arlene found joy in visiting the ocean, kayaking local waterways, fishing with her dog, snapping photos of a beautiful sunset, cooking up a good comfort meal for her wife, and taming her yard on her riding lawn mower. She loved playing with her nieces and nephews and was a tomboy at heart. Arlene was preceded in death by her parents, whom she looked forward to seeing again in heaven. She is survived by her wife, Corbett; twin Alfred Jr. and his wife Kim; and sisters Cammy DiMayo (Jeff), Carole Ricard (Brian), Brenda Brink (Bill), and Becky Curtis (Lyle). She also leaves behind numerous beloved nieces and nephews. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of AW Rich Funeral Home in Fairfax, VT. Colleagues, family, and friends were invited to a viewing Thursday, February 6, 2025 at the funeral home. A memorial service followed. Arlene would be delighted if people would honor her memory by wearing her favorite color, green, and her favorite footwear, Crocs. Burial will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests continuing Arlene's support of needy animals by donating to Justice for Dogs, P.O. Box 1014, Wolcott, VT 05680, www.justicefordogsvt.org; or the Great Dog Rescue New England (GDRNE), 20 Beech St., Essex Junction, VT 05452, www.gdrnenorth.org. Please designate that your memorial donation is for the care of feral cats in Cambridge. Please visit <http://awrfh.com/> to share your memories and condolences. Arlene believed in living fearlessly. If she could speak to us one more time, she might well echo this advice she wrote on her Facebook page: "Don't be afraid to be who you are in fear of what others will think. Love who you love and don't listen to the judgment of others because you will be a very lonely person forever if you do." Arlene was never a lonely person. So many will miss her.

Brian James Place, 53, passed peacefully at the family home in Jericho, VT after a short illness. He was born on April 21, 1971, to Ron and Helen Place of Triangle, VA. The family moved to Jericho in 1975. Brian was a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, where he excelled in wrestling and cross-country running. Very early in life, Brian acquired a love of the outdoors, so hunting, hiking, and working in the woods became second nature to him. He enjoyed fishing with his brother Kevin. (He called him Kever.) He was the best mechanic ever and was also an accomplished carpenter, welder and bricklayer. He is survived by his father, Ron; sister Kimberly Place-Faucher of Jeffersonville, VT; brother Kevin; brother-in-law Brad Faucher; and nephew, Thomas Faucher. There was a service of celebration of life on Monday, March 24, 2025 at the Jericho United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho, next to the Town Hall. The church is handicapped accessible. There was a food and a social gathering at the Masonic Lodge across VT Rt. 15. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial donation in Brian's name to the Jericho/Underhill Food Shelf, P.O. Box 65, Jericho, VT, <https://www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com/servetogether/food-shelf>. Arrangements are in the care of the Cremation Society of Chittenden County, a division of the Ready Family, 261 Shelburne Rd., Burlington, VT. To send online condolences, please visit <https://www.cremationsocietycc.com/>.

On Friday, December 13, 2024, Roland R. Vautour, 95, a longtime Jeffersonville, VT resident, passed away peacefully with family by his side. Born to Arthur and Yvonne (King) Vautour in Berlin, NH on January 20, 1929. Roland enjoyed all the activities the North Country offered including hiking, skiing, and ski jumping with the Nansen Ski Club. He especially enjoyed spending time in the summers at the family camp on Cedar Pond. Receiving a scholarship from the University of New Hampshire to ski and jump, Vautour graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 1952. At UNH, he met the love of his life, Sally Liden; they were married June 16, 1951.

Obituaries continued on page 13

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Announcing VT Arts Council's new strategic plan

From Susan Evans McClure
VT Arts Council Executive Director

As the federal landscape continues to shift and so much feels uncertain, our work of advancing the arts and creativity throughout Vermont feels more important now than ever. We are proud to share our new strategic plan, a roadmap for our work over the coming years and a path forward to sustain and build our incredible arts community in Vermont.

We remain steadfast in our support of creativity, arts, and culture for everyone in our state, and we are here with you as you continue your important work of building our communities through the arts. We hope that you take time to connect with each other, to create art, and to find joy. Please reach out to let us know how we can help you in your important work.

After a yearlong process involving input from hundreds of Vermonters who share our commitment to a bright future for the arts in our state, we are happy to share our new strategic plan for the next six years.

Our plan encompasses six priority areas for our work across the state, each with a set of clear, actionable goals and objectives, and a statement of how our work in each area will actualize our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

You can read our plan in its fully detailed version, or you can view it in a shortened, visual version, both available on our website at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/strategic-plan/>.

Vermont Youth Dancers (VYD) presents *Oliver Twist, I Will Make It* in three performances Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13 at Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho. VYD will bring their signature blend of hip-hop and lyrical dance to the stage with a dynamic retelling of the classic *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. With compelling storytelling, current music, and expressive choreography, VYD delivers an unforgettable theatrical experience that blends dance and drama in a way that is both thrilling and moving. This high-energy dance-theater experience is perfect for audiences of all ages. Partial proceeds will go to Spectrum Youth and Family Services. Tickets are now on sale at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oliver-twist-i-will-make-it-tickets-1246102910349> for the three shows: Saturday, April 12, 1:30 and 6:30 PM, and Sunday, April 13, 1:30 PM. Don't miss this wonderful show!

Lyric Theatre Company brings *The Little Mermaid* to the Flynn Main Stage — Lyric Theatre Company will bring Disney's *The Little Mermaid* to the Flynn Main Stage, Thursday-Sunday, April 10-13. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, *Disney's The Little Mermaid* is a hauntingly beautiful love story for the ages. With music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, and a compelling book by Doug Wright, this fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including *Under the Sea*, *Kiss the Girl*, and *Part of Your World*. This production is licensed by Music Theatre International and brings some of the best-known songs from the past 30 years to the Flynn Main Stage with all the excitement and grandiosity you have come to expect from Lyric Theatre Company shows! During each production, Lyric spotlights a community nonprofit. The nonprofit partner for Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the science and nature museum on the Burlington Waterfront. There will be matinees Saturday-Sunday, 1:00 PM; evening performances Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 PM; and a final performance Sunday, 6:00 PM. The Saturday evening performance will feature ASL translating for the hearing impaired, and the Sunday matinee will be audio-described for patrons who are blind or visually impaired. For tickets, call 802-86-FLYNN, purchase online through www.lyrictheatrevt.org, or visit the Flynn Box Office in downtown Burlington.

CAC Sidewalk Art Festival — Back by popular demand, the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) is pleased to announce our 16th Sidewalk Art Festival on Saturday, August 9, 2025. For the last four summers we have been having multiple, smaller shows (dubbed the Jeffersonville Art Jam). This year, in partnership with the Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries and the Bryan Memorial Gallery, we are returning to our larger format. This is a "gently" curated show that showcases fine art of all media. Our sidewalk art festival also features local food vendors, live music, and children's activities. The booth fee this year is \$40 (\$25 for students). Please join us on Main Street in Jeffersonville from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (rain date Sunday, August 10). For more information and to register for the festival, go to <http://www.cambridgeartsvt.org/fota/>. Please feel free to contact Monica, 802-644-1418, if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you. If you are an artist who would like to sign up to have a booth at the event, please go online to <https://www.cambridgeartsvt.org/fota/>.

Art / Music / Theaters continued on page 12



Cover page of the short version of the 2025-2030 Vermont Arts Council Strategic Plan. Both the long and the short versions of the plan are available online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/strategic-plan/>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 11

Art for DRML Jericho — Deborah Rawson Memorial Library is once again seeking art for the Library. We love hosting local artists, and have lovely walls for displaying work and a secure display case. Artists can request one or two months; presently March is open, April is taken; the rest of spring and summer are available — feel free to contact Susan Adams, sadams15@comcast.net, with any questions.

Grants news from the VT Arts Council: *Cultural Facilities Grants* help Vermont nonprofit organizations and municipalities enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public. Deadline Thursday, May 15. Learn more about Cultural Facilities Grants online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/cultural-facilities/>.

Arts Project Grants support nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools in their efforts to add vibrancy to Vermont communities through projects that provide equal and abundant access to the arts. Deadline Tuesday, May 20. Learn more about Arts Project Grants online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/arts-project/>.

Arts Operating Grants provide funds to arts organizations that offer year-round, high-quality arts programs and services that support the Council's mission to "cultivate and advance the arts and creativity throughout Vermont." Deadline Wednesday, May 14. Learn more about Arts Operating Grants at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/arts-operating/>.

Burlington City Arts' Spring 2025 exhibitions at the BCA Center is open. On the first floor, *Bunny Harvey: Worlds Within Worlds* features the landscape paintings of Vermont-based artist Bunny Harvey. Focusing on large-scale oil paintings and more intimately scaled works on paper, the exhibition debuts several new paintings created by the artist over the last year. In the Roth Gallery on the second floor, artist Stéphanie Morissette explores the conflicting relationship between humans, nature, and technology in *Speculative Future*. Using insightful observation and dark humor, the artist imagines a future where biological specimens and mechanical technology have merged to create a new, hybrid species of birds and flying creatures. Morissette's speculative future is not as fantastic as it may appear.

Art from the Heart seeks volunteers to visit patients and family members at UVM Medical Center and Children's Hospital to help make the hospital a more comfortable and creative place through the arts. Volunteers in this program visit patient rooms and waiting areas, working one-on-one and in small groups. A visit with a patient or family members can start as simply as talking about favorite TV shows and music. If interested, please contact Art from the Heart coordinator Rebecca Schwarz, rschwarz@burlingtoncityarts.org.

The weekly virtual Burlington Literature Group welcomes new committed readers to our sessions. The group has been in existence for years meeting in a physical space but, since the pandemic, has changed to online Zoom sessions occurring every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages, discuss form, content and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com.



*Mount Mansfield Union High School's Spring musical is a spectacular show with an unfortunate title. **Urinetown** is a smart, hilarious musical satire about greed, corruption, revolution... and musical theatre itself! Don't let the title scare you away. This show is extremely topical today. The play addresses the idea of living extravagantly without regard for how it affects our future. We just pile up the garbage and byproducts and use up our resources like there's no tomorrow. The show will be performed Friday-Saturday, April 4-5, 7:30 PM and Sunday, April 6, 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$7 for students, children, faculty, and staff and \$10 for general admission. Tickets will go on sale at MMU during lunch periods on April 1 (no joke!) and will also be available at the door. View the trailer at: tinyurl.com/MMUurinetown.*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SCHOOL NEWS

Youth Leadership Conference at VTSU Lyndon, June 20-22

Cambridge Area Rotary will be sponsoring students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, to be held on the campus of Vermont State University, Lyndon, Friday, June 20, 8:00 AM through Sunday, June 22, 1:00 PM. This weekend conference will focus on developing leadership, communication, and team-building skills.

Join students from VT, NH, and Québec to share, evolve, and learn to be a more effective and self-confident leader in your school, on teams, and in your community. Learn by experience and action, explore personality traits and how to bring out everyone's talents, learn about your own traits and talents, and have fun!

Students currently enrolled in their high school sophomore year are eligible to apply online at <https://bit.ly/4bPbgJ3> (short for https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmYnHvd3eMYo_awHbKiGo-KLPiAYKMKi77hQJFEzo6laLPeA/viewform).

Seeking host families for high school students

By Dylan Charter, Jericho

I'm working with a non-profit (Borderless Friends Forever) that matches high school exchange students with host families

in the U.S. We have several students still looking for a host family for the 2025-26 school year, so if you think you could be interested — or know anyone in northern Vermont (or even across the lake) who could be interested — in welcoming a new member to your family for a year, please reach out to me (or have them reach out to me) for more information, including more personalized bios of the students.

I've studied abroad myself (in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan), so I can assure you it's a life-changing opportunity not just for the student, but also the host family and community. It's a great way to expand your worldview, get to know a new culture, change your perspectives, and make a difference in the student's life. I think Vermont would be a great representation of the U.S. for any incoming exchange student.

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested. Thank you!

I can be contacted at dylanvt@me.com or WhatsApp at +996 220 240 460.

VSAC news: College & Career Pathways registration open

High schools around the state are invited to bring students to one of this year's College & Career Pathways weekday events:

- Vermont State University Lyndon Campus – Monday, April 7, 8:45 AM – 1:45 PM (in partnership with the NEK College Fair);

- Vermont State University Castleton Campus – Wednesday, April 9, 8:45 AM – 2:00 PM (in partnership with the Rutland Area Guidance Counselors' College Fair).

Find additional details at the website listed above and visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCP2025> to bring students to one of the weekday events.

High school student To-Do list — the pace of post-high school planning is picking up. There's a lot to get done before the end of the school year. You can prepare using VSAC's free junior- and senior-year checklists for the 2024-2025 academic year:

- Junior Checklist: https://www.vvac.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf_resources/HS_Junior_Year_Planning_Checklist.pdf;
- Senior Checklist: https://www.vvac.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf_resources/HS_Senior_Year_Planning_Checklist.pdf.

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunity now open

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to Vermont high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service.

Three \$2000 scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher.

Applications, due on April 30, must be completed online at <https://lwvofvt.org/winona-smith-vermont-scholarship-application/>, where more general information is also available. Students need to submit two essays (300-500 words) — one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required, submitted online at <https://bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec>.

The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational, technical, or trade school, or at a two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on June 1.

Last year, the League awarded scholarships to students from Essex and Winooski High Schools and St. Johnsbury Academy.

Questions can be directed to Scholarship Coordinator Audrey Grant, lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com.

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.
— Thomas A. Edison

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

SENIOR NEWS

Memorable Times Café Spring Social April 11

From the Central Vermont Council on Aging

Join Central Vermont Council on Aging for Memorable Times Café, an in-person gathering especially welcoming of folks with mild to moderate memory loss and their care partners. Meet friends and enjoy a healthy snack! Live music will fill out this free, dementia-friendly activity.

The Café will be held on Friday, April 11, 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the Morristown Centennial Library, 7 Richmond St., Morrisville. Contact Barb Asen, basen@cvcoa.org or 802-476-2681, to register or inquire about accommodations.

Bring your device — our Community Tech Specialist will be on hand to assist with connecting to Zoom/Memorable Times Online for the future!

Mount Mansfield Villages — neighbors helping neighbors

Are you over 50 and live in Cambridge, Underhill, or Jericho? Do you need some support to “age in place?” Would you like to connect with and help your neighbors?

Mount Mansfield Villages (MMV) is a local non-profit of neighbors helping neighbors. Our network of local volunteers provide members with support and services such as grocery shopping, transportation, shoveling, light home maintenance, technology help, and friendly visits. We also provide social connection with gatherings, activities, and other fun events.

MMV is part of the national Village to Village Network. There is yearly fee to become a member, and we have scholarships available. You can be a member, a volunteer, or both! Join us!

To learn more, visit www.mountmansfieldvillages.org, contact us at 802-858-5381 or mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com.

Tax Help with AARP at Richmond Free Library

Volunteers working with AARP will meet with seniors on Tuesday mornings through April 8 in the Richmond Free Library Community Room to prepare tax returns. Please call the library to schedule an appointment — 802-434-3036.

Age Well offers vouchers for free health improvement course

Each month Age Well covers the cost!

The program was developed by professionals from North Carolina State University and the NCDHHS Division of Public Health. Based on the theory of planned behavior, Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less is an online weight management program that uses strategies proven to work for weight loss and maintenance. Each lesson informs, empowers and motivates participants to live mindfully as they make choices about eating and physical activity. Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less is delivered in an interactive real-time format with a live instructor. The program is offered to employers and health plans interested in eating smart, moving more, and achieving a healthy weight.

The Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less 15-week program holds classes on the same day and time for the full 15 weeks, with each class held online with a live instructor (offering one-on-one support outside of class), with convenient lunchtime and evening classes that are accessible on computers, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Each lesson includes information about why the behavior is important for weight loss/maintenance, practical strategies for adopting the behavior, a three to five minute physical activity break, ways concepts can be adopted by the whole family, opportunity for sharing and celebrating, suggestions for living mindfully, and a guided discussion of strategy for the week.

For more information and a link to registration, go online to <https://esmmweighless.com/>.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Final Lamoille Legislative Breakfast April 7

By Pat Ripley, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

With the 2025 Legislative Session approaching its climax, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce are pleased to invite you to our final Legislative Breakfast at Smugglers’ Notch Resort in Jeffersonville on Monday, April 7, 8:00 – 9:30 AM at Smugglers’ Notch Resort, VT Rt. 108, Jeffersonville. Go online to learn more and register today: <https://lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast/>

The Jeffersonville breakfast is the last of this year’s four-part Legislative Breakfast series offering you an opportunity to hear from our Lamoille County representatives and learn about what they are working on at the Statehouse. Attendees will also be allowed a chance to ask questions about the topics on their minds.

These breakfasts have proven to be popular with Lamoille County residents. Each event begins with a light breakfast and coffee, followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A. Be sure to register early since there is limited seating!

Clutter Barn opening for donations May 3

As sunny days put you in the mood for spring cleaning, start gathering up your slightly-used-but-still-useful-to-someone items. Clutter Barn will be accepting donations on Saturday, May 3 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. We are taking *spring and summer clothing — no winter clothes*. We are not taking shoes, but we take *clean* boots. Also, no cookbooks, skis, boots and poles, artificial Christmas trees (plain and decorated), VHS tapes and cassette tapes, bed frames or fiberboard furniture. Go to the UCU website (<https://www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com/>) for a complete list of things we accept and items we do not accept.

SPORTS NEWS

Join the Jeffrunsonville Run Club

From Abby Schaible, Jeffersonville

We’re excited to start a new free community run club, currently meeting twice a week, for all paces and experience levels! Whether you’re training for a race or just want to get out and move, we’d love for you to join us — Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 PM. We’ll meet at the Farmer’s Market/Trailhead parking on Old Main St., just past the Cambridge Community Center.

Weekend run offering: Abby will be running a 10-mile loop on mostly pavement (with about four miles of dirt road) on Sunday morning and would love company! The loop leaves from her house in town and heads up Upper Pleasant Valley Road, follows it all the way to Lower Pleasant Valley Road, turns onto Williamson Road (dirt), and then loops back onto Upper Pleasant and back to her house. Any pace is welcome! If you are interested in joining Abby and her four-legged running partner Luke, contact Abby for meet-up address and time.

If you’re interested in leading a run, let us know! You don’t have to be fast — just willing to show up and keep the group together.

Contact Amy, abby.schaible@gmail.com so she knows how many runners to expect and for meeting locations, and to stay tuned for updates! Let’s build an awesome running community together.

Little League umpiring for BRLL

By Bob Robbins, Jericho

The Browns River Little League, which serves Jericho and Underhill kids, is looking for umpires this season. You can help our little leaguers, parents, coaches (and umpires!) have a fun season of baseball and softball. The season runs from early May to mid-June.

We offer support and equipment and a flexible commitment, and no in-depth knowledge is required — just an interest in baseball/softball and helping our kids and their families. All ages, all genders welcome.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Bob Robbins, rjrobbins802@gmail.com or 802-899-2436. Come out and join the fun!

Mad River Valley Triathlon April 13

Come participate in a revived Vermont tradition, the Mad River Triathlon — a four-adventure sports event set in central Vermont’s Mad River Valley held at Sugarbush Resort at Mt. Ellen, Mount Ellen Rd., Waitsfield. The event consists of a six-mile run, six-mile paddle down the Mad River, ten-mile bike along gravel and road, and finally skiing up and down intermediate terrain at Mount Ellen. Participate in a relay team, as an individual, or just for certain legs.

Mad River Triathlon is a fundraising event for a coalition of four recreation and conservation non-profits. All proceeds support the restoration of the Mad River and the development of sustainable, inclusive, and interconnected recreational infrastructure in the Mad River Valley.

We are making every effort to create an inclusive event by allowing a wide range of equipment, offering group raft rides down the river, allowing you to choose the legs you wish to participate in, and a broad range of categories and accommodations for adaptive athletes. Additionally, if you cannot afford the registration fee, just let us know and we will offer you a reduced registration rate.

This is a green event that strives for zero waste, minimizes its carbon footprint, and restores the riparian forest along the Mad River on behalf of the participants.

For more information and registration, please visit <http://madrivertriathlon.org/madrivertriathlon>.

MMU Youth Lacrosse registration still open

By Gregg Schmidt, Mount Mansfield Youth Lacrosse

Mount Mansfield Boys Youth Lacrosse (grades 3-8) Spring Season and Tiny Sticks (all genders, K-2) registrations are open.

Limited spots are available for grade 3-8 players, so if your child would like to play, please sign up ASAP.

Mount Mansfield Boys Youth Lacrosse (MMBYL) offers lacrosse programs for youth residing in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (Underhill, Jericho, Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington) as well as neighboring communities without programs (Cambridge) aged Kindergarten through grade 8. No experience is necessary at any level. All are welcome.

To register and get more information on the program(s), go online to <https://bit.ly/4jxFTq5>.

Become a girls’/boys’ lacrosse referee

Interested in earning some extra money, while getting exercise outside and supporting youth sports? Become a boys’ or girls’ lacrosse referee! To become certified official you must attend an officials’ clinic.

Boys’ lacrosse: the Vermont Lacrosse Officials Association (VOLA) is looking to recruit and train new boys’ officials for the spring and summer lacrosse programs throughout Vermont. This is a great way to make extra money and stay involved in the lacrosse community. For more information, please visit www.vermontlacrosseofficials.org or contact Rob Mullin, pyrofighter@gmavt.net. If you have interest in being trained as a boys’ youth official, you can submit your information here: <https://forms.gle/qATxKe1akNS85pqd6>. Boys’ 2025 Officials training will be Sunday, April 27, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Shelburne Field House.

Girls’ lacrosse: NVTYLL works closely with the girls’ officials organization and USA Lacrosse to train and certify girls’ youth officials. This typically involves a combination of online class and on-field training. If you have interest in being trained as a girls’ youth official, you can submit your information to <https://bit.ly/41M4Alm> (short for <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNglyTnSYsXJxnf8U946ESMxjR65CidPLBpcYHTvWwEOXTg/viewform>). Girls’ 2025 Officials training will have two parts: a mandatory online rules meeting Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 PM, and Rating on Sunday, April 27 at Middlebury College, time TBD.

The pay structure for grades 5/6 and 7/8 games is as follows: single game — certified \$45, non certified \$35; two game jamboree — certified \$90, non certified \$70; three game jamboree — certified \$135, non certified \$105.

VivaHart, Vermont Kids Run Club summer/fall classes

VivaHart, Vermont Kids Run Club is coming back to Jericho, with:

- summer: middle school sports prep (grades 5-8);
- fall after school at Jericho Elementary.

Hiring coaches now! Love working with youth and being active? Contact vivahartrunclub@gmail.com.

VivaHart is a youth empowerment program that uses running drills and games as a tool to teach character building and growth mindset to all children. Throughout the program, they learn our empowerment principles while simultaneously improving running strategies.

Aggressive goals, resilience, integrity, running posture, pacing, and energy direction are just a handful of what they will learn. They’ll have so much fun with our innovative curriculum and games that they won’t realize how much they are running!

Also offering private/small group sessions, and Parent-and-Me classes for preschool-aged children.

Learn more at <http://vivahartrunclub.com>.

Obituaries continued from page 11



Vautour held a series of management roles at Montgomery Ward in New York, Connecticut, and Maine before becoming Director of Development for the City of Waterville, ME. He was recruited to become Vermont’s Commissioner of Development in 1960 by Governor F. Ray Keyser. During most of the 1960s Vautour was the General Manager of what was then Madonna Mountain Ski Area, now known as Smugglers’ Notch Resort. During most of the 1970s he and his wife were local business owners. Vautour was a volunteer leader in numerous community and State civic and charitable organizations. Long active in state and national politics, in 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Vautour Director of the Farmers Home Administration for Vermont, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1986 Reagan nominated Vautour to be Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Vautour was at the center of solving the massive farm credit crisis of the 1980s, overseeing the Farmers Home Administration, the Federal Crop Insurance Administration, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Administration, and the Commodity Credit Corporation. President George H.W. Bush asked Vautour to continue in his role throughout his Presidency. Vautour was a lifelong sports enthusiast, especially skiing. Being a competitive skier and jumper at UNH, he passed along his love of skiing, golf, and biking to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Widowed in 2007 by the death of his wife of 56 years, Vautour is survived by his brother and sister-in-law Lawrence and Jean Vautour of Wayne, ME; his four children: Victoria Vautour and her husband Mark Delaney, Gregory Vautour, Andrea Sheredy, and Eric Vautour, all of Jeffersonville; and by four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held Sunday May 4, 2025, 1:00 PM at the Meeting House, The Village at Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Jeffersonville; a reception will follow. In lieu of flowers or other remembrances, he asked that donations in his name be made to “The Nansen Ski Club” (please put on memo line “For Roland”), 658 Cross Country Rd., Pembroke, NH 03275.



The *Mountain Gazette* publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.
 The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at 12:00 PM;
 the advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication, at 5:00 PM.

(Note exceptions, below, due to Monday holidays before publication dates.)

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

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On the web at www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

DEADLINE DATES:

THURSDAY

- January 30
- February 13
- February 27
- March 13
- March 27
- April 10
- April 24
- May 8
- May 29
- June 12
- June 26
- July 10
- July 31
- August 14
- August 26 - early deadline due Labor Day
- September 11
- September 25
- October 9
- October 30
- November 13
- November 27
- December 11
- January 2, 2026

PUBLICATION DATES:

THURSDAY

- February 6
- February 20
- March 6
- March 20
- April 3
- April 17
- May 1
- *May 15 – 3 weeks break until 6/5
- June 5
- June 19
- July 3
- July 17
- August 7
- August 21
- September 4
- September 18
- October 2
- *October 16 – 3 weeks break until 11/6
- November 6
- November 20
- December 4
- December 18
- January 8, 2026

Note early deadlines: Tuesday, August 26, due to Labor Day on Monday, September 1

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For information: Brenda Boutin • 802-453-6354

Miscellaneous continued from page 13

spend time with a youth doing things you both like to do in the community, mentor an elementary school student during your lunch hour, share your love of sports with a young person as a spectator or participant, share your career/trade/skills with a young person at your place of business, and more. Volunteers 18 and older can make difference in the life of a child! Background checks and references are required. For information, go online to <https://bbbs.tfaforms.net/f/BBBSVTBIGINQUIRY>.

TAKE A WALK! – COTS annual Walk will take place on Sunday, May 4, and they are in need of volunteers to help make the event a success. Share in the fun by volunteering! For information and to volunteer, go online to <https://cotsonline.org/cots-walk>.

MAKING MATCHES – HomeShare Vermont volunteers play an important role in helping to make home share matches. They need volunteers, aged 18 and older, to make phone calls from their office to take personal reference information from applicants. A great way to help support affordable housing and aging in place! Background check required. Flexible Monday, Wednesday, and Friday scheduling. Contact Amy Jelen, amy@homesharevermont.org or 802-863-5625.

GREEN IT UP! Vermont's annual Green Up Day will take place on Saturday, May 3. Join your neighbors in picking up and cleaning up our great outdoors. Together we can help save nature and keep our beautiful state GREEN! Learn more online at <https://greenupvermont.org/you-can-make-a-difference/>.

Weigh in to update

Vermont's Climate Action Plan

From Lamoille County Planning Commission

Voice your climate priorities — choose from in-person options around the state or virtual events. Climate Councilors will listen, and then consider public input when revising the Plan (due July 1, 2025). Background materials will be emailed to you a few days in advance of the meeting. Refreshments provided! Kids' activity sheets available for families.

Register via links here: <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/climate-action-plan-2025-update>. Some events in-person around the area and virtually:

- Thursday, April 10, 5:30 – 7:00 PM: virtual;
- Monday, April 14, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Hardwick Town House, 127 Church St., Hardwick;
- Monday, April 28, 5:30 – 7:30 PM: Barre Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite St., Barre;
- Thursday, May 1, 12:00 – 1:30 PM: virtual.

Join a meeting to share your thoughts with the Council, or follow this link to submit a written comment: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/ClimateCouncil/PublicInputForm.aspx>.

Questions? Contact anr.cao@vermont.gov or 802-404-2729 including for accessibility needs (language, transportation, disability, etc.).

Cambridge Fire Department Calcutta fundraiser May 31

By Taylor White, Jeffersonville

Cambridge community — here is your chance to win up to \$1500 while supporting your local emergency services! The Cambridge Fire Department is hosting its annual Calcutta Fundraiser on Saturday, May 31, 5:00 PM at VT State University, Johnson Campus, Stearns Dining Hall. Tickets, \$120 each, include entry to the event and dinner for two.

Here are the basics of the game: we sell 98 tickets. The final two tickets (numbers 99 and 100) will be raffled off the night of the dinner. The cost for a chance to win one of these two tickets is \$10 a chance.

Tickets 99 and 100 are guaranteed winners and are not placed into the game until after draw #90. Winning one of these raffles allows for a second chance at the game!

Top five prizes are: draw #96, \$125; draw #97, \$175; draw #98 \$200; draw #99, \$300; draw #100, \$1500.

If you are interested in a fun evening with your local Fire Fighters, contact taylor@vtlegacyhomes.com or any member, for a ticket. Thank you for your support!

Spring is springing toward the St. Thomas yard sale

Spring cleaning yet?

The annual St. Thomas Yard Sale will be held Friday-Sunday, June 20-22 this year. Please gather your clean, serviceable, and quality treasures for the sale.

Starting on Tuesday, April 22, we'll be having Donation Days on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Thanks in advance for your donations!

LRSWMD 2025 hazardous waste collection events

By Erika Schaper, Outreach and Education Coordinator, LRSWMD Board

Mark your calendars! Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) Household Hazardous Waste Collection events have been posted for 2025.

The next collection event will be held on Saturday, May 3, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM for District residents, and 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM for businesses, at Lamoille Union High School (736 VT Rt. 15W, Hyde Park).

Businesses must register at least one week in advance. Items must be kept in their original containers, and containers will not be returned (for information on gas jugs, call the office).

No containers larger than 5 gallons will be accepted and paint is limited to 10 gallons per car. At drop off: NO smoking is allowed, and children and pets must stay in your vehicle.

Disposal cost for residents is \$10 per household (cash or local check only).

Last September we had over 200 participants and the wait was long. Skip the line and visit these links for FREE, year-round drop off locations near you: paint: <https://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites/>; motor oil: <https://www.lrswmd.org/motor-oil>.

For more information about household hazardous waste, including tips for reducing toxics, identifying household hazardous materials and understanding product labels, recipes

for non-toxic alternatives, and business registration information, visit: www.LRSWMD.org/hazardous-waste.

Questions? Contact 802-888-7317 or outreach@lrswmd.org.

Volunteer tree planting at the Farm Upstream April 18, 21

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District has teamed up with The Farm Upstream to host a pre-Earth Day tree planting event. We'll be planting on Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at The Farm Upstream, Lee River Rd., Jericho.

To sign up for either — or both — days, please fill out the online form at <https://bit.ly/4hwA360>. We'll send you all the important details and other helpful instructions, two weeks before the event.

Waterproof shoes, long sleeves, work/garden gloves, and long pants are recommended. We will have spare gloves to pass out to folks. We can't wait to plant trees with you!

If you have any questions before the event, feel free to reach out to Lucas, Lucas@winooskinrcd.org.

Vermont Coverts offers forest stewardship training

If you love your woodlands, enjoy seeing wildlife, and want to learn how a healthy forest can enhance wildlife habitat and provide recreational and timber benefits, this workshop is for you! Learn about managing your woodlands and reaching out to others in your community. This program connects you with resource professionals, landowners, and others while learning how you can improve your woodlands.

This stewardship training will be offered twice this year: in spring, Friday-Sunday, April 25-27 at Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston; and in fall, Friday-Sunday, September 12-14 at Kehoe Conservation Camp, Castleton.

To learn more, apply online, see a sample agenda, or download an application, visit our website at <https://vtcoverts.org/calendar.html> and find the date you are interested in, or contact Lisa Sausville, lisa@vtcoverts.org.

Public input sought on Chittenden County draft future land use map

From CCRPC

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), the region's land use and transportation planning and policy organization, is seeking public input on a new draft Future Land Use map for Chittenden County. This map, once adopted, will guide how land in the region will be used in the future. Community members can review and comment on the draft map using an online interactive mapping tool through Monday, May 19, 2025. Complete information is available at: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/ecos-engagement>.

Context and purpose of the future land use map: In 2024, Vermont passed Act 181 to encourage the development of new housing by reducing permitting requirements (known as Act 250), and by directing state investment to areas that are planned for growth. These areas include historic downtowns and villages, as well as other existing and future settlement areas, to help support livable communities as well as vital farms, forests, and natural areas. CCRPC is working with each town and city in Chittenden County to identify where to make it easier to build housing and businesses, and where to prioritize other land uses like recreation, conservation, forestry, and agriculture. Once the Future Land Use map is approved, areas planned for growth will automatically qualify for state incentives that make it easier to build much-needed homes.

To ensure the Future Land Use map is accurate and reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of Chittenden County residents, CCRPC is working with each town and city to assess the map on the local level and build consensus by providing multiple opportunities for community feedback.

How to provide comments: There are two primary ways to review the draft map and provide comments:

- online map — review the draft map via an interactive mapping and comment tool. The online map works on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. For ease of use, CCRPC suggests using a computer if possible. In order to leave a comment, you'll need to provide your name and email address. We will only use your email address to follow up with you if we have any questions about your comment. It will not be shared or used for any other purpose.
- static map — review static PDF versions of the map (one for each city/town) and send comments to Taylor Newton, tnewton@ccrpcvt.org.

The online map and PDF versions are all available at <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/ecos-engagement>, where you can also see additional engagement efforts CCRPC is conducting related to Act 181 and the creation of the updated Chittenden County Future Land Use map, and find events in your community. Comments will be accepted through Monday, May 19, 2025. All comments will be compiled, summarized, and shared on the CCRPC website as soon as possible after all comments are received.

Any questions, comments, or requests for accommodation, including translation and interpretation, can be directed to Taylor Newton, tnewton@ccrpcvt.org or 802-846-4490 x115.

The CCRPC (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/>) is one of 11 regional planning commissions in Vermont and serves as the State's only federally required metropolitan planning organization. The CCRPC acts as the principal forum for planning, policy and community development in the region by providing planning and technical assistance that meets the needs of its member municipalities and the public, while remaining consistent with federal and state requirements. The CCRPC's work results in the development and implementation of plans that support sustainable development and improve the region's quality of life and environment.

For more information about CCRPC and to view a list of recent and current projects in your community, visit <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-communities>.

Reunification in foster care

From the Child Welfare Information Gateway

Reunification is the most common goal for children in foster care. When children are separated from their families, the first goal is to reunify them when it is safe enough to do so. To support the reunification process, child welfare agencies implement trauma-informed, family-centered approaches that build on family strengths and actively engage parents, youth, and kin — including maternal and paternal relatives and fictive kin — as experts on their own lives.

Identifying the safety issue that brought the family to the attention of the child welfare system, assessing family strengths and needs, and bringing together a team of partners to include the family, caregivers, legal, and community providers are all strategies that can positively impact reunification and support long-term family stability.

Reunification services should be strengths-based, culturally responsive, trauma informed, and accessible to parents. Helpful resources to learn practices and strategies that support family reunification in child welfare are provided through the Child Welfare Information Gateway website. Here is an introduction to one of those summaries:

Partnering with birth parents to promote reunification

The most successful foster caregivers understand their role goes beyond supporting the children in their care to supporting the children's families as a whole. Many factors may influence how you interact with a birth family, including your agency's approach and the supports and training you receive as a caregiver.

Children, youth, and families benefit when foster and birth parents are supported by an agency culture that encourages a meaningful partnership and that provides quality support. Child Welfare Information Gateway conducted a series of interviews with birth and foster parents — many of whom are partnership advocates with either the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) or the Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) — to help dispel some of the myths each may hold about the other.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway provides a helpful factsheet that shares their advice and highlights the many opportunities to help children, youth, and families in need. Common themes and tips that emerged in our conversations with birth and foster parents on how attitudes, expectations, and child- and family-centered actions can affect outcomes for children and families are highlighted.

Here is a link to that resource and others: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/partnering-birth-parents-promote-reunification/>.

From CSWD: disposing of lightbulbs

As folks begin their spring cleaning, many have asked us what they should do with old lightbulbs. Here's what you need to know.

These lightbulbs can go in the trash: halogen, incandescent, LED, and infrared bulbs do not contain hazardous materials and can go in your regular household trash.

But keep mercury-containing bulbs OUT of the landfill and blue-bin recycling! These should be brought to a CSWD Drop-Off Center or the Environmental Depot (by appointment only) for proper disposal. We accept up to 10 per day of the following mercury-containing bulbs at any Drop-Off Center:

- fluorescent tubes;
- compact fluorescent bulbs;
- circuline tubes;
- high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs;
- mercury vapor bulbs;
- U-tubes.

To dispose of larger quantities, schedule an appointment at the Environmental Depot, <https://cswd.net/cswd-location/environmental-depot/>.

Thanks for keeping hazardous waste out of the landfill and recycling right!

Curious what happens to fluorescent bulbs we collect and other materials? Visit our *What Goes Where* blog with a link to all materials we collect and what happens to them. <https://cswd.net/>.

Vermont Church at Prison memoir Don't Burn My House Down

By Guy Page

Most people will never visit a prison. They never wonder what it's like because they've already been told: it's where society puts the bad folks. That's what IBM engineer Pete Fiske, the father of a thriving family in Underhill, thought until the unexpected happened — he began to experience a calling to “do God's work” inside prisons.

Fiske describes his unexpected calling and subsequent decades of ministry in a 2025 book/teaching tool, [Don't Burn My House Down](#).

Soon after his calling began, he found himself at a Christian seminar inside a prison where he faced his fears of encountering the most dangerous men on earth. Instead of a showdown, he experienced a true revelation: God opened his heart to these men and inspired the man later to become known to thousands of men and women inside and outside the walls of Vermont prisons as “Pastor Pete,” to help them salvage their lives through the love of God.

In 1992 with his late wife Agnes, Pete Fiske assumed the leadership of what was to become The Church at Prison. He retired from IBM a year later. God told Pete this ministry was a “church” and thus in 1997 The Church At Prison, Inc. (CAP) was incorporated as a church in the state of Vermont. Since then, he has devoted his life to God for the purpose of guiding lost souls (infamous murderers, drug dealers, addicts, and thieves) to the spiritual redemption by Jesus Christ and its wonderful expressions of substance abuse recovery, law-abiding living, work, and successful family life.

In November of 2004 Agnes passed away after a five-year battle with cancer. In April of 2006 Pete invited Joanne Falise to a church service inside prison. She continued serving alongside him and they were married that December, with another



Mansfield Nordic Club members compete in championship meet in Utah

Ten teams representing regions across the United States competed in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Junior National Championships for cross country skiing (<https://utaholympiclegacy.org/event/junior-xc-nationals-2025/>) held March 6-15 in Soldier Hollow, UT, site of the 2002 and upcoming 2034 Winter Olympic Games.

Mansfield Nordic Club (MNC), based in Jericho and supporting skiers from across northwestern VT, qualified eight athletes to represent Team New England. Across a week of competitions, including three individual events and a team relay, MNC skiers took home seven All-American (top-10 individual) awards, as well as 15 individual top-30 finishes.

Top MNC finishes included Acadia Enman (Huntington), Astrid Longstreth (West Bolton), and Mia Gorman (Jericho) finishing 4th, 5th, and 6th in the U16 5km classical race. Niko Cuneo (St. George) and Jonah Gorman (Jericho) finished 5th and 6th in the U18 freestyle sprint. Mia Gorman added to her classical race 6th place by also finishing 6th in the U16 freestyle sprint and U16 7.5km freestyle mass start.

Mansfield Nordic Club finished the week ranked as the 11th strongest club in the country, and the second strongest club from the New England region.

Pictured above are MNC athletes at opening ceremonies in Utah: Acadia Enman (Huntington), Jonah Gorman (Jericho), Mia Gorman (Jericho), Astrid Longstreth (West Bolton), Anders Linseisen (Shelburne), Jorgen Pirrung (Ripton), James Langan (South Burlington), and Niko Cuneo (St. George).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Miscellaneous continued from page 15

ceremony inside prison in January 2007. In February 2025, Fiske, 80, and his wife Joanne (Jo), 77, retired from the leadership of The Church at Prison, Inc. They still remain active as emeritus leaders, serving on the Board and continuing as Pastors within CAP. They live in Jericho at the edge of a town forest with their border collie Asher and Maine coon cat Simba.

Fiske's 2024 book/teaching tool Don't Burn My House Down details Pastor Pete's life work in prison ministry, his calling to do God's work, and how he is endlessly inspired by the beauty of the natural world that God has provided in rural Vermont. Drawing on Pete's life experiences, the book describes a path forward for other people feeling the tug of an improbable calling to serve others in God's name: "Trust and embrace God's calling. Step boldly into your purpose. Empower your journey with faith."

The book was released on Amazon March 10, 2025. A signed copy of Don't Burn My House Down can be purchased online at <https://dontburnmyhousedown.org/>. A portion of each sale will go to the Church at Prison, Inc.

Those interested are encouraged to contact Fiske at pastorpete@churchatprison.com, 802-999-2368. For more information about the ongoing ministry of the Church at Prison, go to <https://www.churchatprison.com/>. Contact the author for bulk purchases and to help fund books for inmates and ex-inmates.

Happy Easter
Sunday, April 20, 2025

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