

Five candidates in Bolton Selectboard race

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

For a small town, Bolton has a lot of civic minded people. This year, there are two men vying for a three-year seat on the five-person Select Board and three more who are interested in a two-year term. In both cases, the incumbents have chosen not to run for reelection. The two men vying for a three-year term are Tony Barbagallo and Jerry Mullen, and the three vying for a two-year term are Isaac Boiney, Mica Cassara, and John Tschernenko.

Tony Barbagallo has lived in Bolton for the last 20 years and during that time he has held a number of volunteer positions. He started as the Bolton representative on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and followed that with stints on the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee. He served as Treasurer of the Smilie School Board and then took some time off when his boys were young, but for the last four years he has served as the town's Green-Up Day Coordinator.

Barbagallo has a Civil and Environmental Engineering degree and an MBA. He spent two decades at the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) where he was responsible for the planning, development, budgeting, and operation of most of its facilities. He currently serves as the Director of Business Development for Casella Organics. Barbagallo is thoroughly familiar with the rules and procedures of the Select Board since attending meetings in other towns was part of his job duties at CSWD, and he believes the budgeting experience he gained there would be helpful if he is elected. "I think I have a fairly good handle on the issues in town," he said, "and thankfully most of the hot issues have been resolved." One issue which he believes may arise shortly is whether the town should acquire Wheeler Field. Barbagallo is in favor of the acquisition, which he hopes can be done with minimal public expenditures.

An outdoors enthusiast, Barbagallo loves the rural character of Bolton. He notes that Bolton does not have a town center but adds that for many, the ski area serves that function. He likes the fact that Bolton is rural enough not to have its own police force or water or sewer system. He has no major complaints about how things are run, although he noted that he disagreed with the Select Board's decision to allow trapping at Preston Pond.

Jerry Mullen spent fifteen years on the Bolton Select Board before retiring to care for his ailing wife, and he'd like to go back for another term. "In the Air Force they tell you your first job is to train your replacement," he said, "and looking at some of the things that have happened in the last couple of years, I'd like another chance to do that."

Mullen's parents bought a farm in Bolton in 1946 and spent four years rebuilding it. Mullen moved up in 1950. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1956-1958 and was in the Vermont Air National Guard until 1979. He retired as a major and completed the Air Command and Staff College. Mullen helped his father build and run a small ski area in Bolton Notch, which closed in the late 1970s. He taught at Jericho High School for five years and then spent almost three decades at Burlington High School teaching geology and chemistry and establishing the Environmental Studies Program.

In addition to his 15 years on the Select Board, Mullen has recently served on the Conservation Commission. Although he recognizes that the Select Board is the ultimate authority, he was disappointed when they disagreed with a 5-1 decision by the Commission regarding trapping on conserved land, something which he suspects was done for political reasons. He also believes the Board was unreasonably testy with a resident whose mailbox was knocked over by a town snowplow.

Mullen thinks the Select Board has done a good job with the road system in Bolton. During the 1990s he was involved with creating the town's Emergency Management Plan, which was unanimously adopted but never implemented. He would like to revise the plan to incorporate the Community Emergency Response Team, which he heads. "We have 500-year storms every 100 years," he said, "and 100-year storms every two to three years." Mullen has strong views on protecting both the environment and gun rights. "I'm a strong constitutionalist," he said. "I'm quite determined that if you want to change the Constitution, you amend it, rather than pass laws that violate it."

At 34, **Isaac Boiney** is the youngest of all the Select Board candidates. Although he has not previously served on any boards or committees in town, he said he always wanted to run for office. "It's important to me to bring a new face to democracy," he said. "I'd like to start small and see where it goes from there."

A flooring installer by trade, Boiney describes himself as coming from a socially conservative and traditional background but noted

that his views have evolved. "I have some conservative views and some liberal ideas," he said. "I consider myself an Independent and I can reach across to people on both sides of the political landscape." Boiney was born in Underhill and moved around Chittenden County, settling in Bolton four years ago. His mother, who has served as a Justice of the Peace, was part of his inspiration to run. "I don't have a lot of experience with governing," he said, "but I'm interested in learning about it and trying to make changes for the best of the town."

Boiney likes the fact that Bolton has a small town feel but one change that he would like to see is having more people visit the town. "I'm young and I'd like to bring that youth and moderate views to the table," he said. "I will try my best to learn and aid the decision-making and serve as best as I possibly can."

Mica Cassara has lived in Bolton for more than four decades. "It's a wonderful community," he said. "I like being able to step outside and go for a walk in the woods or snowshoe or bike. I feel like I've gotten a lot from the town and I'd like to give back and thought this would be a good way to serve the community."

In the late 1990s Cassara served on the first Bolton Planning Commission. When the town joined the Chittenden Solid Waste District in the early 2000s, he became their representative. More recently, after Tropical Storm Irene, he served on the board of Rebuild Waterbury, which provided help to those with flood damage from Irene including some residents of Bolton along the U.S. Rt. 2 corridor.

Armed with a degree in Civil Engineering from UVM, Cassara worked in structural design, transportation engineering and water supply, and then spent fifteen years as computer programmer for the Agency of Human Services before retiring in 2015. He believes he can bring his organizational skills as well as his background in civil engineering to the board. "I have some understanding of road construction," he said, "and pretty soon we will need to do some work on our back roads as part of the Vermont Better Roads Program to square them up with new state requirements to reduce water pollution. As a civil engineer I've done a lot of this kind of work." Cassara believes his work in web development can also be helpful to the town.

"In Bolton, we do a very good job of using our resources as a selling point for the town," Cassara said. "We do well marketing ourselves for people who like outdoor activity." On the debit side of the equation, Cassara believes the town could do a better job of planning for the future and he gave roads as an example, noting that improvements which the town of Richmond has made on their section of Stage Road has reduced wear and tear on their equipment and vehicles. "Our forward thinking could be improved upon a bit," he said.

This will mark the second time **John Tschernenko** has run for Select Board, having lost to Josh Arneson in 2017. "Last year a big focus of why I ran was that there was no representation from my part of town," said Tschernenko of his neighborhood at the top of the Bolton Access Road. This year, he is also concerned with the tenor of discourse. "The Chair of the Select Board had a letter on Front Porch Forum regarding Preston Pond," he said. "I'm not for or against trapping but I didn't like the way she dragged three people through the mud. We need more respect and politeness."

For the last twenty years, Tschernenko has been involved in what he describes as "the procurement side of the world and cost control." The last fifteen of those years have been spent as the Director of Purchasing for Burke Mountain and Jay Peak. "The meat and potatoes of what I bring to the table is fiscal responsibility and conservatism," he said. "We've reduced taxes in town by 1% but why not make it 10%? At work, I'm responsible for costing out services, hard goods and contracts. That's what I bring to the table." Additionally, Tschernenko would like to see greater transparency in how the town awards contracts.

Tschernenko enjoys the rural location of Bolton. "I love how we are a small town and neighbors look out for one another," he said. "We are a close-knit community." Tschernenko believes the Preston Pond trapping issue was resolved well. "There was compromise on both sides," he said. "That's how we come together to resolve issues without rancor."

Tschernenko has not served on any boards or committees in town but hopes that if he is elected he might be able to improve the tone of the Select Board. "When you come before the board you are met with a 'what are you doing here' attitude and that has to change," he said. "If a neighbor feels it's necessary to go the Select Board with an issue, it means it's important to them. We need to start treating people that way."



Sharing the road with emergency vehicles

By Tessa Roy

Ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars, oh my! You're bound to see these vehicles driving to emergency scenes and it's important to know what to do to stay safely out of the way.

Vermont law states that when you see an emergency vehicle driving with its emergency lights and siren on, you must pull to the right and come to a complete stop. This clears the road and allows the emergency vehicle to reach its destination quickly and safely. If drivers don't pull over, or they pull to the left instead of the right, the chances of a collision increase. You may be surprised that we're spending time writing an article on what seems like such a simple topic, and I hope that many of you reading this article already know and follow the law by pulling to the right and coming to a complete stop. However, I've seen countless drivers fail to move over and stop. Take a moment here, dear reader, to pause and think about how it would affect you if it was you or a loved in our ambulance and a car did not yield. Lights and siren are only used when necessary because it increases the risk of a collision between the emergency vehicle and the public. If we are using emergency lights and siren it means someone needs help right away, and time is of the essence. So please, when you see any emergency vehicle with its emergency lights and siren on, pull to the right and come to a complete stop. Wait for the vehicle to pass and take an extra moment to check for other emergency vehicles before you reenter the lane. It only takes a moment and you could save a life.

I spoke with one of our drivers at Essex Rescue to get her take on what drivers do that bothers her the most. Michelle Turner has been with Essex Rescue for four years and has been driving the ambulance for three years. She reiterated that drivers not pulling to the right and coming to a complete stop is a daily issue. Michelle also noted that intersections with two lanes of traffic heading in the same direction tend to be tricky. The drivers in the right lane pull to the right, but the drivers in the left lane often pull to the left. While theoretically this clears the center of the road, the opening is often not large enough to move through quickly and safely with our wide ambulances, and since ambulance drivers are trained to always go left it can be dangerous to have cars pulling to the left as well. For this reason, both lanes should move to the right. Cars in left turn only lanes also need to move to the right, something Michelle says she often sees them fail to do. When they refuse to move to the right this can force the ambulance even further to the left and out into opposing traffic. While opposing traffic should also be pulling to the right and coming to a complete stop, it is still more dangerous for the ambulance to drive in the opposing lane than the lane of travel.

It comes down to safety. The safety of the ambulance crew, the patient, the other drivers, of any other emergency vehicle operators, and of cyclists and pedestrians near the roadway. Keep yourself and others safe by pulling as far to the right as possible, coming to a complete stop, and checking that the lane is clear before you reenter. If we all work together we can get emergency vehicles to where they need to be in a timely manner and we can all stay safe while doing so.

As always, if you are interested in being an EMT or a driver with Essex Rescue please contact Joe Congdon, 878-4859 ext 7. We would love to have you!

CLiF holiday book drive at Phoenix Books

Children beam as they show the CLiF books they received from a book drive held by Phoenix Books over the 2017 holiday season. Story and more photos page 7.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Underhill Selectboard Candidates' Forum

The Underhill Historical Society is hosting a Selectboard Candidates' Forum on Thursday, February 22 at 6:30 PM. The event will be held at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library.

Candidates include Catherine "Cat" Kearns and Stacie Turkos. The two will be given five minutes to present their reasons for running for the position, followed by a question and answer period by the audience.

The local community TV network, MMCTV, will tape the event for either live broadcast or showing prior to the election on Tuesday, March 6.



COMING EVENTS



Who's Hooting? Come learn about owls like this Eastern Screech Owl – search for nests, feel real feathers, learn why they are silent and successful predators, discover what's inside an owl pellet, and learn how to call them in the night. Meet at the Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Ages 3-5 with adult companion. Members \$8 adult and one child, \$4 additional child; non-members \$10 and \$4. Pre-registration required, 434-3068 or vermont@audubon.org.

PHOTO BY DANIEL BEHM

Wednesday, February 14

Free Community Meal, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, United Church of Johnson, 100 Main St., Johnson. Hot lunch on the second and fourth Wednesday of each, through May, for all who attend. Johnson State College will offer a free community meal, open to the public. Johnson students, faculty, and staff serve as volunteers. All meals are at the same time and location. Sponsored in part by JSC Dining Services, the JSC SERVE program, and Laraway Youth and Family Services.

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex. "Come as you are." For information, 802-879-4313.

Friday-Saturday, February 16-17

"I Love Libraries" Book Sale, 5:30 – 8:30 PM Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Saturday, Richmond Free Library, Richmond. Come shop from a fantastic selection of fiction and non-fiction books and media – music, DVDs, audio books – for all ages. Live local music; raffle with prizes including restaurant gift cards, T-shirts, local business gift cards, and more. Saturday \$5 bag sale, 2:00 – 3:00 PM. Organized by the Friends of the Richmond Free Library. For more information, call the Library, 434-3036.

Saturday, February 17

Saturday SpongeBob Story Time with James Kochalka, 11:00 AM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Join us for a *SpongeBob* story time with James Kochalka, whose off-model, chibi-like short *SpongeBob* strips have entertained readers since *SpongeBob* Comics issue #1. Now, *SpongeFunnies* are busting out into a full-length ultra-cute epic story, *Skate the Cake!* If you like *SpongeBob*, *Squidward*, skateboards, cakes, volcanoes, deserts, and

famous movie star "Duke McGill," then you will love this story time! James Kochalka is the first Cartoonist Laureate of Vermont. Free and open to all ages. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350.

Great Backyard Bird Count, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Admission by donation. Bird count information at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>. For more information, Museum@birdsofvermont.org or 802-434-2167.

Embattled Bats dinner and slide show, 6:00 PM, Unitarian Church of Montpelier, Montpelier. Following the dinner, at 7:30 PM Alyssa Bennett, Small Mammals Biologist for VT Fish & Wildlife, will share visuals and news from her work with Vermont's bats. Learn about the habitat, health, and life cycles of Vermont's nine species of bats, and how to help protect them. The dinner is vegetarian, prepared by Farmhouse Catering – hot mulled cider, farmers' green salad with buttermilk dressing, buttered noodles, vegetable bean and tofu stew, rolls and butter, red velvet cake, coffee/tea. Tickets \$20, contact Nancy Schulz, SaddleShoes2@gmail.com; advance purchase recommended as seating is limited. Upcoming dinner/slide show: March 17, *Lake Sturgeon: Champlain's Giant, Prehistoric Fish*.

Sunday, February 18

Underhill Community Soup Bowl, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center. Second Annual Winter Series! Free and family-friendly event! These gatherings were such a hit last year, a few community members have organized another series this winter. Come join your neighbors for this casual gathering on a Sunday evening. Have a simple but delicious dinner and connect with other town folks during these dark and cold months. Four soups will be provided, including a vegetarian option. Please bring bread, cheese, or a dessert to share; your own beverage; bowls, utensils, cups; a friend or neighbor. Hope to see you there!

Monday, February 19

The Art of Lithuanian Knitting, 6:30 PM, Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael St., Essex. Join author Donna Druchunas for a discussion of the traditional art of Lithuanian knitwear and its modern applications. Donna is a writer and knitwear designer with passions for knitting, world travel, and research. She has been visiting Lithuania, where her great-grandparents were born, every year since 2007. Free and open to all. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 872-7111.

Legislative Breakfast with Gov. Phil Scott, 7:30 – 9:30 AM, Sterns Student Center second floor, Johnson State College, Johnson. Sponsored by the Lamoille Chamber of Commerce. This series is an opportunity for citizens to speak directly with their representatives, who are responsible for explaining their positions and votes. Help steer the decisions being made in Montpelier! Admission for Chamber members \$10; non-members \$15. For more information, contact Jen Kittell, Lamoille Chamber of Commerce, 802-888-7607 or jen@lamoillechamber.com.

Thursday, February 22

Underhill Selectboard Candidates Forum, 6:30 PM, Hearth Room, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. Hosted by the Underhill Historical Society, the event will include declared candidates Catherine "Cat" Kearns and Stacie Turkos.

Saturday, February 24

Bird Monitoring Walk, 8:00 – 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Admission by donation. All birders welcome on the monthly monitoring walk

outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. We often have coffee afterwards, indoors at our viewing window. Most fun for adults and older children. Please bring your own binoculars. Free; please pre-register, Museum@birdsofvermont.org or 802-434-2167.

Tarot Readings with Rachel, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Join us for a Jungian-inspired tarot reading with Rachel, who has been reading tarot for six years and whose approach draws from the concept that we can access collective symbols and archetypes from our unconscious that can assist in guiding our intuition. Rachel has an MA in clinical mental health counseling from Antioch University New England and has a private psychotherapy practice. Readings are first come, first served, and are for entertainment purposes only. Suggested donation \$5-10. For information, www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350.

Tuesday, February 27

Gardening in Small Spaces, 1:00 PM, United First Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington. In a program sponsored by the Burlington Garden Club, Sarah Salatino will present ideas to keep your hands in the soil and your growing season filled with plants. Sarah is the owner/head grower of Full Circle Gardens in Essex, home of over 700 varieties of Vermont-grown hardy perennials and their seasonal companions. She is a member of the VT Nursery and Landscape Association and is a VT Certified Horticulturist. Her nursery serves as an education site to promote pollinator gardens and native plants, to conserve rare perennial species, and to provide inspiration for your personal garden. Free and open to the public. Find the club on Facebook (Burlington Garden Club Vermont) or online at WWW.BGCVT.org.

Wednesday, February 28

Free Community Meal, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, United Church of Johnson, 100 Main St., Johnson. Hot lunch on the second and fourth Wednesday of each, through May, for all who attend. Johnson State College will offer a free community meal, open to the public. Johnson students, faculty, and staff serve as volunteers. All meals are at the same time and location. Sponsored in part by JSC Dining Services, the JSC SERVE program, and Laraway Youth and Family Services.

Thursday, March 1

Free Community Soup and Bread Supper, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex. Choose from a variety of hearty soups and breads, plus a sweet dessert. Stay at the church to eat with friends and family, or pick up to take home. The Suppers are held on the first Thursday of the month. For more information, call Pastor Jeannette Conner, 879-4313. Donations are welcome, but not expected.

Lamoille Region Chamber of Commerce annual membership meeting, Johnson State College, Johnson. Keynote speaker Bess O'Brien, co-founder with her husband Jay Craven of Kingdom County Productions. She will talk about her career as a documentary filmmaker in Vermont and her focus on social issues and challenges the state faces. Tickets \$55 each. For more information or to sponsor the event, contact jen@lamoillechamber.com or stop by the Chamber office at 92 Lower Main St., Suite #6, Morrisville.

Friday-Saturday, March 2-3

Book and Bake Sale, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, both days, Grace United Methodist Church, 130 Maple St., Essex Junction. Information: 878-4078.

COLLEGE NEWS

Jeffrey Carter of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List with honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

Anna Chaffee of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Thomas Chivers of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Samuel Clark of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Leah Corbin of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Alex Cummings of

Jeffersonville, VT, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Megan Currier of Westford, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Widener University, Chester, PA. Currier is majoring in biology.

Christian Decoster of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at Becker College, Worcester, MA.

Bethany DeMuyneck of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Althea Devereux of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List with highest honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

Clara Douglas of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Morgan Dreibelbis of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

James Duke of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Fiona-Rose Dulude of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at Merrimack College, North Andover, MA.

Ada Dunkley of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Isabel Dunkley of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

William Dunkley of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Samantha Elgin of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Molly Finn of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List with high honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

Steven Garcia of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Flynn Genadio-Allen of Jeffersonville, VT, a senior majoring in civil engineering, has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Lindsay Hallowell of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Meghan Hawley of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at Merrimack College, North Andover, MA.

Henre Hermanowski of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Kathryn Hogan of Cambridge, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Shudder Hurd-Burnell of Waterbury, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Christopher Irish of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Lauren Irish of Cambridge, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List with highest honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

Charles Isvak of Waterbury, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Dakota Jones of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Dyani Jones of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Claire Julianelle of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Julia Kitonis of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Jacob Lamoureux of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at the University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT.

Allison Lane of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Derek Lautenschlager of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 President's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Rylee LeBourveau of Jericho, VT, a freshman majoring in business studies, has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

William Macone of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at Merrimack College, North Andover, MA.

Jenna McCarthy of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Courtney Meunier of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List at Emerson College, Boston, MA. Meunier is majoring in creative writing BFA.

Megan Nelson of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Michael O'Connor of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List with high honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

Emma Phalen of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2017 Dean's List with high honors at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

Isaac Racine of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Mikayla Racine of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

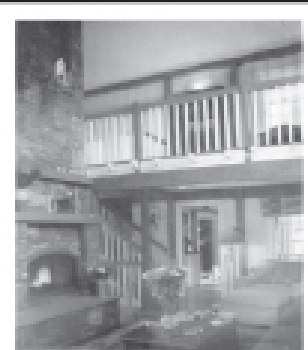


Mountain High Pizza Pie

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Compassion fatigue

By Sue Kusserow
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Annie Dillard in a recent essay used the term “compassion fatigue.” It is a phrase to describe what many of us are struggling with now: the overload of horrors in larger and larger numbers and the dulling quality of constancy and repetition. And yet, why now? Our history has always been riddled with horrors, deliberate neglect of “small” “unsuitable” people and countries. The aim has been to conquer, control, and rule. The crumbling sides of the Coliseum once held Christians armed only with their faith; the blood-starved audience went home justified in their success. Vesuvius covered a whole city, caught citizens running away, stopped mid-step in the stride that would be forever sculptured in lava-turned-stone. (Even natural events could be cleverly misconstrued into the work of some evil god.)

And in the present, nature is transformed, sometimes by us, into the Bangladesh earthquake which killed 138,000, and the Asian tsunamis that wiped away the beaches of sand, trees, and people. And Syria, Myanmar, Yemen, where people are considered less than people and glossed over by the word “minority,” which is a synonym for powerlessness. Words can push a group into a controlled space.

It could be that numbers make an unreal and unimaginable total. Statistics in the thousands and even in the hundreds become too large to grasp. We didn’t used to see this: there was the slower drama of print and delivery, not as many quick pictures taken “on the scene.” The long lines of struggling marchers, the tin shacks floated away by sewage-filled water, the complete elimination of one group who cannot be understood, excused or tolerated by the more powerful “righteous” group. And numbers come quickly now, in proportions that we don’t know how to assimilate. And it is another gift of technology that sometimes turns our day upside down: small photos of individuals, with faces, with names, with fear and bravery mixed in. There is a young girl fleeing from her burning village in Vietnam; her body is alit with fire... the devil on her back... and she will never run fast enough to get rid of it. There is a head shot of an old woman wrapped in a babushka and blanket, whose eyes are larger than her face, her bones are sunken into her mouth, her skin is dark and purple. The horror of her last hours will never let her go.

Do we become more compassionate at home with our own tragedies? Does it help to look for a motive, suppositions or a professional explanation? We know this name, published for all to read, with a photo from the yearbook. She was on the basketball team, had an older brother who graduated two years ago, who volunteered to help younger kids with the beginnings of math and writing. The numbers of such personalized obituaries crowd into our minds, and break up the stacks of numbers into faces, close-ups on TV, visualizations from our technology.

And this is the tiredness that comes from injustices and worse: compassion fatigue. How much can we take, how much can we feel before empathy dries out and we turn away from reality? So, numbers that are too large to be personalized protect us with the anonymity of the mass. “Natural” disasters have a ragged web of inevitability. Yet we do know that there are silent forces of human intervention that blanket cities with smog, create famines due to overpopulation, and dig far into the earth to disturb the equilibrium of our planet.

So what can we do to protect us from this endemic of compassion fatigue? Work, TV, radio, books, movies, both give and take. Sometimes they give relief by not making one think too heavily. They bring sympathy, empathy, awareness, but no active “cure.” It is a glimpse to keep us informed, but leaves us with a feeling of uselessness. It leaves us with a feeling of inaction, the wearing feeling of emotion at a standstill, because it can’t absorb anymore.

There was a violent ocean storm in the Bahamas. Thousands of starfish were washed up on the beaches, gasping and dying for water. A man ran through the masses of starfish and threw as many as he could back into the ocean. Another man was watching: “There are thousands... How do you think you can be helpful?” The runner replied: “I can only get a few at a time, but at least I am doing that.”

“Whatever you do will never be enough. But it matters enormously that you do it.” – Gandhi

Jericho Mystery Photo #6: Winter Sliding

Got snow (and ice): time to slide – Jericho style. This winter’s forecast calls for cold, snow, ice, which spells slippery. If we are to learn from the snowmen found in the area, we need to get outside because it is good for our health. However, slippery ice is like music; if you don’t C sharp you’ll B flat!

One might ask – how to travel about Jericho? If you travel by car beware the speed bump on Browns Trace has a rating of 25 miles per hour. Any faster and your car might do a face plant on the downside.

Fortunately, Jericho residents have discovered or exploited other winter travel methods. If it is slippery, let’s slide. For those more into the spectator side of the sport, consider sitting in chairs made of skis. If four wheels are still your thing, try an all-season Radio Flyer Classic Red Wagon – volunteer ‘puller’ required. For the younger set (under two), a stroller is necessary. Mom or Dad is required to push and occasionally recover dropped mittens, hats, scarf, or drink bottle. For the slightly older brother or sister willing to risk just two wheels, a bicycle with especially knobby tires might do the trick. Don’t worry about working brakes – stopping and ice are not synonymous. For those older yet, but not old enough to know better, winter motorcycle is the tool of choice. However, wear a helmet – you will slide into something if not everything. Feeling really hardy, but afraid of too much speed on the Jericho slopes and sidewalks, not to mention the back steps? Get in touch with nature – go barefoot in the snow. Just don’t stand still. As the snow will melt, you will freeze. None of these fit your fancy? There is always the age-old favorite, a Speedway sled.

So if you find Jericho covered with snow and ice, remember go slow, choose a custom transportation apparatus, and then get outside and slide, slip, skate, glide, descend, tiptoe. Watch out for the downside, decline, downturn, drop, and fall. For those get back to nature folks, if your warm bare feet step off the snow and onto ice, hold still – until spring.

Bernie Paquette discovers by observation, then shares photos and stories highlighting why Jericho VT is a special place! To see more of Jericho, VT photos, visit Jerichovermont.blogspot.com. Send your comments or Jericho stories to Bernie.paquette@yahoo.com.



A northern goshawk decides to leave its regular home in Canada and spend the winter in Vermont. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vermont’s Winter Birds – part one

By Maevé Kim

Not everyone deserts Vermont when it gets frigid and windy and downright dangerous. Lots of birds stick around: flocks of little birds at our feeders and in snowy agricultural fields, rafts of diving birds on the lake, and several big beauties to delight us on winter walks and rides.

Members of the corvid family – crows, jays, and ravens – are loyal to the north country no matter what the weather. These birds are considered the smartest avian creatures and among the most intelligent of any animal. Crows have been seen dragging dead animals from the sides of the road to the middle so that cars will break open the road kill for them. Even with their big beaks, crows can’t get to the meat through skin and fur!

Because they eat anything and everything, corvids have more free time than birds that must spend every minute of daylight hunting for specific kinds of caterpillars or particular kinds of seeds. And corvids fill that extra time with thinking and inventing and playing. One crow studied a piece of trash – the lid of a quart-sized yogurt container – for a few seconds, picked it up, carried it to the peak of a steep-roofed shed, stood on it, and used it as a sled all the way down the roof. It was so much fun that the crow did it again and again.

Most Vermonters are familiar with blue jays, but the state’s other jay is found only in the Northeast Kingdom. Gray jays don’t see a lot of two-legged creatures, but they all recognize humans as food sources and will come to take food right out of a person’s hand.

When lumbering was big in the NEK, gray jays were called Camp Robbers because they’d steal food from the tables while the loggers were eating. The handsome birds were also called Whiskeyjacks, a mispronunciation of an Algonquian word for a mischievous prankster.

Several pairs of bald eagles now breed in Vermont, and many more show up throughout the Champlain Valley in wintertime. They prey on ducks and sometimes hang out near ice fishermen waiting for tossed fish.

Other big winter birds include several kinds of hawks. Red-tailed hawks patrol the edges of the interstate, their sharp eyes seeking rabbits, squirrels, voles, and moles. Rough-legged hawks hover like giant butterflies over farm fields, while northern harriers dance and float nearby. Sharp-shinned hawks and Coopers hawks visit backyard feeders with the enthusiasm of a hungry human at an all-you-can-eat buffet. Ahhhh. All this yummy food in one location!

Every now and then a northern goshawk decides to leave its regular home in Canada and spend the winter in Vermont. This is a fierce bird! Attila the Hun wore an image of a goshawk on his helmet. The name comes from the Old English words for goose and hawk. It’s our only hawk that can actually take a goose as prey, although it’s more likely to take ducks, pigeons, grouse, crows and gulls, hares, and various rodents.

And then there are the owls! Wonderful, mysterious, elusive, gorgeous, exciting owls. More about these winter beauties next time.



Teaching teens about love

By Lewis First, MD

Chief of Pediatrics at UVM Children’s Hospital

Valentine’s Day is here and parents are crushing me with questions about how to deal with their teenagers’ romantic adventures. Let me see if I can get to the heart of the matter and provide some information on this topic.

There is no one age when it’s “okay” for teens to begin dating. It is typical for younger teens to go out in groups. This could set parents at ease as long as they know who is in the group.

Some teenage girls may start dating as early as 13, boys at 14. Hopefully that is based not on age, but on the maturity of the child. Some good family discussion is also helpful in establishing dating guidelines.

How do you set those guidelines? Hopefully you have already established a good line of communication with your child. If so, encourage them to ask questions about sex if you find they are talking about boyfriends and girlfriends. Remember to do your best to withhold any personal judgments.

Parents need to be supportive and interested, but not overbearing to the point of intervening in a child’s social life. You can, on the other hand, be clear about your values. Those values could be the foundation on which your teens will make future decisions.

Watch television or listen to the radio with your teen. When you do, comment on the sexuality portrayed in the media. Then discuss the healthy, responsible decisions one needs to make about sex in real life.

Explain to your children that the use of drugs and/or alcohol will alter anyone’s judgment and make them vulnerable. Offer a guilt-free, no-questions-asked ride home if your teenager is ever in a situation that makes them feel uncomfortable.

And be there for the breakups, with a little extra sensitivity and some patience and hugs. Reassure the teen that you know that they are feeling sad and that the sadness does go away. Sharing a story about one of your breakups may help as well. After all, your breakup created an opportunity for you and your partner to meet and create a family.

Hopefully these tips will hit the target better than Cupid’s arrow when it comes to talking with teens about relationships.

Send your news to
mtgazette@earthlink.net

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Must be signed for attribution with writer’s address and phone number.

Send your news to
mtgazette@earthlink.net, www.mtngazettevt.com

Area Worship Services

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Come As You Are”

1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex, VT 05452
(across from John Leos on Route 15)

Pastor: Rev. Jeannette Conner

email: cccpastorjeannette@gmail.com

Phone: (802) 879-4313

facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-Community-Church-12534508030320

Adult Bible Class: Sunday 9:00 AM

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 AM

Fellowship: immediately after service

Child care (infant through pre-K) is provided during the worship service
Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service: Feb. 14th, 7:00 PM

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Senior Pastor David Coons and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter

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Fellowship at 10:30 am

Youth group 6:15 pm Sundays in our Sunday school building

Signing for the deaf upon request

899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

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Deacon: Peter Brooks Religious Ed. Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells,

899-4770 Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras Phone: 802-899-4632,

email: office@stthomasvt.com, Website: www.stthomasvt.com

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www.becauseyoumay.com

Health programs and classes at Northwestern Medical Center

ONGOING

Cancer Exercise Rehab Group – Ongoing every Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 – 11:00 AM, NMC Rehab gym, Cobblestone Building. Featuring Wendy Lawrence, certified NMC Oncology Rehab Physical Therapist. Pre-registration required; call 524-1064. Free for the first 8 weeks, then \$40. A physical therapy evaluation is required to assure that the client is able to participate. This class pinpoints the common needs of patients, which include decreased range of motion, decreased strength, and cancer-related fatigue.

Prenatal Fitness, every Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30 PM, NMC Wellness & Fitness Room. Featuring Stephanie Preedom, AFAA. Pre-registration required; contact Stephanie, 802-288-1141 or stephanie.preedom@gmail.com. Free to Northwestern OB/GYN patients. Northwestern OB/GYN offers these free prenatal exercise sessions to strengthen and prepare you for a successful birthing experience. Join other moms as we lead you through a customized routine designed to make you feel energized and confident. Please consult a physician before beginning this exercise program.

Program now enrolling **First Time Mothers**: Franklin County Home Health Agency's Nurse Family Partnership Program (NFP) helps first time mothers in Franklin, Lamoille, and Grand Isle counties. NFP is an evidenced based program that enrolls mothers during pregnancy and provides them with regular nurse visits until their child's second birthday. Nurses provide support, education

and counseling on health, behavioral, and self-sufficiency issues. Interested women and their healthcare providers can call 802-527-7531 for more information.

Vermont Quit Partners Fresh Start Tobacco Cessation Class, Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, NMC Cobblestone Building, Suite 202. Pre-registration required; to sign up for a session call Chari, 524-8480. Free. Enter this class at any time and join others for this series to help you successfully quit smoking. Sessions include: understanding why you have an addiction and how to quit; mastering the first few days, mastering obstacles; and staying quit and enjoying it forever. When you are ready to quit, the tools and support can make all the difference. We can provide you with what you need to be successful! As a Vermont resident, you can get free patches, gum and lozenges.

Healing Circle Women's Cancer Support Group: first Tuesday of every month, 4:30 PM socialize, 5:00 – 6:30 PM meeting, Northwestern Medical Center Conference Franklin Room. Pre-registration required; free. A self-help cancer support group for women of all ages and lifestyles who have cancer. At our monthly meetings, we share information, offer each other support and comfort, and learn new things from speakers. We extend an invitation to any woman who has cancer, whether you are newly diagnosed or a long term survivor. Please call 802-524-8479 with any questions or to RSVP (not required).

Have You Lost a Loved One to Suicide? Second

Thursday of every month, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Northwestern Medical Center's Grand Isle Room. Pre-registration required; free. If the answer to the question is "yes," please consider attending a free, confidential group that meets monthly in St. Albans. Everyone in the group, including its facilitators, has had someone close to them take their life and knows how devastating that experience can be. You can just come and listen to others share what they are going through and how they are coping or you can share your own story. The choice is always yours to do what feels best to you. For more information on dates, times, and location or to answer any questions you may have call Tony, 802-393-6503.

Chronic Disease Support Group Workshops: Various times

and locations. Pre-registration required; contact Deb Robertson, 524-1031 or drobertson@nmcinc.org. Free. Are you or someone you know living with a chronic health condition? Then the Healthier Living Workshop is for you! Learn to feel better by learning how to deal with frustration, fatigue, and pain, manage symptoms and medications, and improve strength and flexibility. Each session is 2½ hours once a week, for six weeks.

Grief and Recovery Support Group, first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Franklin County Home Health Office, St. Albans, 3 Home Health Circle. Pre-registration required; call Lori Wright, 527-7531. Free. Experiencing a loss can be painful to face alone. Franklin County Home Health's Grief and Recovery Support Group serves as a safe place to share feelings with others who are coping with grief. This support group is offered free of charge to anyone who would like to talk to others and help one another. It also provides a resource for grief education in our community.

Shadows of the Moon Autism Support Group: for one-on-one phone support, please call Cheryl at 802-868-7745 or Laura at 802-849-2817.

Alzheimer's Support Group: last Tuesday of each month, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Franklin Room. Pre-registration required. Free. This group is for those with Alzheimer's and caregivers, family members, and friends and is facilitated by Amanda Wilson. Please call the 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit alz.org/Vermont to confirm details.

Parkinson's Support Group: second Tuesday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Pillsbury Senior Community, conference room next to the library on the first floor, 3 Harborview Dr., St. Albans. Pre-registration not required. Contact Pat, 802-524-5520, or Judy 815-895-2312. Free. This group is open to those with Parkinson's and their caregivers including family and loved ones. The monthly meetings can provide an open forum to share experience with others who are coping with Parkinson's disease, gaining education and support. Wheelchair accessible.

Breastfeeding Moms Group: first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 – 12:00 PM. Please call 527-5586 to find location of next group. Pre-registration required; call 527-5586. Free. This group meets once a month for snacks, crafting activities, making baby blankets, and information from the experts.

Breastfeeding and Infant Massage Group: second Wednesday of each month, 9:30 – 11:15 AM, Alburgh Library. No pre-registration required. Free. Join other moms and babies to learn how to massage your baby and discover more about breastfeeding and parenting.

Latch On! Discussion Group: third Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Family Birth Center. No pre-registration required. Free. Learn about breastfeeding and share your stories. Enjoy light refreshments and connect with other moms.

Baby Bumps Support Group for Mothers and Pregnant Women, second and fourth Monday of the month, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Family Birthing Center. Pre-registration required. Contact Rhonda Desrochers at Franklin County Home Health Agency, 802-527-7531. Free. Pregnancy can be a wonderful time of your life. But it can also be a time of stress that is often compounded by hormonal swings. If you are a pregnant woman, or have recently given birth and feel you need some help with managing the emotional bumps in the road that can come with motherhood, please come to this free support group led by an experienced pediatric Registered Nurse. This group is for both pregnant women and mothers. Presented jointly by Franklin County Home Health Agency, Northwest Counseling and Support Services, Northwestern Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health.

Foot Clinics: various times and locations. Pre-registration required. Call Franklin County Home Health Agency, 802-527-7531 to schedule. Fee: \$20. Regular care of your feet can prevent problems. If you are an elderly and/or disabled person who is unable to do your own foot care, please consider attending a Foot Clinic. Franklin County Home Health Agency offers monthly Foot Clinics throughout the year in St. Albans, Swanton, Franklin, East Fairfield, and Enosburg.

Who's Your Person, What's Your Plan? (End of Life Planning): We plan for all life's milestones – marriage, birth, retirement. But few of us have plans in place for our end of life. And none of us can plan for the unexpected. Do you know who you want to speak for you and make medical decisions for you when you can't do this for yourself? Everyone 18 years and older should have a Health Care Agent – your person to speak on your behalf. By completing an advance directive you can provide this information to your family and physician. Start this conversation with your family before you are in a health crisis. Information and materials to help facilitate your conversation are available at <http://www.fchha.org/healthcareagent/> as well as www.starttheconversationvt.org. You can also call Franklin County Home Health Agency to learn more about completing an advance directive. We are also available to speak to community groups. Start the Conversation today. It's a gift.

FEBRUARY 2018

Vermont Quit Partners Fresh Start Tobacco Cessation Class: Thursdays, February 1-22, 5:00 – 6:00 PM, Swanton Public Library. Pre-registration required. To sign up for a session call Chari, 524-8480. Free. Join others for this four-session series to help you successfully quit smoking. Sessions include: understanding why you have an addiction and how to quit; mastering the first few days, mastering obstacles; and staying quit and enjoying it forever. As a Vermont resident, you can get free patches, gum and lozenges.

Diabetes and You – Tuesdays, February 13-March 13, NMC Cobblestone Building, Suite 202. Join us at this self-management educational series for people with diabetes and their families, proven to help people improve control of this disease. Learn how to keep diabetes from controlling your life and improve your blood sugar control to feel better and delay or prevent complications. NMC will bill your insurance for the course fee. Scholarships available. No one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay. Pre-registration required; call Deborah Robertson, 524-1031.

Movement for Parkinson's Disease: Friday, February 16, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Homestead at Pillsbury Manor. Registration/information: contact Sarah, 802-881-9673 or saramcm28@gmail.com, or Patty Rugg, patricia_rugg18@comcast.net. Free. Offered for people with Parkinson's disease and their care partners, this dance class is designed to engage participants' minds and bodies through many styles of dance, while exploring stretching, muscle strengthening, postural stability, and rhythm through instruction and energizing music. The class is offered in a relaxed social environment that emphasizes enjoyment, fun and creativity, with an eye towards connecting with the community. No dance experience required. No charge, donation appreciated.

Emotional Wellness: Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®), Mondays and Tuesdays, February 19, 20, 26, 27, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, NMC Conference Room Center, Franklin Room. The WRAP® workshop is a 24-hour long program, offered over several weeks and is designed for people struggling with mental health challenges and caregivers for those people. If you are struggling with a mental health problem – such as depression or anxiety – you are not alone. Free. Registration: call Deana Chase, 802-370-5626.

United Way of NW Vermont – Volunteer Listings

By Sue Alenick, United Way Volunteer Columnist

By Sue Alenick

United Way Volunteer Columnist

LEND A HAND. VOLUNTEER! United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection connects you to hundreds of local volunteer needs. Search by age, date, county, interests or causes that are important to you. Stay connected to community needs. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact us at volctr@unitedwaynwvt.org or 860-1677.

CURLING CHALLENGE – Howard Center is looking for volunteers to help at the 9th Annual Curling Challenge fundraiser at Cairns Arena in S. Burlington. Two people are needed on Friday, March 9 to help unload supplies. During the event on Saturday, March 10, three-hour shifts include set up, meeting and greeting, refreshments, ice monitoring, and clean up. All volunteers receive a complimentary t-shirt and refreshments. Contact Denise Vignoe, 488-6912 or dvignoe@howardcenter.org.

CARING SUPPORT – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington needs in-house staff volunteers to provide support to guest families, take guest referrals, register and check-out guests, answer phones, refer resources, and welcome donations from the community. Volunteers occasionally help with light housekeeping tasks. Contact Deanna Cameron, 862-4943 or deanna@rmhcv.org.

RESTORE – Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStore is looking for volunteers to fill shifts on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and

Sundays. Come for a few hours, a few days, weekly, monthly, any time! Court ordered community service, high school and college students, and those just looking to become involved in the community are always welcome! Volunteer groups (businesses, sports teams, etc.) can be scheduled for one-time opportunities. Contact Allison DeVoe, 318-7533 or adevoe@vermonthabitat.org.

LIBRARY YOUTH HANGOUT BUDDIES – City of Winooski is looking for volunteers to engage and support Winooski's youth alongside the Youth Meals Program. Tuesday-Thursday, 3:30 – 6:00 PM. Contact Aphaia Lambert-Harper, 655-6410, Ext. 12, or volunteer@winooski.org.

CHILD CARE – Lund has need of volunteers to provide morning child care, weekdays from 7:00 – 9:00 AM and weekends from 8:30 – 10:00 AM while moms attend meetings. Volunteers should be able to commit to a regular schedule. There is also a need for evening child care, Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Children range from nine months to five years old. Background check required. Contact Julie Richards, 864-7467, Ext. 2028 or julier@lundvt.org.

READ TO THEM! – Champlain Valley Head Start will welcome volunteers with a love of reading and children to share books with kids once or twice a week in Head Start classrooms in Colchester, Burlington, Swanton, St. Albans, Essex, Winooski, and Middlebury. All ages welcome, and readers 55 and over are especially encouraged. Background check required. Contact Kelley Newell, 651-4180, Ext. 210, or knewell@cvoeo.org.

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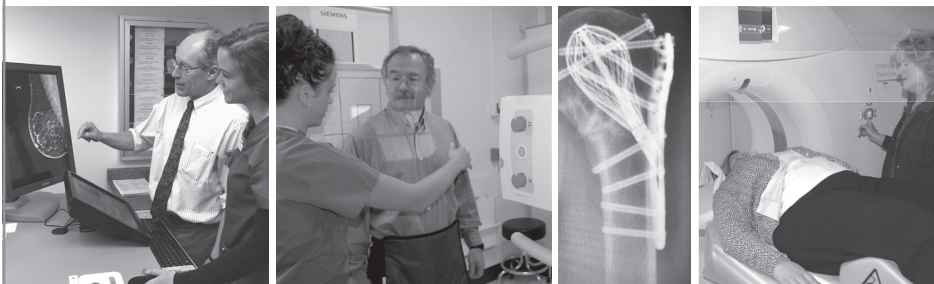
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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Mah Jongg at DRML – We play Mah Jongg on the first and third Mondays of each month – Monday, February 19 at 1:00 PM. Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like card games, you'll probably love Mah Jongg!

Presidents' Day Program – Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 PM: *Improbable Paths to the Presidency: Chester Arthur & Calvin Coolidge*. Join us for this talk on the story of two Vermonters and their remarkable journeys to our nation's highest office. Presented by Tracy Martin, Historic Sites Section Chief, VT Division for Historic Preservation.

We are open on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Stop in for an afternoon of library enjoyment.

Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM; closed Monday.

For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962. DRML is located at 8 River Rd., Jericho; www.drml.org.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Story Time: first, second, and fourth Wednesdays, February 14, 28, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Recommended for ages 0-5 years. Pop-in for a casual hour of story time, smiles, songs, and laughter with Lisa!

Tales & Tails: Friday, February 16, 3:00 – 4:00 PM. All ages. Read to our new-found, favorite furry friend, CadyDog! CadyDog, a certified therapy dog through Therapy Dogs of Vermont, will be visiting JTL monthly for an hour of petting, snuggles, and stories. What better way to practice your reading or celebrate the end of a long school day than with a sweet pup? Drop in and read along with Cadydog or stay for a whole hour of snuggles!

Music & Movement for Little Ones: third Saturdays, February 17, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Explore the world of singing, dancing, and playing instruments with your little one in this lively musical & motion-based group!

Circle Time with a Lamb! Third Wednesdays, February 21. Recommended ages 0-5 years. Join storyteller/musician Katie Coons for this dynamic, interactive hour of movement, song, play, rhyming games, craft, and snack. This month we'll have a very special visitor: a baby lamb!

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Jericho Writers' Circle: second and fourth Saturdays, February 24, 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Are you a writer seeking community? Join JTL's new, bi-monthly Writers' Circle! All genres welcome. Coffee, tea, and encouraging company provided.

Transition Town Jericho: Monday, February 26, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. The transition town movement is about building resiliency in our towns and communities to confront peak oil, climate change, and the numerous other issues we are facing. Repair Cafes, skill-sharing, and local currencies are just a few manifestations of transition movements; how it manifests itself in Jericho is up to you and me, the people who live here.

Advanced Gardening Design: Wednesday, February 28, 5:00 – 6:00 PM. If you've got a green thumb and you're ready to take the next step, this workshop is for you! Join Christa from Jericho Settlers Farm and learn about advanced gardening design and growing. (All levels welcome, even if you're new to gardening and just want to gather as much information as possible!)

JTL Board meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Jericho Town Library is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM; and Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information on programs and library services, please visit our website at www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or give us a call at 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY
JEFFERSONVILLE

Weekly Crafting Circle, Mondays, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Come and enjoy ber and fabric with craft novices, as well as folks who have enjoyed handwork arts for their lifetimes! Have a project you're already working on? Bring it in and share your expertise and enthusiasm.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; thevarnum@gmail.com. Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; website www.westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com; email westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook. 878-5639, Bree Drapa, Librarian.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

February Foyer Display: Sheila Frazier's collection of brooches really soared when she started working in the school system here in

Vermont, about twenty years ago. Sheila, an autism specialist, wears a different pin every school day throughout the year, often following a seasonal theme. Currently there are approximately 570 in Sheila's collection. Come see some of them during the month of February.

February Art Show: the comic and collage work of L.J. Kopf, a professional cartoonist since 1976. His single-panel cartoon *Edge* appeared in every issue of the Vermont Vanguard Press, a news and arts weekly paper published in Burlington from 1978-1990. *Into Every Life a Little Edge Must Fall*, a selection of those cartoons, was published by Fantagraphics Books in 1988. Fantagraphics also published his strips in their anthology magazine *Pictopia*.

Child and Babysitting Safety Certification Course: We are teaming up with Richmond Rescue to offer this important course to youth age 12 and older. The course will cover child safety, first aid basics, and CPR. Successful completion will result in official "Child and Babysitting Certification" as outlined by the American Health and Safety Institute. The course will be held on Saturday, March 10, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. There is no charge, but space is limited. Reserve your spot by contacting the library, 434-3036 or rfl@gmavt.net.

Book Discussions: Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 PM: *The Shape of the Sky* by Shelagh Shapiro. *Shape of the Sky* tells the story of Resolute, VT – population 613 – a town trying to raise much-needed money by hosting a rock festival. Days before the music is due to begin, a fan is found dead in the woods. Thursday, February 15, 7:00 PM: *When the Devil Holds the Candle* by Karin Fossom. When two teenagers steal a purse from a stroller, it results in an infant's death. Unaware of the enormity of their crime, Zipp and Andreas are intent on committing another.

Tax Preparation Assistance with AARP volunteers: Every year, volunteers help seniors submit their tax returns. If you think you may be interested in meeting with a preparer, let us know and we'll put your name on a list.

Save the Dates! Friends of the Richmond Free Library Annual Booksale, Friday, February 16, 5:30 – 8:30 PM, and Saturday, February 17, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The Friends offer a wonderful selection of materials in a great shopping venue! Please consider being a Friend and join in the effort. Consider being a table mover, cashier, organizer, or tallier, baker, etc. Or, do you like to play music or sing? Sign up for one of the best gigs around (no pay, but the appreciation is great!) at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0544a5a722a13-musicians>. The annual Friends booksale is the largest single fundraiser for the Library, making it possible them to underwrite the summer programming, special presentations and acquisition of additional materials. Please help out! Have questions or want more information? Contact Mary Keller-Butler, unnamedmtn@hotmail.com.

Green Mountain Audubon Society will host a program open to the public on Wednesday, February 21, at 6:30 PM. Topic to be announced, but save the date because they always have a great program!

Adult Playaways – Playaways aren't just for kids! Stop at the circulation desk and view our new acquisitions and try out the new audiobook format. It works with earbuds or auxiliary cables and doesn't require changing CDs!

Weekly Children's Programs

No one ever regrets taking their child to storytime. We offer three weekly programs for young children. Choose the one that's right for your child and schedule. While the programs are planned with the ages listed in mind, older and younger children are always welcome. No registration is required.

Baby Laptime: This short storytime is for babies ages 0-24 months and their grownups. We will share the magic of stories, songs, rhymes, bounces, and fingerplays designed to introduce these youngest children to color, sounds, fine motor skills, and body movement. Join the fun on Mondays at 10:30 AM.

Storytime and Playgroup For children age infant-5. Introduce your child to many new friends and to the wonderful world of books on Wednesdays. Music begins at 10:00 AM, followed by stories and then free play until 12:00 PM.

Early Bird Math Storytime is for children ages 2-5. We will explore numbers, shapes, patterns and sets through books, songs, rhymes, and games. This fun, interactive storytime happens in the community room. Join us on the first three Fridays of the month at 11:00 AM.

Yoga Storytime: Children ages 2-5 can join us for yoga storytime. We'll enjoy thoughtful books and engage our bodies with active movement. Join us on the fourth Friday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Snow Days and School Vacations: We do not offer our regularly scheduled youth programs when school in the district is cancelled due to weather or during school vacations. The library does remain open, however (there are weather-related exceptions) so plan a visit during school breaks to stock up on books and play for a while in our bright, warm space.

Open Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 6:00 PM; Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00

AM – 2:00 PM.

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLISTON

All events free. Children 8 and younger must be accompanied by an adult while at the library.

Preschool Story Time: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM. Includes a simple craft activity. February 13: Fun with Art; February 20: Hot & Cold. All ages. February 27: no story time.

Read to a Dog: Thursdays, February 22, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Bring a book and read to one of our registered Therapy Dogs of Vermont. All ages. Pre-register for individual sessions.

Preschool Yoga with Danielle: Fridays, February 23, 10:30 AM. Simple yoga poses, stories and songs for children birth to age 5 and their caregivers.

Kindermusik Demo Class: Wednesday, February 14, 10:30 AM. In this adult participation class, children and their caregivers dance, sing, explore instruments, exercise their imaginations, and build school readiness skills. Kindermusik is an early childhood music and movement curriculum designed to nurture development across physical, social, emotional, and intellectual domains. Presented by Rachel Smith, Kindermusik Instructor. Birth to age 5. Space is limited. Pre-registration required.

Preschool Music: Mondays, 11:00 AM (except Monday, February 19), and Thursdays, 10:30 AM. Up to age 5 with a caregiver. No pre-registration. Limit: one session per week per family.

Thursday Playtime: Thursdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited for an informal playtime following our Preschool Music program. For children birth to age 5.

Read to a Cat: Thursday, February 15, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Bring a book and read to Van Gogh, a certified therapy cat with Love on a Leash Foundation. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session, or stop by to say hello. All ages welcome.

Chess Club: Wednesday, February 21, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Have you wanted to learn how to play, revisit the game, or just love the game of chess? Come alone or bring a friend and play with members of our community. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Drop-In LEGO Day: Tuesday, February 27, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Build your own creations using the library's LEGO collection. All ages.

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston. 802-878-4918, www.williston.lib.vt.us.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Youth Events

Wednesday, February 14, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Lego Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed Lego play after school. Please register.

Thursdays, February 15, 22, 3:15 – 4:00/4:45 PM: Chess Club continues for those registered.

Thursday, February 15, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Family STEAM Night. Join us for this great family program, where each month parents and children complete fun activities having to do with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and/or Math (STEAM). This month our theme is "Astronomy" and we will have a guest presenter from the VT Astronomical Society showing us how to use our new telescope! Please register.

Monday, February 19, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Lab Girls. This club empowers young women to explore science and technology through hands-on experiments and activities. For grades 4-8. This month we will learn about women inventors and the girls will get to tinker with some tools and raw materials. Our guest will be SAM Roach-Gerber, Director of Innovation at VCET. Must register.

Tuesday, February 20, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Spanish Story Hour: Bilingual Stories with Karin. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. No registration necessary for story hour.

Wednesday, February 21, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: READ to a DOG. Kids ages 5-10 can read a book of their choice to a fuzzy, friendly dog. Call to reserve a 15-minute slot.

Wednesday, February 21, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: STEM Club "Tumbling Toys." Kids age 6+ will create a marble run with local inventor Ralph Lemmah. Must register.

Tuesday, February 27, 10:00 – 11:15 AM: Winter Beach Party. Take a break from the cold at our Winter Beach Party. We will have beach themed stories, crafts, music, snack, and activities for ages 2-8. BYO beach attire and towel! Must register.

Adult Events

All Month Long: Winter Reading BINGO. Pick up a BINGO board at the library and record the titles of books you read during January and February in different categories. If you fill in a row (across, down or diagonal), you can turn your board in for a prize. We'll post a list of all the titles read for the game at the end!

Saturday, February 17, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: Tech Help. Get help with individual tech questions. You can ask any technological question and/or bring in a device with which you need help. You will be ably assisted by our techie, Josiah. Call to reserve a half hour time slot, or drop in.

Saturday, February 17, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seed Swap. Join us for our annual seed swap.

Bring in any extra seeds you might have saved from last year and share with neighbors to increase the diversity of your garden. We usually have an abundance of seed donations from local companies too, so if you are new to gardening, you can just come and learn from neighbors what grows well in their gardens and bring home a few seed packets. We will also be raffling off a seed starting kit to one lucky participant!

Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 – 7:30 PM: Fearless Art. Local artist Julie Griffis leads this exciting art class where participants get to experiment with different tools and mediums to create a mixed media art piece to take home. Refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, February 24, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Board Game Café. Enjoy some free coffee or tea and muffins while spending the morning playing board games with old and new friends. Check out some of the library's collection of over 120 games, or bring a favorite from home to teach others.

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration encouraged. www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, 802-849-2420. Call or email libraryprograms@fvsu.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY
ESSEX JUNCTION

Through February 24: Olympics Viewing. We will be streaming the live broadcast of the Winter Olympics in the Kolvoord Room any time there is not another program scheduled for the room.

Tuesdays, February 13, 20, 9:10 – 9:30 AM: Story Time for Babies & Toddlers. Picture books, sign language, songs, rhymes, and puppets for babies and toddlers with an adult.

Wednesday, February 14, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Red Clover Group for Homeschooled Students. Each month, students in grades K-3 read two titles and do activities with one of the on the list for this year's Red Clover Award. Voting takes place in April.

Wednesday, February 14, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Dorothy's List Group for Homeschooled Students. Each month, students in grades 4-8 hear book talks from this year's Dorothy's List. Students keep a log and vote for their favorite to win the Dorothy's List Book Award in the spring. Come with a description of an object that is important to you.

Wednesday, February 14, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: GMBA Book Discussion for Homeschooled Students. High school aged students discuss this year's GMBA nominee. Voting takes place in April. For grades 9-12.

Wednesdays, February 14, 21, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time for Preschoolers. Picture books, songs, rhymes, flannel stories, and early math activities for preschoolers.

Wednesdays, February 14, 21, 28, 12:00 and 1:00 PM: Tech Help with Clif. Offering one-on-one technology help. Bring in your new gadget or gizmo and Clif will sit with you to help you learn its ways! Reservation required. Please call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

Wednesdays, February 14, 21, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Read to Daisy. Daisy loves to listen to kids read. She is certified by Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Daisy's owner is Maddie Nash, retired school counselor. For all ages.

Thursdays, February 15, 22, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Read to Archie. Archie loves to listen to kids read. He is certified by Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Archie's owner is Christine Packard, Chair of Brownell Library Trustees.

Thursdays, February 15, 22, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: First Wednesday Encore: Lake Champlain in Under an Hour. Join us for First Wednesday Encore, a daytime screening of select First Wednesday programs from around the state, occurring the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM in our community room! Lake Champlain has been a saltwater ocean, an Indian highway, an international battleground, a hub of commerce, and a popular playground. Author Jan Albers offers an overview of the many phases of this treasured body of water. Recorded at Brownell Library on April 2, 2013. First Wednesdays are a program sponsored by the VT Humanities Council.

Friday, February 16, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Knit Night. Adult knitters and crocheters are invited to settle in front of the fireplace in the Main Reading Room to knit, share projects and patterns, and engage in conversation.

Friday, February 16, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Story Time. Come listen to picture book stories and have fun with puppets, songs, and rhymes. All ages.

Friday, February 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Lego Fun. Come build creatively with Legos and see what others build. Children under 8 years old must bring a responsible caregiver.

Friday, February 16, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Family Movie: *Groundhog Day*. An obnoxious weatherman finds himself reliving the same 24-hour period over and over. 1993; Rated PG. 101 minutes. Free popcorn and drink!

Monday, February 19 – Library Closed for President's Day.

Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Brownell Library Trustees Meeting.

Tuesday, February 20, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time for Preschoolers. Picture books, sign language, songs, rhymes, flannel stories, and early math activities for preschoolers.

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Tuesday, February 20, 3:15 – 4:30 PM: Steam Tuesdays: Light It Up Constellations! Create and explore with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math. Call or check online for program details. Best for grades 1 and up.

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: First Wednesday Lecture at UVM's Ira Allen Chapel: *Self-Confessed: The Comics of Alison Bechdel*. From her long-running strip *Dykes to Watch Out For* to her family memoirs *Fun Home* and *Are You My Mother?* Alison Bechdel has explored in graphic detail the overlap between the personal and the political, the domestic and the global. In this illustrated talk, she discusses how her cartooning has evolved. (Note location.)

Friday, February 23, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Music with Raph. Come sing and play with Raph. All ages.

Friday, February 23, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: LARP. Live Action Role Play is open to all middle and high school students who want to have adventures in a mythical land.

Friday, February 23, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Dungeons & Dragons. Embark upon imaginary adventures. Dungeon Master serves as this role-playing game's referee and storyteller. For grades 6 and up.

Monday, February 26; time slots at 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 AM and 12:15 PM. Free Tax Help for taxpayers with low and middle incomes (Annual Gross Income less than \$60,000), with special attention to those 60 or over. However, if a patron's tax return is relatively complex he/she will be advised to seek professional tax assistance. Volunteer AARP foundation certified tax preparers Tak and Dorothy Ng will help. Qualified patrons who wish to avail themselves of the Ngs' expertise will need to call 878-6955 or visit the library to make an hour appointment with one of them. Please come in ten minutes before your appointment to fill out a required Intake and Interview Form. If married, both spouses should (but do not have to) be present during an income tax counseling session. Taxpayers must have available during their meeting with the Tax-Aide counselor all information and documents that have been received that apply to their 2016 income taxes. Appointments available on Monday and Thursday mornings until April 6. Reserve your place for tax-preparation.

Monday, February 26, 12:00 and 1:00 PM: Tech Help with Cliff. Offering one-on-one technology help. Reservation required. Please call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

Monday, February 26, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Chess Club. Come play chess for an hour! We provide chess sets and you provide the strategy. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Chess sets funded by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Monday, February 26, 6:00 – 6:30 PM: Pajama Story Time. Come in your pajamas and listen to some picture book stories. Enjoy some milk and cookies. For all ages.

Tuesday, February 27, 2:00 – 4:10 PM: Vacation Movie: *Beauty & the Beast*. This is a live-action re-telling of the studio's animated classic. *Beauty and the Beast* is the fantastic journey of Belle, a bright, beautiful, and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a Beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince within. Walt Disney Pictures, 2017, 129 min. Rated PG. Free popcorn and drinks!

Wednesday, February 28, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Beads, Beads, Beads! We're making things with beads. Earrings, broaches, necklaces, and bracelets, to keep or give away.

Wednesday, February 28, 4:30 – 5:30 PM: LGBT+ Drop In Group. LGBT+ teens and allies grades 8-12 and recent graduates are welcome to drop by the library to socialize with peers, and propose any projects they might like to undertake to increase awareness.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (July until after Labor Day, closed Saturdays): 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Call Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, email frondesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Call to Artists for Spring Open Studio – Artists wishing to participate in the Jericho Underhill Open Studio Tour held on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-27, 2018 are invited to contact Dianne Shullenberger, vidianne@hotmail.com or 899-4993, or Emilie Alexander, ealexander22@yahoo.com or 899 3211. The JU Open Studio Tour is part of the Vermont Crafts Council annual Open Studio Weekend, which provides a venue for the public to meet artists all over the state primarily in their places of work. There is a participation fee of \$35 which covers advertising materials. The Jericho Underhill Tour provides additional promotion for the artists in this area, with the Emile A Gruppe Gallery serving as headquarters for the public to get maps for both the state and local participants. Deadline for signing up is Tuesday, February 23.

An MMU Fine Art Show is currently on exhibit at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, displaying the works of students of the Mount Mansfield Fine Arts Department. The show includes metal works, photography both black-and-white and digital, drawing, and ceramics, taught by teachers Cyndi Listernik, Greg Pajala, and Jon Harrison. Also on exhibit: *What Did The Rock Say: Part I* featuring work by Dianne Shullenberger and John Snell, through Sunday, March 18. There will be an Artist Reception Sunday, March 4, 2:00 – 4:00 PM with readings by Zoe Fowler and Mary Jane Dickerson, and music by cellist Maya Parry. Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Meet students and teachers at the closing reception on Sunday, February 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho; open 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Thursday-Sunday or by appointment; 802-899-3211 or www.emilegruppegallery.com.

Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville has gift certificates available for a bus trip, which will take place in March, to Salem, MA to see art by Georgia O'Keeffe. If interested or for more information, contact Mickey Myers, 644-5100.

Bryan Memorial Gallery presents a show for Valentine's Day: *Love Lost and Found*, a member exhibit of paintings exploring the vicissitudes of love, in its Middle Room, running through Sunday, April 1. The juried exhibit includes 28 paintings in a variety of mediums by 23 artists. Also, *Land and Light and Water and Air*, including over 100 juried landscape paintings of New England scenes from regional artists. The gallery is open daily, Thursday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and by appointment. Free admission. Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; 802-644-5100; www.bryangallery.org.

The Common Grounds Art Show Call to Artists from the Birds of Vermont Museum is in recognition of 100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and its conservation consequences. We seek bird-oriented artworks that involve themes of commonality, conservation, migration, habitat, protection, and/or coordination among peoples, species, places, and/or time. The show runs from May 1-October 31 in the Museum's multi-purpose room, halls, and foyer. Most art will be hung on the walls, with shelf space for 3-D works and some ceiling space. Art in any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, may be considered. Artists are invited to submit up to three works, by sending no more than three .jpgs showing your work, to museum@birdsofvermont.org, with "Submission for Common Grounds art show" in the subject. Alternately, you may send up to three prints to the Museum, attention Common Grounds art show. Please include your contact information and a description of work (media, artwork size, when made, etc.). Entries due by Tuesday, March 27. Museum staff will select pieces by April 5 and will let artists know by email if possible. The Museum asks for permission to reproduce images of the selected works in print and online as part of publicity for the exhibit. Selected pieces should arrive at the Museum on or before April 20 and be ready to hang (if applicable). Artists are responsible for shipping or drop-off/pick-up. Pick-up November 30, 2018. Artists who show their work here are invited to sell originals, prints, and/or cards through us on consignment; details available on request. We are happy to arrange artist workshops at the Museum



Bryan Memorial Gallery presents *Petal Power in the Winter*, a six-hour watercolor workshop taught by iconic Vermont artist Anne Lilly, Saturday, March 3, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, covering techniques like mixing believable greens, negative painting, edge control, values, scraping, and other watercolor topics, painting from real flowers and photographic references. Beukenkamp will talk about her techniques and about foliage, values, color, and shapes. During the participatory segments of the workshop, she will give independent help to each participant. Beukenkamp says of her favorite subject matter – those ever colorful and varied flowers, "They allow me to stretch my palette to its fullest capacity. I strive to capture a bloom's essence, not its exact reproduction." Artists of all levels welcome; participants provide their own watercolors. Register in advance by February 23 (required). Attendance extremely limited. Register online at www.bryangallery.org or over the phone at 802-644-5100. Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

with our exhibitors; please tell us if you are interested. Please call or email Kir Talmage or Allison Gergely with any questions. We can be reached at 802-434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

Visions of Vermont Art Galleries in Jeffersonville is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Hosts Jane and Terry Shaw, 644-8183; Visions of Vermont, 100 Main St., Jeffersonville. For more information, visit www.visionsofvermont.com.

At Helen Day Art Center in Stowe, the two-person exhibit *Ordinary Time* features the work of Maine-based painter Grace DeGennaro and the kinetic sculpture of Boston-based Anne Lilly. These artists elevate the ordinary into the extraordinary by working with engineering and geometry to create fluidity and beauty. Through April 14. Also through April 14 in the East Gallery: *The Infinite Shapes of Water*, an exhibit of large-scale digital photo prints by Philip Herbison. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St., Stowe.

Essex Art League meets the first Thursday of the month, September-May, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the Essex Junction Congregational Church on VT Rt. 15, Essex Junction. The agenda includes a business and social time and a guest speaker/artist presentation. More information including a calendar and online gallery is available at the League's website www.essexartleague.com.

The Milton Artist Guild offers a number of fun and varied workshops. On Sunday afternoons in February, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, MAG's Art Center and Gallery offers free drop-in workshops in creative fun where families can stop by and create art with their children while listening to live music and enjoying light refreshments. Children must be attended by a parent or an adult custodian at all times; all age groups welcomed. For information, contact the Milton Artists' Guild, P.O. Box 369, Milton, VT 05468; www.miltonartistsguild.org.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kearns running for Underhill Selectboard To the Editor,

I'm Catherine (Cat) Kearns and I'm running for Underhill Selectboard. I'm writing to request support at the upcoming election on Town Meeting Day, March 7.

I'm a native Vermonter with a background in analysis and intelligence as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. I have over eight years of experience managing and leading diverse teams; working with annual budgets and coming up with creative solutions to solve complex problems. I currently work as an analyst for the IT industry, though I still work in the Air Guard as a Drill Status Guardsman. I have a passion for efficient and broad-minded government and

have deeply enjoyed my term as Clerk on the Underhill Planning Commission, and I hope to contribute to the Selectboard with my three key focus areas of Transparency, Technology, and Thought.

If you'd like to learn a bit more about me and what I hope to accomplish on the Underhill Selectboard, please visit my website: www.catherinekearns.com. This website is interactive and has spaces for voters to post their ideas about the town as well – please be sure to explore the tabs at the top right corner of the Home page to view all the pages in the website.

Thanks for reading and I hope you'll consider voting for me on March 7.

Catherine Kearns, Underhill, VT

Clarification on Underhill Town Meeting ballot item

To the Editor,

The January 18, 2018 *Mountain Gazette* included an excellent front page article by Phyl Newbeck that described the Underhill Town Meeting ballot items. One of the ballot items Phyl described concerned a change to the Town charter that would allow the Selectboard to convey quitclaim deeds to glebe or lease land without the time and expense of the 30-day public notice required by statute.

Between the time we initially spoke to Phyl in early January and the publication of the article, we learned that we could not include the this ballot item for a Town charter change in March because we did not have the time to conduct two public hearings about the proposed change. To amend a Town charter, the Town has to follow a complicated procedure that includes two public hearings preceded by 30-day public notices for each hearing. The public hearings must occur within the 30-day period before Town Meeting. If the Town voters approve the charter change by Australian ballot, the Town has to submit the completed paperwork to the Secretary of State's Office. The Underhill Representative then is responsible to ask the Legislative Council to draft the charter change bill, which, once introduced, goes to the House Government Operations committee.

We plan to include the charter change question in the November 2018 ballot. The Legislature is also considering a bill to simplify the glebe/lease land transfers since it affects many Vermont towns. If the Legislature acts on this before November, we may not have to change the charter.

In the meantime, affected landowners who want to sell their land can still request a quitclaim deed from the Town under the current procedure, which requires 30-day public notices before the Selectboard can convey the deed. Currently, landowners are responsible to reimburse the Town's expenses for this transaction.

Underhill Selectboard: Rick Heh, Kurt Johnson, Pat Sabalis

Support for Catherine Kearns

To the Editor:

I support the election of Catherine Kearns to the Underhill Selectboard. We have worked together on the Planning Commission, where I have been impressed by her intelligence, practicality, vision, balanced perspective, ability to work with others, and willingness to do hard work and make hard decisions. She is a good listener and a pleasure to work with. Cat would be a great leader for our town!

Cynthia Seybolt, Underhill Center

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on Thursday March 8, 2018 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following:

- A request to the DRB by David Villeneuve to reaffirm a previous DRB approval of an amended to a previously approved subdivision to increase an existing right-of-way. The property is located at 305,325 & 329 VT Route 15 in the Village Center Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB by Ken & Martha Philbrick for a Preliminary –Final Plat review for a 2 lot minor subdivision. This property is located at 13 Ross Lane which is located in the Village Center District.

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

AGE WELL COMMUNITY SENIOR MEALS

Age Well hosts Community Meals at over 70 locations. Programs vary from small rural gatherings, to senior centers, to an ever-growing array of restaurants. Menus are available on the 22nd of each month for the following month. Meals are on a first-come, first-serve, month-by-month basis; \$5 suggested donation. Call Age Well, 802-662-5200, after 10:00 AM for reservations for the following month on or after the 22nd of the month. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, reservations may be made the following Monday. Milk is served with all meals.

Tuesday, February 13 – Pizza Hut, Susie Wilson Rd., Essex Junction. Check-in 11:00 AM; lunch 11:30 AM. All you can eat buffet – salad and pizza.

Tuesday, February 14 – Holiday Inn, S. Burlington. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Sweetheart Luncheon! TICKETS REQUIRED, contact Pat Long, Community Meal Coordinator, at the meal sites or visit Age Well's office (76 Pearl St., Suite 201, Essex Junction, VT 05452, 865-0360). Chicken Florentine, mashed potatoes, salad bar, vegetable of the day, biscuits, dessert.

Thursday, December 15 – Pizza Putt, S. Burlington. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Garden salad, baked ziti with meatballs, garlic bread, ice cream cake.

Tuesday, February 20 – Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Fish, potato, coleslaw, squash, roll, creemee.

Wednesday, February 21 – Athens Diner, Colchester. Check-

in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Roast pork dinner, rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, pudding.

Thursday, February 22 – Pizza Hut, Susie Wilson Rd., Essex Junction. Check-in 11:00 AM; lunch 11:30 AM. All you can eat buffet – salad and pizza.

Tuesday, February 27 – Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Fish, potato, coleslaw, squash, roll, creemee.

Wednesday, February 28 – Athens Diner, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert.

Restaurant ticket program – Age Well's restaurant tickets are available year round, and no longer need to be used the month they are purchased. Tickets are good for Age Well's fiscal year, October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018, but are nonreturnable and non-exchangeable. For tickets, connect with Pat Long, Community Meal Coordinator, at the meal sites or visit Age Well's office (76 Pearl St., Suite 201, Essex Junction, VT 05452, 865-0360). Tickets must be presented before ordering. Restaurants have the right to offer limited menus.

The Abbey Pub & Restaurant, Enosburg Falls, lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday, 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Athens Diner, Milton, Monday-Saturday, 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sundays 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

The Champlain Café at Burlington Tech Center, Fridays only;

reservations required. Call 864-8426 x12121.

Dutch Mill, Shelburne, Monday-Sunday, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM.

Halfway House Restaurant, Shoreham, Monday-Thursday, 5:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Harpers at Holiday Inn, S. Burlington, Early Bird dinner, Monday-Sunday, 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

IHOP, S. Burlington, Monday-Sunday, 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM.

Mimmo's, Essex Junction, Mondays, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Pizza Putt, S. Burlington, lunch or dinner served seven days a week.

Professional Foods Café and Bakery (formerly Colonial Room), Essex. Call 879-5595 after 5:00 PM on Monday to listen to a recorded message with menu options and days the café will be open that week. Luncheon check-in is promptly at 11:00 AM. Always closed on Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays.

Rosie's Restaurant, Middlebury. Mondays-Wednesdays, 6:00 AM – 12:00 PM (breakfast); 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM (lunch).

Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction, Sundays – Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

St. Michael's College, Colchester. Monday-Friday, dinner 5:00 – 6:00 PM; Saturday-Sunday brunch, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM; dinner 5:00 – 6:00 PM.

Trader Duke's at Doubletree, S. Burlington, Mondays, 4:00 – 6:30 PM.

CLiF holiday book drive at Phoenix Books

During the 2017 holiday season, Phoenix Books partnered with Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) to collect books for children all over Vermont.

"The 2017 holiday season was our first time working with CLiF," says Phoenix General Manager Colleen Shipman. "All the books collected at our Phoenix Book stores will be staying in Vermont, and used in CLiF programming throughout the state. When CLiF received the donations, they complimented the selection and quality of the books that had been donated. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated."

CLiF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children up to age 12 throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. Since 1998, CLiF has supported and inspired nearly 200,000 young readers and writers through literacy program grants and has given away almost \$5 million in new, high-quality children's books. CLiF brings authors, illustrators and storytellers, literacy programming and resources, including new books, to elementary schools, libraries, after school programs, shelters and affordable housing units, refugee programs, Head Start, nutrition programs, and many others.

"The Children's Literacy Foundation is proud to partner with Phoenix Books to provide high-quality children's books to the most vulnerable children in our region," adds Erika Nichols-Frazier, CLiF's Communications Manager. "Our literacy programs serve children in communities all over both states, including in each of the regions Phoenix Books serves, so customers can give books to kids in their area who have few or no books at home and help them develop a life-long love of reading."

For more information, please visit www.phoenixbooks.biz.



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American Beech: a profile

Among foresters, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a common source of consternation. It is often considered a low-



Black bears often climb beech trees to eat their nutritious beechnuts. This beech tree shows bear claw marks from repeated climbing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY FORESTER J. ETHAN TAPPER

value, low quality “weed,” outcompeting other tree species and taking over the forest’s understory. Some foresters interested in maintaining diversity, increasing forest health, and growing more commercial tree species have adopted special practices just to avoid regenerating beech, including treating cut beech stumps with herbicide.

To the layperson, this may seem a little extreme. Healthy beech trees are beautiful, with smooth grey “elephant skin” bark. A grove of large beech trees has a high, arching canopy, casting green-tinted light on everything below. Beechnuts are a valuable source of food for wildlife, prized by black bear, turkey and deer, among many others. The wood, while not much good for lumber, is decent firewood.

So what’s the problem?

Beech was dominant in Vermont’s pre-settlement forests, comprising about 40% of the trees across New England. It is “shade-tolerant,” meaning that it can grow with very little light, under dense canopies. Shade-tolerant trees dominate undisturbed forests over time; they grow in the understory, waiting for less-tolerant species to decline, at which point they take over. The pre-settlement forests of Vermont experienced major disturbances infrequently (by modern standards), which created great conditions for growing beech and other shade-tolerant species such as hemlock and red spruce.

About 80% of Vermont’s forests were cleared for agriculture in the early-mid 1800s, eliminating much of our old-growth beech. When this agricultural land was abandoned and allowed to succeed to forest, conditions favored fast-growing shade-intolerant tree species, such as white pine, white birch, and aspen.

In 1920, just as much of Vermont was beginning to revert back to forest, a new threat to beech was discovered in Nova Scotia. Beech Bark Disease (BBD), also known as the “beech blight,” quickly spread throughout Vermont. BBD is a disease “complex,” the combination of an exotic scale insect and two species of fungi in the genus *Neoneotria*. It manifests itself in the bark of beech trees, which becomes mottled with black lesions and bumps. Most beech trees can still reach a reproductive age, but are killed by BBD before they become very large or old. Beech is thought to be able to live for 400-600 years, but today I rarely see one older than 60-

80. While some beech trees show resistance to BBD, maintaining relatively smooth bark, they are uncommon.

When beech trees are stressed (as they are when they have BBD) their root systems produce sprouts, and so the understory of forests with BBD-infected beech are often dominated by a near-monoculture of beech saplings. These sprouts are equipped with an established root system, allowing them to outcompete young trees of other species, and are genetically identical to the parent tree, making them equally susceptible to BBD. As if that wasn’t enough, beech is one of white-tailed deer’s least favorite foods; due to over-browsing by deer in many areas of Vermont, other tree species get eaten but beech is left alone.

All of these factors explain why beech is branded a “weed.” In many forests the presence of beech means a less healthy, diverse understory and overstory, both dominated by a species which is diseased, low-value, and skilled at sprouting, good at outcompeting young trees of other species but unable to grow into healthy, mature trees.

Vermont’s forests have endured a number of exotic pests and pathogens since European settlement: the American chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease, butternut canker, blister rust, the approaching hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer... the list goes on. In each of these examples, a pest or pathogen introduced by humans leads to the loss of a tree species or the fundamental alteration of its behavior. These changes reverberate throughout our forested ecosystems, causing unpredictable problems for our native flora and fauna.

For these reasons, our long-term goal should be to re-establish beech as a healthy part of our forests. While BBD-infected beech trees may be cut, encourage the growth of BBD-resistant beech trees wherever they are found. This can be done by allowing any healthy, smooth-barked beech trees to continue to grow, and by even by thinning around them. With good management, and given enough time, I think we stand a chance of re-establishing beech as a healthy piece of our forested ecosystems.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, by phone at 802-585-9099, or at his office at 111 West St., Essex Junction.

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 6

MUSIC

Red Baraat, a Brooklyn, NY based band, will perform on Wednesday, February 21, 8:00 PM at the Dibden Center for the Arts, Johnson State College, Johnson. The eight-piece band plays a mix of jazz, hip-hop, rock, and bhangra, a type of dance music with Indian roots. The band’s third studio album, *Bhangra Pirates*, was released in 2017. For more information, 635-1408. Free and open to the public.

The Burlington Chamber Orchestra’s eleventh season performances this season will include a Collaboration with the UVM Dance Department featuring Claude Debussy’s *Prelude to the Afternoon of Faun* and Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* on Saturday-Sunday, March 3-4; and a collaboration with *Bella Voce Chorus* Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro Overture*; Mel Bonis, *Suite en forme de valse pour orchestre*; and Gwyneth Walker’s *Love is a Rain of Diamonds, I Will be Earth, Thank you God, The Tree of Peace and How Can I Keep* on Saturday, May 12. The Concerto Competition winner will also perform at the May concert. General admission is \$30 adults and \$10 students (with identification). Season tickets are \$120 for adults and \$40 for students. For more information go to www.bcovt.org, or contact Sharon Radtke, 802-893-4082 or bco@bcovt.org.

Celebrated folk and American roots legend Tom Rush will perform at the Chandler Music Hall at 7:30 PM, Friday, February 23, joined by his longtime accompanist Matt Nakoa. For tickets and more information call the Chandler Box Office, 802-728-6464, 12:00 – 4:00 PM weekdays, or visit www.chandler-arts.org.

THEATER/FILM

Big Love at Johnson State College – the student theater troupe at JSC’s Dibden Center for the Arts will stage *Big Love*, by American playwright Charles Mee, that raises issues of love, gender politics, and domestic violence, Thursday-Saturday, February 15-17 at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 (cash only) for the public. *Big Love* is based on the ancient Greek play *The Suppliants* by Aeschylus, about a group of Greek women who take sanctuary in an Italian manor to avoid marrying their cousins. The JSC production will modernize the original Greek story, in part by the grooms-to-be ambushing the women by helicopter. Directed by Burlington-based actress Dana Block, the

cast includes Vermonters Katelyn Shaw (Lydia), Brittney Malik (Olympia), Troy McCabe (Nikos), Jody Kifner (Piero/Leo). To reserve tickets, contact the Dibden Center box office, jsoboxoffice@jsc.edu or call 635-1476, Monday-Friday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

The 8th Annual Dance Showcase – Embracing Inclusion Through Movement will be held on Saturday, February 17, 7:00 PM at Main Street Landing Black Box Theater, 60 Lake St., Burlington, with 100% of proceeds going to support Vermont Family Network. This year, New York City, New England, and Montreal’s best professional and semi-pro dance companies and soloists will perform selections from a diverse background of dance disciplines, featuring: Bryce Dance Company from NYC, Di’Ahna Restry & Liam Reddy from Boston, Cult of Yes and Kali Maat from Montreal, Kala Seraphin from Montreal, She Awakens of New England, Nicole Dagesse and Hanna Satterlee, Christina Kelly, Ana Maria & De Train, Cobra Gymnastics & Dance Center, Shelby Jones, Celtic Company from Green Mountain Performing Arts, Arunima Dasgupta, Haley Bradstreet & Robin Riley, Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater, Toby MacNutt & Mac Melrose, Champlain College Dance Team, PH Dance & Ers, Dream City Dance, Candace Fugazy & Abby Pepin, Ballet Viridis, HIGHSTEPPERS and The Accaliae. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door are available at VT Family Network, 802-876-5315 x247, or at the Flynn Theater Box Office and www.FlynnTix.org.

Burlington City Arts presents an *Architecture + Design Film Series*, a free screening once a month until April 2018. Come for a thoughtful discussion and light refreshments to a creative gathering aimed to broaden awareness, foster connections, spark new ideas, and ultimately build momentum towards positive action. Wednesday, February 21: *Stone Rising: The Work of Dan Snow* directed by Camilla Rockwell. Wednesday, March 21: *The Salt of the Earth* directed by Wim Wenders and Julian Ruberio Salgado. Wednesday, April 18: *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf* directed by Thomas Piper. Sponsored by Burlington City Arts and the UVM Department of Art and Art History. Location: Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St., Burlington. All showings are at 6:00 PM.

White Christmas auditions – Chandler Center’s 20th annual 4th of July musical will be *White Christmas*, with performances

July 5-8 at the Chandler Center in Randolph. Auditions are open to kids age 7-18. Audition materials and the registration form can be found at <https://www.chandler-arts.org/youth/>. For more information, contact outreach@chandler-arts.org or 802-728-9878.

The Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph presents the winners in its 2017 competition for new plays on current social issues written by Vermont playwrights, as staged readings in the Upper Gallery. Each begins at 7:00 PM and will be followed by a talkback for actors and audiences to give feedback to the authors, who will attend. Sunday, February 25: Emily Rosenbaum’s *Precession*, based on an historical incident, tells of two young men caught up in an interrogation program just after WWII and examines questions of science vs. humanity and how these questions pertain to our age – and if they will ever be resolved. Sunday, March 25: Margot Lasher’s *I Belong Somewhere*, about a small group of homeless people and animals gathered in a vacant lot, all affected by war and all protective of each other. Sunday, April 29: Maura Campbell’s *Cross Talk*, in which a 19 year old just out of detox is compelled to go to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting, where he meets others trying to get through each day without picking up a drug. Tickets adults in advance \$10, day of show \$12; full-series adult passes \$25; students \$5 at all times: call the Chandler Box Office, 802-728-6464, 12:00 – 4:00 PM weekdays. Complimentary refreshments available.

Pre-orders open for WNRCD Annual Tree and Trout Sale

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is pleased to announce that the 35th Annual Tree and Trout sale is now open. This year’s selection includes fruit species, ornamental species, a wide variety of bareroot trees and shrubs, and so much more. In addition to an amazing selection of native species and fruit species, we are offering species of trout to stock your ponds.

This year the WNRCD is partnering with Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. and conducting a one-day event in Waterbury where the public can pick up their orders, visit educational displays, and purchase perennial plants and more. All pre-orders must be postmarked by March 31. The event/pickup day for tree sale orders is Saturday April 21, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Place your orders early as supplies are limited. Visit the District’s website for an order form and information on the species available.

Proceeds from both sales allow us to provide high-quality conservation programs to the residents within our District. For more information and to download the order form, please visit www.winooskinrcd.org or email info@winooskinrcd.org.

PEOPLE - OBITUARY

Wanda Sue Gardner, 59, of Kriste Lane in Jericho, VT passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at the McClure Miller Respite House from brain cancer. She was born on February 25, 1958 in Warsaw, IA, the daughter of Robert and Edith Schlenburg Holsten. She was a graduate of Southwestern High School in Flint, MI, Class of 1976. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Physics from the University of Michigan, a Master’s Degree in Optics from University of Rochester (NY), and a Master’s Degree in Education from St. Michael’s College, Colchester, VT. On April 19, 2005 she was married to Leo R. Gardner. She worked at IBM and Bishop-Marshall School, and after moving to Honolulu, HI in 2011, she worked as a tutor at Sylvan Learning Center and volunteered extensively at the Honolulu Zoo and Aquarium. Wanda was a vibrant, passionate woman who cared deeply for those around her. She enjoyed painting, traveling, swimming, tennis, and a good glass of wine. Wanda’s greatest enjoyment was found in the relationships she had with friends and family. She is survived by her sons Jake and Nathan Tomlinson, daughter-in-law Page Tomlinson; and by her sisters Marsha Fick, Carol Malzahn, and Joan Rohn, and their families. She was predeceased by her husband Leo in July of 2016. We will be holding a celebration of life for Wanda on Saturday, February 24, the weekend of her 60th birthday, at her home in Jericho from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you honor Wanda’s life by spending time with your loved ones and living as if there’s no such thing as a hangover. Ready Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Burlington, VT assisted the family with arrangements.

VAST Military Ride-In to be held on February 17

VAST, in cooperation with the Morrisville Vermont National Guard, is sponsoring the 2017 Military Appreciation Ride to be held Saturday, February 17, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Oxbow Park in Morrisville on the LVRT. This statewide event honors our serving military, our veterans, and Vermont’s military families. This event will celebrate the long-standing mutual relationship between the snowmobile and military communities.

Activities will include: warming tent provided by the National Guard; bonfire and s’mores; snowman making area; food and commercial vendors; snowmobile trail groomers on display; vintage snowmobiles on display; free mini U.S. flags; Operation Veteran Off-Road; Blue Star Mothers; sled demos by Buffalo Mountain Powersports and Laquerres Marine & Sports Center; and snowshoe demo by Power Play Sports.

If you would like more information, please contact Cindy Locke, 802-229-0005 x.11 or cindy@vtvast.org.

Kathryn Devlin fulfills internship requirement

Kathryn Devlin of Bolton, VT is currently completing Colby-Sawyer College’s internship requirement with William H. & Sonja Carlson Davidow ‘56 and Marian Graves Mugar Art Galleries in New London, NH. Devlin majors in studio art at the college in New London, NH.

Internships are field experiences designed to provide a student learning opportunity under collaborative supervision between Colby-Sawyer College faculty, staff, and work site professionals. Internships offer the opportunity for students to enhance their academic programs with work experience related to career interests in all industry areas in national and international settings.

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Fairfax - \$299,000
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in sought after neighborhood! Lg kitchen w/ SS appliances & granite counters with cozy adjoining family rm! Master w/ WI closet, tray ceilings & great bath! 2 more bdrms w/ WI closets! Hrdwd flooring throughout! Upstairs rec room w/ views of common land! Lg yard & back deck!



Fairfax - \$167,500
Great upgrades including HW floors & a finished walkout basement. Bright & sunny end unit boasts 2 bdrms up & a full bath, as well as a ½ bath down. Open living room & eat-in kitchen/dining with 2 pantries! Great country community association, including 10 acres of common land right in town!



Fairfax - \$142,500
Wonderful new condominiums for adults 55+. Large 1st floor unit with living room, dining room & kitchen creating comfortable flow! Granite countertops in kitchen & bath! Great 1st floor community room with fireplace. 9 acres of common land with walking trails! Relax on the rear deck & covered porch!

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