

Bolton is seeking Town Meeting microphone runners

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer
 Since we are returning to our in-person Town Meeting on Monday, March 6, we are seeking two (2) young adults to act as microphone runners that evening!
 Bolton's Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, from 6:45 PM until the end of the meeting (9:00 PM-ish?) at the Smilie School Gym.
 Compensation: Community Service hours or small stipend, your choice!
 Please contact me at the Town Office if you are interested: Amy Grover, 802-434-5075 x 222 or clerkbolton@gmavt.net.

Westford Winter Festival: Broomball, Chili Cookoff, and much more

Come one, come all, to Westford Village for Westford's annual Winter Festival on Saturday, February 18, 12:00 – 4:00 PM!
 Enjoy horse-drawn trolley rides (parking at the school), mini-golf, the Westford Library Story Walk and a History Walk and Woodland Walk! There will be sledding and X-country skiing, and a Passport to track your adventures and win prizes! Plus music, and a Silent Raffle for lots of great prizes!
 Also, a Broomball tournament!
 And campfires! Bonfire! S'mores! Gracie's Popcorn!
 Hot dogs and more at the Westford Store!
 A Chili Cook-off, Butcher Barn Sausage, and Kickback beer at the Common Hall!
 A huge Thank You to our generous sponsors, including (so far): Rover's North, Butcher Barn, J&L Hardware, Minor's Store, Tinker's Auto, Union Bank, Meyer's Trash, and Working Dog Septic.
 (There's still time to offer to join the list to sponsor a part of the festivities, so we can keep all activities free for everyone!)
 See Westford Community Events Page for details, or signs all over town, or Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com.
Broom Ball Tournament
 The 23rd annual Westford Broom Ball tournament will be happening on Saturday, February 18, all day, at the Westford Ice Rink, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
 This coincides with the Westford Winter Fest and the Chili Cook Off. It will be a great day!
 Register your team today to take home the glory! <https://www.gameonvt.com/pub-events.php>
Chili Cook Off
 Get ready — the second annual Westford Chili Cook off is coming Saturday, February 18, 12:00 – 2:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall in the Town Center. If you would like to participate, email Jordan Mull (jmull3115@gmail.com) soon with your name the name of your chili and a brief description. There are only 15 spots for competitors.
 On the day of the event you will need to bring four (4) gallons of chili, any toppings that you would like to offer, a ladle to serve, a pop up tent, and a decorative voting box to collect votes in. More details to follow.
 If you just want to eat chili, bring \$5 and your appetite, you will receive around 30 ounces of chili in 15 two-ounce samples.



Orthopedic surgeon John Macy, MD serves at World Cup FIS races

John Macy, MD, renowned orthopedic shoulder surgeon with Mansfield Orthopaedics, just returned from Lauberhorn in Wengen, Switzerland where he served as a USSA Team doctor covering the World Cup FIS races. "Lauberhorn, under the shadow of the Eiger, in the Bernese Alps, provides a spectacular and breathtaking backdrop," said Dr. Macy. "It was a great week of races and no injuries to speak of." Dr. Macy noted that Europe, much like Vermont, has experienced limited snow so far this year.
 Dr. Macy shared that U.S. Olympic athletes, including local Vermonter Ryan Cochran-Seigle, who took home Silver in the Super G last year at the Olympics, was part of his group amongst many others. "I cannot begin to express the privilege it is to work with such a professional group of athletes."
 This year was Lauberhorn's 93rd International FIS Ski Cup Race. The Lauberhorn Downhill is the longest race in the FIS Ski World Cup circuit and one of the most attended winter sports events in the world.
 "I am truly humbled to have been part of this race, and serving as a Team doc," Macy continued.
 Dr. Macy has been covering World Ski Championships with the USSA for nearly 10 years. His ventures have taken him as near as events in the USA, and as far as Sweden, Norway, Canada, and Austria. Last year, Dr. Macy served as the Team Physician during the 2022 Hahnenkamm Races in Austria for the U.S. Ski Team.
 Closer to home, Dr. Macy is with the Jay Peak Ski Patrol, a role he has served for more than 10 years and truly enjoys. When not in the operating room or clinic, Dr. Macy too enjoys being on the slopes and trails doing some down-hill and back country skiing.

Westford Planning Commission news and updates

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner
1705 Property – Brief Overview of Brownfield Work
 Brownfields work began on the site in 2019, with the completion of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. Several environmental investigations were performed from 2020-2022. These site assessments revealed the presence of two abandoned gasoline underground storage tanks, which were properly evaluated and removed, and contamination in soil and groundwater at the site. Soils were determined to be impacted with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Groundwater was found to be impacted with VOCs due to releases from the underground storage tanks. Soil gas was evaluated for contamination and was found to not be impacted from the contaminant releases. Additional environmental assessments were completed to delineate the soil and groundwater contamination at the site.
 Over 101 tons of petroleum-contaminated soils were removed from the site in 2021 and 2022, to assist in cleaning up the soil and groundwater on the site. Additional cleanup will be needed to address the PAHs in soil at the site, and groundwater monitoring will be conducted to track the declining contamination in groundwater.

The Planning Commission would like to thank the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Brownfield Program, VT Agency of Natural Resources – Department of Environmental Conservation Targeted Brownfields Assessment Fund, LE Environmental LLC, and the property owners for their efforts and assistance.

Community Wastewater Project Update
 Within the last few weeks, several positive developments have occurred to move the community wastewater project forward and closer to a bond vote, which is anticipated to occur in November 2023 at the earliest. In a nutshell, engineering design of the system and detailed cost estimation is expected to begin in earnest this February and continue through the spring and summer, so the community will have the information needed to make an informed decision on the proposed system.

On January 13, 2023, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) issued the long-awaited Finding of No Significant (Environmental) Impact and Facilities Plan Approval letter (https://www.westfordfuture.com/uploads/1/3/8/4/138498261/ww_facility_plan_letter_1.13.23.pdf).
 The Facilities Plan letter states the ANR Water Investment Division has reviewed the Preliminary Engineering Report, Supplemental Preliminary Engineering Report, Environmental Information Document, Environmental Report, and other related documents (<https://www.westfordfuture.com/resources.html>) and they agree, following review and consultation with other Vermont agencies, that:

- (1) the project qualifies for a Finding of No Significant Impact; and
- (2) environmental conditions in the project area have been identified and acceptable mitigation measures have been proposed.

These findings enable the project to move forward to engineering design and cost estimation.
 The Facilities Plan represents a foundational 'check' on the assumptions around population, non-residential activity to be served, projected design flows, and robustness of the technologies Westford has proposed. The Facilities Plan Approval letter

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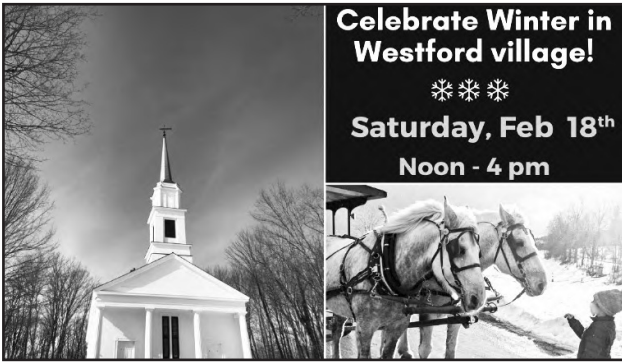
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Celebrate Winter in Westford village!



Saturday, Feb 18th
Noon - 4 pm

Come one, come all, to the Westford Village Common on Saturday, February 18! Starting at noon, at the Westford Common Hall (formerly the White Church): Kickback Brewery's craft beer; the Westford Chili Cook-off; Gracie's Popcorn and Cotton Candy; free concerts at 12:30 PM, Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate, followed at 2:00 PM by Cookie's Hot Club; free horse-drawn trolley rides from the Common to the school and back, all afternoon (park at the School on Brookside Road). Visit the Library to begin a fun Story Walk that will take you around the Common! Passport Adventure: keep track of your fun adventures with a Westford Winter Festival Passport — pick up your Passport at the Library, get it stamped at each event/ location you visit, and then turn it in for a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Phoenix Books or Sweet Clover Market! 1:00 PM: guided walk/snowshoe tour of Maple Shade Town Forest trails with Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tupper. 2:00 PM: X-C ski and snow shoe lesson at Misty Meadows (school) trails; borrow X-C skis or snowshoes from the Westford School. Skiing and snowshoeing in the Misty Meadows and Maple Shade Forests. Sledding across from the school on Brookside Road (special thanks to Don and Dale Pouliot). Warm up after snowy fun at the Camp Fires on the Common, and the Bonfire (on Brookside) — both tended by the Fire Department with hot chocolate and s'mores from the PTO. Drop by the Brick Meeting House to play Mini Golf — free! Visit our Westford Girl Scouts at the Brick Meeting House. Tour the new Westford Historical Society building to catch up on their exciting progress and pick up a self-guided Historical Tour of Westford Village handout. Visit the Broom-Ball Tournament at the ice rink on the Common. Stop by the Westford Store for hot dogs, coffee, and more. Silent Raffle — proceeds to benefit the Westford Common Hall — 12:00 – 3:30 PM ticket sales; drawings at 4:00 PM (you don't need to be present at drawing to win). Come to the Westford Common Hall to see the great assortment of items, activities, and services available for raffle, and put your tickets in the cups to win! Beautiful locally crafted items, a farrier visit, Shelburne Museum Family day pass, pet supply gift cards, yoga classes, and lots more! For more information: Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com.

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represents a fundamental endorsement by ANR that the basic engineering and planning assumptions are sound, allowing a system to be designed using these assumptions, and that the project is ready to proceed with design.

Importantly, this also confirms and continues the Town's eligibility for CWSRF and other federal and state funding.

ANR also reviewed and approved an Amended Step 2 Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) between the Town and Stone Environmental, Inc., and a Professional Services Agreement between the Town and Birchline Planning. Upon execution of the above agreements and an amended Step 2 Clean Water State Revolving Fund application by the Selectboard and ANR, the Town's consultants will be able to conduct further analysis, refine and update the cost estimate, and develop final designs for the community wastewater system. This will enable the Town to answer specific questions people have been asking, such as:

- what are the anticipated costs;
- how will ledge along Brookside Road be handled;
- what will the final design look like;
- how does drip dispersal work; and
- when will additional outreach to property owners occur.

The Town will also be able to discuss and develop a sewer ordinance that would take effect once a system is approved for construction through the Bond Vote. The ordinance determines how capacity would be allocated, outlines how connection and user fees would be calculated, and provides information about connecting to the system.

The Planning Commission anticipates contracts with Stone Environmental, Inc. and Birchline Planning will be approved and executed by mid to late February. The Planning Commission will provide regular updates as they become available. Please visit <http://www.westfordfuture.com> for more information on the project.

Volunteer Opportunity - Development Review Board Member

The Town of Westford has a volunteer opportunity available in the field of land use planning, design and permitting—Development Review Board Member. Members of the Development Review Board evaluate local land use and development applications using the Westford Land Use & Development Regulations.

Benefits include:

- increasing opportunity and a sense of community in Westford;
- gaining experience in and knowledge of land use law;
- boosting your knowledge and understanding of natural resource planning, neighborhood design, context sensitive design, and form-based code;
- gaining experience communicating directly with municipal officials and the public;
- understanding how to participate in project and board meetings;
- learning how to read surveys and site plans;
- growing your career experience working with a dynamic team of individuals.

Development Review Board members receive an annual stipend and meet the second and fourth Monday of the month on an as-needed basis.

For information and/or to apply contact Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner, at 802-878-4587 or planner@westfordvt.us. Applications can also be obtained on the Town Website at <http://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/APPLICATION-FOR-APPOINTMENT.pdf>.

COMING EVENTS

New offering: knitting at the Jericho Community Center

The Jericho Community Center is offering a Knitting Circle, Wednesday mornings starting February 1, 10:00 – 11:30 AM at the Center at 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center, in the back room. No charge. All levels of skill welcome.

This is an opportunity to knit, learn from each other, share the company of neighbors, and get out of the house this cloudy winter. Contact Elizabeth Bernstein with any questions, erberst@comcast.net.

The Vermont Flower Show Friday-Sunday, March 3-5

The Vermont Flower Show is back! Returning Friday-Sunday, March 3-5 at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Pearl St. (VT Rt. 15), Essex Junction after nearly a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we return stronger, even more creative, and ready to celebrate our 20th year. This year's Grand Garden Display theme of *Out of Hibernation! Spring Comes to the 100-Acre Wood* is sure to inspire and will be a magical garden journey bringing the original world of Winnie-the-Pooh to life.

The 2019 VT Flower Show attracted 11,500 people of all ages from Vermont, New York, Canada, and beyond! Along with the grand garden landscaped display, the show offers a wide variety of features to choose from (see highlights below) — all included in the price of admission. Plan on spending the entire day at the show! It's no wonder that the Vermont Chamber of Commerce named our last show one of the State's Top Ten Events of Winter.

The show is open to the public on Friday-Saturday, March 3-4 from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sunday, March 5 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The daily cost of admission is \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors (60+) and college students, \$7 for students (ages 5-17), and free for children 4 and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://vnlavt.org/vermont-flower-show/buy-tickets/>. Parking for this event is free!

Highlights of the Vermont Flower Show include:

- Grand Garden Display (over 15,000 square feet) filled with flowering bulbs, shrubs trees, and water features!
- Saturday Noon Keynote: *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden* — Kelly Norris, <http://www.kellydnorris.com>.
- Sunday Noon Keynote: *Plants with Style* — Kelly Norris, <http://www.kellydnorris.com>.
- Local artists will be painting live in the Grand Garden Display.
- The Flower Show Marketplace with up to 100 vendors related to the horticultural/gardening/home accessories/VT specialty foods/spirits.
- Over 35 educational seminars and hands-on workshops on a variety of topics.
- Experts on hand all three days to answer your gardening and landscaping questions.
- Family Room with craft and planting activities all three days, as well as scheduled entertainment.
- Local bookstore will offer a great selection of books to choose from.
- The Federated Garden Clubs of VT will host a *National Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show Exhibit*, which is a judged competition open to both VT garden club members and the general public.

There will be a plant sale at the conclusion of the show on Sunday.

Westford Rec offers Gentle Yoga in February

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

How could Gentle Yoga help you reach your fitness and wellness goals? If better balance, greater mobility, and stress relief sound good to you, maybe it's time to give it a try!

A four-week series of Gentle Yoga starts Tuesday, February 7 and meets Tuesdays through February 28, 10:30 – 11:30 AM at the Red Brick Meeting House.

For more details and to register, visit Westford Rec online, <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>. If you have questions, contact Erin@Radiantenergyforlife.com.

Saturday, February 4

Getting Started on Your Family History, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Join us to learn how to start uncovering your family history. Lynn Johnson will help you learn best practices for conducting sound research as she explains different types of records, their value, where to find them, both online and in local repositories, and how to assess each piece of information to make sure it fits. Using examples from her family research, Lynn will also outline mistakes that can derail your progress and provide tips to help you avoid them. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Monday, February 6

Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Akeley Building, 67 S. Main St., Stowe. A light breakfast and coffee from a local restaurant will be followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A. Sponsored by the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce. For more information and to register, go online to <https://lamoilleeconomy.org/breakfast/> (scroll down).

Wednesday, February 8

Free Grab & Go Senior Meal, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. A free meal for anyone age 60 and up. This month, the meal is stuffed chicken with ham and cheese, mashed potatoes, baby beets, potato dinner roll with butter, applesauce birthday cake, and milk. Note new reservation information: register by Friday, February 3 by contacting CCJ Manager Jen Greenwood, 802-274-4024 or ccjvermont@gmail.com. Sponsored by Age Well.

Embroiderer's Guild of America meeting, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Holy Family St. Lawrence Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. The Green Mountain Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America (EGA) meets on the second Wednesday of each month, in person and virtually, and welcomes all with an

interest in the needle arts, from beginners to experts. At every meeting you can expect opportunities to socialize with other needle crafters, a chance to "show and tell" needlework, and plenty of chances to seek or provide needlework advice. To let us know you're coming or for questions about this group please contact gmc.vt.ega@gmail.com.

LWV speaker: The Impact of Climate Change on Vermont, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. The League of Women Voters of VT and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library present this fourth in its 2022-23 Lecture Series, looking at the effect of climate change on personal, economic, and ecological levels, closing with action that has been taken and what we can do individually and as a community; and also presents a current legislative initiatives update, a preview of relevant state legislation, and the impact of past legislation. Panel members: VT Sen. Andrew Perchlik and Rep. Gabrielle Stebbins; Jared Duval, Executive Director of Energy Action Network will moderate. Open to the public and free, but all guests must register at www.kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs.

Thursday, February 9

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. New location and time! Our gatherings are open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Friday, February 10

Lego Minecraft Workshop, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Red Brick Meeting House, VT Rt. 128, Westford. Two hours of safe supervision (while you have two hours to yourself, maybe?) with a Minecraft Lego kit, games, movie, and pizza! Ages 6 and over; 30.00 per participant. Limited spaces; sign up at the Westford Recreation page, <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>.

Saturday, February 11

Next Steps with Your Family History, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Are you ready to put a little more meat on the bare bones of your family tree? A little bit stuck? Do your family members roll their eyes when you start talking about genealogy? Go beyond the basics in your search for your family history. Marcie Crocker will introduce the use of research logs, timelines, maps, and more. She will also touch on why you might want to put some time into the history and the languages that might be found in the area, as well as why you might want to research other family members, associates and neighbors. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Thursday, February 16

Constituent Meeting with Reps. Squirrel and Graning, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. Join Underhill/Jericho representatives Edye Graning and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session.

Saturday, February 18

Integrated Digital Organization of Your Genealogy Research, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Keeping track of your genealogy research effectively can be a challenge. Take your genealogy research to the next level by creating an integrated digital system. In this talk, Suzanne Blanchard will take you through a step-by-step review of the research process and the benefits and challenges of integrating digital systems to keep track of your progress and secure your work. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

2nd annual Westford Winter Festival, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Westford. Volunteers and sponsors needed to help bring this event back this winter. Volunteers needed for many aspects of this big event; no experience necessary, just a willingness to have lots of fun and help your neighbors have fun too! (That, and being dependable, of course.) Contact westfordwinterfest@gmail.com.

35th Annual Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 – 11:00 AM, United Church of Underhill, Park St., Underhill. *Suffering from cabin fever?* Get out of the house and come to the Lions' annual breakfast event! Pancakes (both regular and gluten-free!) with real Vermont (local) maple syrup, sausages, bacon, coffee, milk, and orange juice — a meal to enjoy with neighbors and friends that you don't have to cook! Suggested donations accepted; proceeds fund scholarships provided by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club for deserving Mount Mansfield Union High School seniors. Take-out is available. Also, help out your needy neighbors: food donations are accepted and encouraged for our local food shelf. Thank you.

Sunday, February 19

Soup Bowl Supper, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall, Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. Back by popular demand — family/free/fellowship. Soup selections provided. Bring your own utensils, bowls, beverages. Bring cheese or bread or dessert. Share in the fun!

Soft Lens

By Kimberly Madura

The night she breathed in an eggplant-colored sky for the first time —
the night she realized her past transmuted into her present —
the night she considered that people are more different than they are alike, she decided there was so much to be curious about in this and she gasped in awe.

NEWS BRIEFS

CSWD Drop-Off Centers closed February 1

CSWD Drop-Off Centers located in Essex, Milton, and Williston will be closed on Wednesday, February 1 for mandatory staff training. All other facilities will be on normal operating schedules (<https://cswd.net/drop-off-center-hours/>).

Hours and locations of all facilities can be found on the CSWD website at <https://cswd.net/>.

Your ideas for Jericho Community Center activities

Send us your ideas! What kinds of activities would you like to see at the Community Center in Jericho?

The Operating Committee hopes to offer more activities now that COVID is waning a bit, and we would like input from the community. In the past we offered a puppet show, a block party, a Snowflake Bentley celebration, a class on CPR and defibrillators, lectures on various subjects, concerts, etc. (even a quiz during the worst time of Covid!)

Let's hear what you would enjoy — for families with small children to the older residents. Send your ideas to juliavblake@comcast.net and I'll pass them along to the committee.

Underhill Planning Commission opening

The Underhill Planning Commission is seeking a volunteer to fill a seat for a commissioner who will be moving away in the next few months. Serving on the Planning Commission is a great way to be involved in planning the future of our town. Whether you own or rent, live on a road with your family name on it or moved here last year, or have ever volunteered for local government, please consider joining.

Our meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the first and third Thursday of each month at Town Hall (as well as virtually). If you're interested in learning more, please contact Brian at btijan@gmail.com.

Local railroad history presentation on MMCTV

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) has a local history video (recorded this summer in Jericho) that's perfect for viewing on a snowy evening. It's a presentation about the Burlington-Lamoille Railway by Jerry Fox, organized by the Jericho Historical Society.

View it online at <https://archive.org/details/BurlingtonLamoilleRailroadFox06242022>.

Monthly EJU Food Shelf distribution

Food distribution takes place at the Essex-Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf on the third Saturday of each month (February 18,

March 18) at Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, 9:00 – 10:30 AM. To help with traffic flow, local families (Essex, Jericho, and Underhill) are invited to arrive at 9:00 AM, and families from other towns are invited to arrive starting at 10:00 AM. Newcomers are welcome to register on the spot — please bring an ID showing your address for our records.

This is a drive-through distribution, so all items will be placed in your vehicle by masked volunteers, and you can remain in your vehicle.

We are distributing pre-packed bags of food staples, fresh produce, meat, cheese, eggs, and butter. We also have diapers and pet food in limited supplies.

Food Shelf distributions are planned for the third Saturday of each month in 2023.

The EJU Food Shelf is grateful to all the local churches, individuals, businesses, and farmers who have donated time, produce, personal care items, money, and non-perishable groceries.

We have a current shortage of pasta sauce, spaghetti, cereal, peanut butter, and canned fruit. Donated food can be purchased and placed in donation bins located at the Jericho Market and the Essex Hannaford's and Price Chopper.

Questions? Contact the EJU Ecumenical Ministry Food Shelf at P.O. Box 65, Jericho, VT 05465 or ejufoodshelf@gmail.com; our emergency number is 802-878-5997.

State of the Union Report for Jericho

By Bernie Paquette

Given the changing dynamics of the Jericho Town Plan, and the community interest in reshaping how Jericho is in part, developed, conserved preserved, and modified, the measurable numbers in the following link might be of interest (<https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2023/01/state-of-union-address-for-jericho.html>). The report includes:

- household and housing starts, sale prices, rents;
- building permits issued by year;
- current number of residential building types;
- number of agricultural acres (pending);
- acres conserved;
- water capacity (pending);
- population by year;
- school enrollment;
- biodiversity count;
- resource link for more Jericho stats.

Jericho Town Republican Party meeting January 30

The next meeting of the Jericho Town Republican Committee will be held on Monday, January 30, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. All Jericho Republicans are encouraged to attend either in person or via Zoom.

To request an invitation, please contact jerichovtgop.org@gmail.com. We hope you can join us.

CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. Know that no matter who you

are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church

Jericho Congregational Church — "An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message" on the Green in Jericho Center, VT. Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson. Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages, Fellowship at 9:30 AM, Worship Service at 10:00 AM. Nursery care provided. Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building. 802-899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org.

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible — all are welcome! There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. Weekday online offerings include Centering Prayer. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at www.goodshepherdjericho.org or contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas at 802-899-3932 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church in Jericho has now resumed worshipping in person on Sundays at 9:30 AM. If you would like worship service information, please contact the parish administrator at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com, or call 802-899-0453. All are warmly invited!

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

Waterville Union Church

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



Can Jericho become a Food Hub, supported by a local food economy?

Transition Town Jericho has requested that a non-binding discussion/vote be on the Town Meeting Day agenda on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Transition Town Jericho team wants to know if the people of Jericho are interested in becoming a food sovereign town through the facilitation of a food hub model.

"A food hub is a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distributions, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products." For more information you may go to the Transition Town Jericho Website at: <http://www.transition-townjericho.net/>.

Today our food system is a food 'chain' where food producers are completely disconnected from the food consumers. Disconnected from our food origins, we do not interact with the people who grow, process, and manufacture the food. With disruptions in the food chain, we already see prices soaring and are relying increasingly on the vagaries of faraway suppliers.

What if Jericho citizens supported each other via a food sharing program benefitting them as well as their neighbors? What if land in the town were set aside to support growing crops, raising chickens, beef, and pork, with the goal of feeding Jericho residents first? What if we set up a town center that supported the small business person to open specialty stores, restaurants featuring foods produced in this town, or a commercial kitchen available for residents' use?

A food sovereign town would host many new jobs and opportunities, from growing the food to running storage facilities and operating distribution and access programs. Not all people are good at farming or even want to grow a garden, but they may have other skills that they can use to support the system, or they can support the effort by spending their money locally. Other people are skilled at gardening/farming and/or raising livestock. Such people are assets, and should be supported by Town policies that lead us toward food sovereignty.

As we learn to deal with climate change and its uncertainties, Jericho could respond proactively by assessing its own resources and how they can be leveraged to support its citizens. We have an opportunity to build food resiliency over time by practicing how to take care of ourselves, building community structures supportive of feeding and nurturing our residents regardless of what happens outside our region.

The Jericho Select Board approved the following proposition at Town Meeting Day, March 7, 2023 for discussion and a vote:

"We the citizens of Jericho propose the formation of Jericho as a vital Food Hub for the citizens of its town and environs. A Food Hub Commission will be established, with the goal of increasing food self-sufficiency via the production, manufacture and distribution of local food."

To sign up to get involved or just to show your support, and/or to register with the Transition Town Jericho Food Hub initiative, go online to <https://bit.ly/3GTjfxQ>.

COLLEGE NEWS

Gina Airoidi of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Airoidi is majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Jonathan Thomas Aselin of Jericho Center, VT, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, has been named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2022 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Hattie Barker of Underhill, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, earning High Honors.

Alexander Benedict of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Benedict is majoring in Professional Nursing.

James Birmingham of Waterbury, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Birmingham is majoring in Computer Science.

College news continued on page 11

The Mountain Gazette

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HEALTH NEWS

Upcoming events and opportunities from Healthy Lamoille Valley

Save the date for our next Lamoille Area Coaching Collaborative meeting, Wednesday, February 8, 12:00 PM on Zoom. If you want to know more or make sure to get the invite, email alison@healthylamoillevalley.org. If you can't make it but want to be involved, be in touch!

League leadership: order your Coaches Handbooks to distribute to your prospective, new, and veteran coaches. The Handbook is a guide for all youth sports volunteer coaches that focuses on coaches building protective factors in support of positive youth development. View and download a digital copy at <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/HLV-Coaches-Workbook-9-9-22.pdf>. The content of this handbook is also available as a training. For more information and to receive printed copies, please contact alison@healthylamoillevalley.org.

Lamoille Area Coaches' Collaborative update: the Lamoille Area Coaches' Collaborative welcomes Lisa Crews to a new role offering leadership and communications support. Lisa has been an active participant in the formation of this initiative and we are excited for this new opportunity to widen and deepen the connections between coaches in our area with her help. We are still looking for someone to work alongside Lisa to advance the work. Read more about this paid opportunity at <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/coaching-opportunity>.

Need substance-free signs? Help educate the community about state and local policies. Do you want to educate the public about state and local public consumption laws? For example, did you know that in Vermont it is illegal to use cannabis in public or any place of public accommodation? Are your town or agency's public spaces substance-free? Interested in signage for an existing smoke, vape, cannabis, alcohol, and/or substance-free public space? Need substance-free signs for an outdoor event? We can help! Visit <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/substance-free-signs/> for more information.

Calling new 3-4-50 partners! A new year is a great time to set new priorities for your business or organization. New resources are available to support your employee wellness goals. What is 3-4-50, and how does one become a partner? Learn more on our website and check out our new resources: <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/3-4-50-partnerships>.

Resource share: this month we'd like to share the Center for Parent and Teen Communication with you: <https://parentandteen.com>. This resource caught our eye as one that would be helpful to teens in our region and those parenting them, with sections based on growth and development, communication strategies, building character, health and prevention, as well as a section just for teens. The Center for Parent and Teen Communication is based within the Division of Adolescent Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



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Transitioning from pediatric to adult medical care

Parents of teenagers have been asking about the best time to transition their teen from a pediatrician to an adult physician.

If they have been seeing a family physician, this should not be an issue since a family physician cares for children and adults.

If they have been going to a pediatrician, this can be a hard transition. It is sometimes harder for the parents than for the teen, and even harder if that teen also has a special health need or chronic condition.

Below are some recommendations on transitioning teens to new doctors.

What is the "right" age?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children should transition to adult-oriented health care usually between the ages of 18-21. Rather than set a specific age, the AAP suggests it be based on a teen or young adult's individual needs and the ability of the pediatric or adult clinician to best meet those needs.

If you are a parent who has been taking your teen to the doctor, this is a great time to stop. Instead, allow your older teen or young adult to take full responsibility for their health and well-being as they transition to a new health care professional.

Ways to select a new doctor

You might sit down with your teen and ask them what is

important to them in selecting a new doctor. These factors may include, but are not limited to: needing to see someone of the same gender; having someone who is nonjudgmental and respects their views, such as in regard to their sexual orientation; having an office nearby; having appointment times that are convenient relative to taking college courses or working.

It's a great idea to have your teen's medical records transferred to the new adult clinician prior to your teen's first visit. You could also ask the pediatrician to write a summary that will be helpful to the new provider. Or even better, have that pediatrician talk directly with the adult health care professional and your teen at the same time, using tele-health. This can insure an even smoother transfer of care.

Is your teen nervous about becoming an adult patient? Have them write down a list of topics or questions they might have about their health or their bodies prior to the first visit with the new clinician they are going to be seeing.

If for some reason your teen does not feel comfortable with that new health care professional, be reassured their pediatrician can certainly help in finding someone else who might be an even better fit than their original choice.

Hopefully, tips like these will allow you and your teen to transition smoothly when it comes to transitioning their care to an adult clinician.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Week 2 legislative report for Chittenden-25

By Julia Andrews, State Representative
Chittenden-25 House District

During the first week in the Committee on Ways and Means, the primary focus has been to take a deep dive on a wide range of tax policy issues to ensure all members understand the nuances of how our education funding system works, the complex calculations that are required to come to a property tax rate, and many other issues. This foundational work will support the Committee's work throughout the legislative session.

Several days last week we heard from the Commissioner and other members of the Tax Department. One item that I wanted to share with our community is that if you need help preparing your income taxes but can't afford assistance, Community Action organizations across Vermont provide assistance to low- and middle-income Vermonters through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. If you need assistance filing your taxes, you can learn more about resources available to you here: <https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/free-tax-preparation-assistance>.

Ways & Means also took up H.42, an act that would extend COVID-era flexibility around remote meetings, balloting, and meeting dates to municipalities. This flexibility would extend to all public meetings in 2023 and 2024 and while it doesn't require towns to make changes, it gives them the option to make changes if needed.

On Saturday, all of the Representatives and the Senator that serve Milton held a community forum at the Milton Public Library. It was so heartening to see how many people came out to participate and learn about what we're all working on! We'll be holding these forums monthly and will continue to advertise them on Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and through other means. In the meantime, if you have any issues you'd like to discuss with me, please reach out at jandrews@leg.state.vt.us or 802-324-9273.

The 2023 legislative session is underway

By Lucy Boyden, Cambridge

The 2023 legislative session is underway! It was an honor to be sworn in on Wednesday, January 4 as a State Representative. Thank you to the communities of Cambridge and Waterville! I look forward to serving on the Government Operations & Military Affairs Committee during the upcoming biennium.

The *News & Citizen* recently asked Lamoille County-area lawmakers about our first week, you can read about my experience here: https://www.vtcng.com/news_and_citizen/news/local_news/lamoille-county-area-local-lawmakers-report-back-on-first-week/article_90dc5480-92a0-11ed-bf39-83a5c2caa102.html.

If you would like to stay up to date on legislative activity: all committee agendas, meeting records, and livestreams can be found under the committees tab on <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>.

Additionally, I plan to publish biweekly legislative updates on Front Porch Forum, with the *News & Citizen*, and on my legislative Facebook page.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions: LBoyden@leg.state.vt.us or LucyMBoyden@gmail.com; website <http://LucyBoydenVT.com>.

Weekly legislative update

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden House District

January 16

The 2023 session of the Vermont Legislature began with the pomp and circumstance we haven't seen in three years. The Governor gave his inaugural address in person, and all House members were present to be sworn in and receive their committee assignments. I will again be serving on the House Human Services Committee, this session as Chair of the Committee. This means that our district, the Washington-Chittenden District, has two Committee Chairs, as Rep. Tom Stevens was reappointed to be Chair of the House General and Housing Committee.

With a record number of new Chairs and members at large, the

House spent the first days of the session becoming acquainted with the departments for which they have responsibility. In my case, that is the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, the Department for Children and Families, and the Department of Health. We have responsibility for policy and oversight of the well-being of Vermonters from birth to death for a variety of basic needs, as well as services for people with disabilities and older Vermonters.

My committee passed out a bill in its first full week of work — H.1 is a technical correction bill that essentially changes the meaning of one section of H.720, a bill impacting people with developmental or intellectual disabilities that was passed last session. It shows that the meaning of one word — *accede* vs. *recede* — can make quite a difference in the intended meaning of a bill.

Please look for these weekly updates as the session continues and you can reach me at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

Fun fact — What is the meaning of the legislative license plate numbers? Simple, just the physical location of a person's seat on the House floor.

January 27

Last week in the legislature we passed H.42, which is an act relating to temporary alternative procedures for annual municipal meetings and electronic meetings of public bodies. This bill essentially extends the COVID accommodations for remote and hybrid meetings and certain allowances for Town Meeting Day until July 1, 2024.

In my committee (House Human Services) we continued work on the Governor's budget adjustment recommendations for the current fiscal year. This is an annual occurrence as adjustments are requested by the Administration and reviewed for approval or changes by the Legislature. It is the first "money bill" of the session each year.

Thanks! I can be reached at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

Senate update: gun safety, reproductive care

By Kesha Ram Hinsdale, State Senator, Chittenden-Southeast
January 25

I want to wish you a happy Lunar New Year. It is an important holiday in the Asian American community to celebrate peace, happiness, and prosperity. Unfortunately, tragedy struck when another mass shooting took place in California at a Lunar New Year celebration that claimed ten lives and left others in critical condition.

This tragic event comes on the heels of daily shootings involving children accessing weapons and domestic disputes. My heart goes out to the victims and their families, and I hope to back up my words with action to end gun violence. I am a lead or co-sponsor of gun safety bills to ensure safe storage of firearms, end the open carry of assault rifles, and close a loophole that allows perpetrators of domestic violence to leave their guns with a family member when a protection order is in place.

We also marked the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* this weekend, and the first anniversary since the recent *Dobbs* ruling stripped abortion rights from millions of Americans. We have enshrined abortion rights in our state constitution, and we're not stopping there. This session, I will be working closely with my colleagues to protect both abortion care and gender-affirming care. The proposed bills will provide licensing and malpractice insurance protection for health care providers who provide this care, require health insurance coverage for this care, ensure pharmacy and prescription access to abortion medication, require public colleges and universities to have access plans, prohibit disclosure of protected health care information, and more.

As I shared in a previous update, my husband and I are thrilled to be welcoming a daughter in May, making me the first pregnant legislator in nearly 20 years while I also lead a committee focused on paid family leave, child care, and supports for working families. My path would not be the same if I was forced to bring a pregnancy to term in my early twenties before I was ready. I am among the one in four Americans who has had an abortion and it is a choice I will fight for my daughter to have, as well.

Together, gun safety, reproductive care, and gender affirming care make up a pro-child and pro-family agenda, and I am proud to help lead on this work. As always, it is a privilege to serve.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Cryptic function lossBy Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

Each of our native species occupies an ecological niche, influencing the ecosystem around it in different ways. The more we learn about forests, the more we discover how critical each species is to their health and function: from towering trees to tiny invertebrates, from the bats that regulate populations of defoliating insects to the rodents that disperse acorns, seeding future generations of oaks.

It is relatively easy to understand the profound impact of an extinction on an ecosystem. What is less apparent is when the role of a native species changes as a result of climate change, historic land use, non-native invasive pests and pathogens, and the many other components of *global change*. Our modern world has given rise to a phenomenon known as *cryptic function loss*: when the function of an ecosystem is altered by the *extirpation* (local extinction) of a species, a change in its abundance, or a shift in its behavior as a result of global change.

An example of cryptic function loss is the case of American beech. Historical records suggest that beech once accounted for 40-60% of the all trees in Chittenden County. While most of us know beech only as a sickly tree with cracked, pock-marked bark, it used to be very different. Once, beech trees were capable of becoming massive and ancient, living 400-600 years. One can only imagine how many habitats healthy beech trees once provided, how many species relied on their abundant beechnuts, in how many ways they shaped the forests of the past.

Today, beech is still common in our forests, but its behavior has changed entirely. With the introduction of beech bark disease (a non-native pathogen), most beech trees live only 40-60 years, dying centuries before they can reach the stature of their ancestors. When beech trees are stressed from beech bark disease they produce clones from their root systems, which can dominate the forest understory, creating a monoculture of trees destined to be as unhealthy as their parents.

Another example of cryptic function loss is the shape of our modern forests themselves. Vermont's forests have regenerated from the near-complete deforestation of the 1800s, today covering about 75% of Vermont. This fact masks a complex reality: as a result of historic deforestation, the loss of wildlife species, the functional-loss of tree species like beech, elm, butternut, and chestnut to non-native pests and pathogens, soil degradation, and much more, our modern-day forests have been transformed. While Vermont's forests (for the most part) consist of the same tree species that were here prior to European colonization, many components of pre-colonial forests — a diversity of tree species and forest types, *structural diversity* (trees of different sizes and ages), deep, well-developed soils, dead wood, and old trees — and the critical functions and habitats that they once provided are underrepresented or missing from our modern forests.

Cryptic function loss demonstrates a complex and important idea: that in ecosystems it is not enough for something (a species, a forest) to exist — the nuances of *how it exists* matter. Our forests are resilient and adaptive but also very sensitive. Slight changes in environmental conditions, or the presence or absence or behavior of a single species, can have consequences that ripple throughout a forest community, causing harmful and destabilizing impacts.

To me, cryptic function loss is a call to action. In the midst of a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, it is our responsibility to protect the health and the resilience of forests, and the tens of thousands of species that rely on them, and to help them recapture the critical functions that have been lost. Actively managing for diversity and complexity is part of this, as is controlling biodiversity threats like non-native invasive plants, deer overpopulations, deforestation, and forest fragmentation, as is promoting resistance to the causal agents of cryptic function loss — such as the non-native pathogens that affect native tree species like beech.

Considering the impact of cryptic function loss on our forests is alarming but also oddly hopeful. Unlike extinction, cryptic function loss is a phenomenon of things that still exist, of species and functions that may yet be rediscovered. Our modern forests have lost so much, but with our help they may find a better path forward.

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

The Talk, Vermont

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and *The Talk, Vermont* invite you into a wide range of topics and conversations concerning bias and bigotry in our state and the ways people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities may overcome them. *The Talk, Vermont* is sponsored by the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, Mount Mansfield Community Television, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and is financially supported by the VT Humanities Council. Hosted by the church and streamed online at 7:00 PM on certain Wednesdays, October 2022-January 2023, and moderated by the Reverend Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Postponed to a later date in 2023, not yet determined: Children of Color Who Grew Up with White Parents. In a racially divided nation, and one of the whitest states in the country, the challenges of White parents raising children of another race are daunting. However, the challenges of those children of color being raised by White parents in a racially divided nation in one of the whitest states in the country are equally daunting. Parents and children of such families will share their experiences. Recommended readings: *What White Parents Should Know about Transracial Adoption* by Melissa Guida-Richard; *In Their Voices: Black Americans on Transracial Adoptions* by Rhonda M. Roorda. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dLwZfIpTT6SepDDtkcdQow

Other topics, with dates to be determined, include:

February 2023: The Voices of Latinx Vermonters. Latinx Vermonters share their common and varied experiences of living in Vermont. Recommended reading: *Drown* by Junot Diaz.

March 2023: White Supremacist Groups in Vermont. We shall discuss the growing prevalence of White supremacist groups in

View photos of the sled dog meet and greet

By Bernie Paquette

Folks met up with the Siber Sled Dogs at the Town Green! Milagro Turner of Cambridge (Siber Sled Dogs) was there with her dogs for folks to meet and learn all about dog-sledding. Milagro's pups are very people-friendly and love to meet new human friends. Thank you Milagro for giving us a chance to meet the dogs and learn about them. Thank you Gretchen (Jericho Librarian) for hosting the event!

View photos on the links at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2023/01/sled-dog-meet-and-greet-at-jericho-town.html> and view photos of the sled testing by kids at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2023/01/kids-dog-sled-tryout-on-jericho-green.html>.

Don't Ask My Name

By Rabbi David Fainsilber

Jewish Community of Greater Stowe

Last month we lost another child Holocaust survivor, Erika Hecht, as that generation finds its final resting place. Erika recalls a story of her wartime experience in her memoir [Don't Ask My Name](#):

One night, (my mother) wakes me and asks me my name. "Erika Bleier," I say. "What did you say?" she asks. Her voice is dangerous. "Erika Bleier," I repeat fearfully, realizing too late that I made a mistake. Even to (my mother) I was supposed to lie and use my fake name, Erika Bankuti. Her anger boils over. (My mother) hits me with her open palm across my face and hisses through clenched teeth, "If you ever make that mistake again, we will be killed!" I never utter that name again.

Countless times through her childhood, Erika was moments away from her own death, and that of her immediate family, amidst bombs crashing down on either side, bullets inches away, living for days on end without food, while hiding in exile as a refugee between two warring armies.

So harrowing was Erika's experience through the Holocaust, even her name, the very root of her identity, was taken from her. She was stripped of the fullness of her humanity. That was the Nazi ideology and terror: to strip away the humanity of the Jews and the many others, to attempt to take away dignity, and to ultimately, take away their very lives.

This past Wednesday (January 18), I had the privilege of attending a press conference at the Vermont Statehouse where the Vermont Agency of Education and the Vermont Holocaust Memorial announced the launch of the state's first Holocaust Education Week. President and founder of the *Vermont Holocaust Memorial*, Debora Steinerman, said there: "It's timelier than ever, considering increasing displays of antisemitism in Vermont and across the country."

I experienced chills when one of the speakers at the press conference expressed dismay when an adult Vermonter, born and raised here, shared with the speaker how that person had never heard of the Holocaust before. Once again, the time is now to educate the next generation about the atrocities that took place then, not only to set the historical record straight, but because the early signs of what brought about the Holocaust — increasing antisemitism, racism, and division, the assault on truth, and the erosion of democratic values and safeguards — are in clear and present danger in 2023. This online, statewide program (ran) January 23-27 and (is) meant to teach seventh through twelfth grade students about the history of the Holocaust, and includes presentations by Holocaust survivors, as well as children and grandchildren of survivors.

At our Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, we have partnered with the Hecht family, East End Press, and the Vermont Holocaust Memorial, giving out complimentary copies of Erika Hecht's haunting memoir, as we host(ed) a book reading on January 28 at 5:30 PM, in person and online, followed by a light reception. All (were) invited to attend.

Marion Hecht, Erika's daughter, ... read and discuss(ed) excerpts of the recently published memoir. Copies of the memoir (were) be available that evening, as well as during JCOGS office hours (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM). In this way, we hope to lift up Erika's memory as she would have wanted, while remembering the heroic acts and righteous Jews and gentiles that preserved her life and other survivors.

Vermont, the difference between free speech and intimidating hate speech, and what is being done to protect BIPOC residents. Recommended reading: *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson.

April 2023: Developing Black-Owned Agriculture in Vermont. Black farmers share their hopes and challenges of developing Black-owned agriculture in Vermont. Recommended reading: *Freedom Farmers* by Monica White.

May 2023: The Experience of Interracial Families in Vermont. What are the experiences and challenges interracial families encounter in Vermont, especially in areas of the state where the BIPOC population is scarce. Recommended reading: *Race, Sex, and the Freedom to Marry: Loving v. Virginia* by Peter Wallenstein.

June 2023: A Conversation with the Vermont New American Advisory Council. Members of the Vermont New American Advisory Council talk about the hopes, struggles, and support networks of New Americans in Vermont. Recommended reading: *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin.

Past talks are archived for those who wish to stream them (see below). All programs are archived to stream on demand through the Mount Mansfield Community Television website, at https://archive.org/details/@mount_mansfield_community_television?query=Racism+in+america.

October 5, 2022: Black Republicans in the Era of Trump.

October 12, 2022: Progressive LGBTQ Church in a Red State.

November 2, 2022: The Hopes and Challenges of Black Democrats.

January 18, 2023, 7:00 PM: A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., 39 Steps. *39 Steps*, a play written by Michael Green, founding producer and director of Shades of Truth Theatre in Harlem.

Nature Comic #59 Jan 14, 2023



About 40% of Land has been converted for human use and about 70% has been altered, 40% degraded. And they say GREYER have a housing crisis?

Euodynerus foraminatus

Land degradation is intimately linked to all of the other environmental and social crises facing humanity today.

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

January 27 mark(ed) United Nations-designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The implications of forgetting are near our doorstep. Will you do your part to never forget?

Rabbi David Fainsilber is spiritual leader of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe.

Great horned owls in Jericho Center

By Maeve Kim

Before dawn in mid-January, I was pulled out a light sleep by the sound of a great horned owl not far away. I got up and opened the window wide and listened for ten minutes (until I got too cold) as a second owl joined the first, each time joining in before the first call ended. It sounded as if the owls were about a tenth of a mile north of our property, although that sound carries well so it might have been farther away.

The "safe dates" for the 2003-2007 Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas (dates in which, if you think you've seen or heard indications of breeding activity, you can be fairly sure you have) list February 1 as the start date for this species — but I don't know if they pair up or if the pair is just announcing a territory they're prepared to defend. Did anyone else hear the owls?

This is only the second time since moving here in 1986 that I've heard or seen great horned owls near this property. The first time was — to use an old Vermontism — *wicked* exciting! I heard an odd scratchy-scratchy noise, looked out the bedroom window, and there was a huge owl right on the roof of what was then the woodshed (now the bathroom and laundry room), not even a yard from my startled and delighted face!

Vermont's beautiful winter birds

By Maeve Kim

A few weeks ago, I did a ZOOM program about Vermont's winter birds. I was delighted by how many friends and neighbors attended! Some emailed me saying that they couldn't, however. Now you can enjoy the beautiful birds on a *VTBirds and Words* post online at <https://vtbirdsandwords.blogspot.com/2023/01/vermonts-beautiful-winter-birds-part.html>.

Here's the second part of that series, the beautiful birds we can find in fields, along dirt roads, and on lakes and rivers: <https://vtbirdsandwords.blogspot.com/2023/01/vermonts-beautiful-winter-birds-part-17.html>.

The original video is also on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iti0-wLXXVA&t=618s>. Note: The first seven minutes and seven seconds are nothing. (I haven't learned how to edit for YouTube yet.)

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

MMCTV viewers' local top 10

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

As we roll into 2023, Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV) compiled this video of our most-viewed (online) videos of 2022. Spoiler: parades and music were fan favorites!

View excerpts from the top 10 here: <https://archive.org/details/mmctvtop2022>.

Spark Connecting Community Grants fund VT civic organizations

Funding is now available for organizations and projects across the state of Vermont through the Spark Connecting Community competitive grant program at the Vermont Community Foundation. Spark supports projects that nurture community and build social capital — the connective tissue of our communities. Spark prioritizes community resilience and strength, increased civic engagement, and collaboration among organizations.

The program will accept applications from hyperlocal, place-based projects (applications from a single community or a few towns working in partnership in the same region) or statewide/regional projects that support a community of individuals with a shared identity or interest.

Spark awards grants of \$500-5000. First-time grant writers are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Visit <https://vermontcf.org/our-impact/programs-and-funds/spark-connecting-community/> to learn more and apply.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Test your home for radon gas — for free

VT Department of Health

Did you know radon can cause lung cancer? Radon is a radioactive gas that has no color, taste or smell. Radon enters your home through soil or water and can build up to high levels inside your home.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. If you smoke or used to smoke, your risk of getting lung cancer from radon is especially high.

Join the almost 60,000 Vermonters that have already tested their homes for radon. Winter is a good time to test your home for radon. It's easy and it's free.

Request your kit today by emailing your name, mailing address, physical address, and phone number to radon@vermont.gov or by calling 1-800-439-8550.

Learn more about radon and how to fix a problem if you find one at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/radon>.

Efficiency Vermont 2023 Rebates

From Customer Support, Efficiency Vermont

Are home or apartment improvement projects in store for 2023? If you plan to buy new appliances, make your space less drafty, or lower your energy costs, make sure you take a look at the 2023 residential rebates that are available.

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility. You can sign up to be notified about new offers at <http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/newsletter-sign-up>, or visit <http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates> for the most up-to-date listings throughout the year.

Weatherization

• Comprehensive Weatherization: 75% off project costs, up to \$5000 (must be completed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor). Depending on your income, you may be eligible for free weatherization services.

• DIY weatherization: \$100 back on select do-it-yourself projects, including adding window inserts, or air sealing windows and doors.

Heating, cooling, and water heating

• air-to-water heat pump: up to \$1000/ton rebate + \$500 income bonus

• ducted heat pump: \$1000 off + \$200 income bonus

• ductless heat pump: discount starting at \$350 + \$200 income bonus

• ground source heat pump: up to \$2100/ton + \$500 income bonus

• smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models

• water heaters: \$300-600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus

• window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models

• wood pellet furnaces and boilers: \$6000 rebate

• wood and pellet stoves: \$400 discount at select retailers

Appliances

• heat pump clothes dryers: \$200-400

• dehumidifiers: \$25-40

Electric vehicles

• federal tax credit: up to \$7500

• state incentive: up to \$4000

• electric utility incentive: \$500-2500

• income-eligible Vermonters can get an additional \$5000 on a used EV through MileageSmartVT.org, or trade in an eligible vehicle at the time of purchase or lease for \$3000 off an EV or other clean mobility option

Lighting

• FREE energy savings kit (includes 10 LEDs), order yours now <http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/kits>

• LEDs for indoor growing: \$100 rebate for qualifying fixture
Income based assistance

Income-eligible renters and homeowners may be eligible for free lighting, appliances, heat pumps, water heaters, an in-home energy consultation, and more — contact Efficiency Vermont to confirm your eligibility.

Federal tax credits

Did you complete a project in 2022? See what projects may be eligible for a 2022 credit, or what may be coming in 2023: <http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/blog/our-insights/how-the-new-climate-law-could-help-you-save-money>.

All rebates are subject to availability and eligibility. Visit <http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates> for the most up-to-date listings.

Vermont's new Adoption Act

From the VT Department for Children and Families

In recent years, attitudes and beliefs around adoption have begun to shift and change. Openness in adoption is strongly encouraged to benefit not only the adopted people, but all the others who are touched by an adoption. Even more people are now being connected to their genetic families with websites like *23andMe* and *Ancestry*, which offer DNA matching services. Connections are happening; however, for many of those whose adoption was before the 1980s, the secrecy and shame-based thinking remains, along with legal limitations.

Vermont is making strides to remove the secrecy and legal limitations that have surrounded adoptions and adopted Vermonters.

Starting July 1, 2023, Vermont's new adoption law will allow adopted persons 18 and over (and their direct descendants) to get:

• their original birth certificate — if they were born in Vermont;
• identifying information about their biological/former parents — if the adoption was finalized in Vermont and the parents did not file a request for non-disclosure.

The biological/former parents:

• may file a form with the Vermont Adoption Registry to indicate whether they'd like to have contact and, if so, how they'd like it to happen: directly or through an intermediary.

• have until July 1, 2023 to file a request with the Vermont Adoption Registry that their identifying information not be disclosed. Doing so will not change the adopted person/direct descendant's right to a copy of the original birth certificate, and any adoption-related document filed with the birth certificate (e.g., adoption report or adoption decree).

To learn more and get copies of the forms, go to <https://def.vermont.gov/registry/adoption>.

VT F&W grants available to improve shooting ranges

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is offering shooting range improvement grants to encourage upgrades of shooting ranges for enhanced safety and operation.

The Shooting Range Improvement Grant Program seeks grant applications from clubs and government agencies involved in the operation of shooting ranges, including archery ranges. Grant applications must be received by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, February 28.

Eligible projects include shooting range re-development, noise abatement structures, safety berms, shooting pads and stations, and the construction or improvement of access roads and parking lots. Grant money may also be used for lead mitigation, such as recycling, reducing range floor surface drainage, or liming range property.

\$60,000 in grant funds will be available this year. These funds are derived through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Restoration Program, which is based on federal excise taxes on

hunting and shooting equipment.

Ranges that receive these grants must provide at least 20 hours of public use per month when in operation and be open at reasonable times for hunter education courses.

For further information or to download an application packet (https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Get_Involved/Apply_for_Grants/Shooting_Range_Grant_Application.pdf), visit the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website, <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/>. Click on "Hunt" and then on "Shooting Ranges in Vermont." Or, contact Nicole Meier, nicole.meier@vermont.gov or 802-318-1347.

Walk-in rabies clinics at Tractor Supply

By Elisabeth Smith, Westford Dog Warden

Is your pet due for their (legally required) rabies or other vaccines? But is the veterinarian visit cost prohibitive?

Tractor Supply on Shelburne Road has partnered with PetVet Clinics to provide affordable basic vet care in our community. Their clinics offer rabies vaccines for \$30, with no exam fee.

The clinics will run from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on Saturdays, February 25, March 25, and April 22.

Find more information at <https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/petvet>.

Additionally, if you have trouble feeding your pet, contact WestfordVTdogwarden@gmail.com so I can connect you with available resources.

Power of 100 — a charitable giving circle

We are 100+ Women Who Care — Chittenden County (100WWC), a charitable giving circle with 172 members, which includes 11 teams. To date we have donated a combined \$133,000 to 21 local nonprofits in 10 quarters! With our current membership we are slated to donate a combined \$64,000+ this year!

How it works:

• 100+ women
• Each member commits to donating \$100 quarterly (teams donate \$50 each)

• Members are encouraged to nominate a local nonprofit serving Chittenden County each quarter. Each nomination gets a name in the hat. Multiple people may nominate the same organization, increasing the times their name is in the hat.

• Three organization's names are pulled randomly each quarter, and a representative of each will speak at the meeting.

• We meet quarterly for one hour via Zoom and in person (with a hybrid option offered) one or two times each year.

• After hearing from the three nonprofits who shared their message and mission with us at the meeting, the members present cast their vote for the primary recipient.

To learn more you can visit our website: <https://www.100wwcv.com/>.

To join you can use this link: <https://www.100wwcv.com/join>.

VT Secretary of State creates position for civics education, outreach

As she begins her term, Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas plans to make civics education and engagement a major facet of her work. As part of this effort, she is creating a new position for the agency, Education and Civic Engagement Coordinator.

Secretary Copeland Hanzas acknowledges Jim Condos' hard work to protect and preserve the integrity, transparency, and accessibility of our elections. She wants to build on that effort and move to a new phase of engagement with Vermonters of all ages.

"We need to recognize that sometimes people don't vote because they don't know how to vote, or they don't know the candidates, or they are skeptical about whether their vote will make a difference," said Copeland Hanzas. "That's why the next phase of defending our democracy needs to be in education, awareness, and engagement."

The new coordinator will work with the secretary and her team to create a civics curriculum for our schoolteachers, will engage with Vermonters on civics in their communities, and will build a

Miscellaneous continued on page 7

Sarah Waterman, MD Joins Copley's General Surgery Team

"Dr. Waterman is an outstanding addition to our medical staff who brings a deep understanding of, and commitment to, providing expert and modern general surgical services to our community."

Chief Medical Officer, Donald Dupuis, MD

In addition to a wide variety of general surgery procedures, Dr. Waterman's practice also includes:

- Breast care • Colonoscopies • Hernias
- Gallbladder • Appendectomies

A native Vermonter from East Montpelier returning to her roots, Dr. Waterman is committed to helping others.

To make an appointment with one of our specialists, call **802-888-8372**.



Valentine's Day

**Monday
February 14**

Say it with a bouquet of Roses from

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Order online at www.maplehurstflorist.com

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LIBRARY NEWS

Is your library card expired?

By Bree Drapa, Librarian, Westford Public Library

To renew, all you have to do is email or call the library (802-878-5639). It is a very simple process. If you would like your actual paper card updated (they are now yellow), we need to do that in person at the library.

If you are unsure if your card is expired, you can call or email about that too. Or try to check something out on Libby — it won't let you.

Why do library cards expire?

Simply, it's about money. We are charged for our "card catalog" and other library services by the number of patrons we have. The more patrons, the higher the cost. In order to save money and spend your tax dollars wisely, we like to keep our patron list as accurate as possible.

It's also about privacy. Libraries house a great deal of personal information. We don't like to keep more on hand if we can help it. By keeping a tidy patron list, we can eliminate excess data.

We will be doing a large purge of our patron list mid-February. Anyone whose card has been expired for more than three years will be removed. If you get removed but still want a card, all you have to do is fill out another application. It's very simple, but paperwork is paperwork and renewing your card is easier.

Don't forget to check your kids' cards, too!

I look forward to a bunch of renewal emails!

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is open, no appointment needed: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM. All programs meet in person.

You are invited to enjoy a lovely art display at DRML. The library loves hosting local artists; feel free to leave your name if you are interested in displaying.

Ongoing

Free COVID Test Kits — Need an at home COVID test kit? DRML is offering them ONLY through curbside pick-up for community safety. Kits will not be available inside the building. Contact 802-899-4962 or rawsonlibrary@drml.org to arrange a pick-up so we can have them ready. Let us know the number of kits you need, up to four kits. Each kit contains two tests. We will let you know what bag number is yours.

Support the Friends of DRML! Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you could be supporting the Friends of DRML with your purchases! Simply shop as you normally would at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), select Friends of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library as your charity, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase at no additional cost to you!

Check out these great programs! All programs meet in person at DRML.

Adult programs

Wednesdays, February 1 and 15, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Mah Jongg. Please join us in the Fireplace Room as we explore the tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you'll love Mah Jongg! All are welcome—no experience necessary! If you plan to attend, please email program_assistant@drml.org.

Sunday, February 5, 2:00 PM: Sunday Concert Series: Rik Palieri is joining us to celebrate 50 years of touring! His concerts take us on a tour from Poland to the American Southwest as Rik weaves all his musical influences into a rich tapestry. We will be treated to Rik's own songs and stories he has collected in his travels, all accompanied by multiple musical instruments ranging from the banjo to Polish bagpipes. In addition to his own performances, Rik's "Songwriter's Notebook" has created a wealth of recordings of musician interviews that are now part of the Amer-

ican Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress. Free. Masks are not required, but they are recommended. If you would prefer to attend this concert virtually, you can do so via Zoom (Meeting ID 478 309 7334 and Passcode DRML).

Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month's selection is *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Thursday, February 16, 6:00 PM: Legislative update. Join your local representatives Edye Graning and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session.

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 PM: Board of Trustees meeting, held in-person at DRML. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com) to receive the link.

Saturday, February 18, 7:00 PM: Movie Night. Check out website to see what we will be watching. This event is free and open to the public, in person in the fireplace room. Masks are recommended.

Youth programs

Ongoing

Fridays, 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with the Londons [Preschool] Come sing, dance and listen to stories with Beth and David London. If schools close for a snow day, Beth and David will not visit.

Tuesdays (except February 28), 10:30 AM: Baby Time [birth to PreK] It seems that all our preschoolers have become school agers so let's turn story time into baby time. We hope you can join us with your little one for lap bounces, songs, dancing, and a story. No registration necessary.

Check out these great programs!

All programs meet in person at DRML. Masks are recommended, but optional.

Fridays, February 3 and 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM LEGO Club [ages 6+] Build on your own, or collaborate on an entire scene and a story with a friend. There is no wrong way to play with LEGOs! Space is limited. Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Wednesday, February 8, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Early Release Movie Afternoon [ages 8+] Maybe you're out of school early, or maybe you just want something different to do on a Wednesday afternoon. Either way, we hope you can join us to watch *The Bad Guys*. No registration necessary. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a guardian age 18 or older.

Thursday, February 9, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [ages 8+] Have you ever wanted to make your own movie? The library has the tools and tech for you to make a short stop-motion film. Space is limited! Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Tuesday, February 14, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Valentines STEM [ages 8+] Build the tallest tower from gum drop hearts and tooth picks, or construct the fastest Cupid's arrow balloon rocket. Make guesses about how tall or how fast and then put them to the test! Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Wednesday, February 15, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: Minecraft Social [ages 8+] Bring your own device, hop on the library WiFi, and play some Minecraft! Go to Mount Olympus, play a one block world, or just explode everything! Space is limited. Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Tuesday, February 21, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Marbled Paper Craft [ages 6+] Make a late Valentine for someone special, or not! Join us for a messy craft with beautiful results. Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

brarian@drml.org. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a guardian age 18 or older.

Saturday, February 25, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Read to Wyatt [All Ages] Wyatt the therapy dog loves stories almost as much as he loves the snow. Make a dog's day when you come visit and read to him! Sign up for a 15-minute spot when you call, email, or stop by the library.

Monday-Friday, February 27-March 3, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM: February Break Podcast Camp [ages 8+] Interested in podcasts, telling stories, and making your voice heard? Using the library's technology and research resources, let's make some podcasts to teach our community something new or keep them entertained! Space is limited so please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org. Sign up is for the whole week so we can start and complete a project.

All information accurate as of 01-26-23. Please visit drml.org for the most up-to-date information on programs at DRML.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information on programs at DRML. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml.org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

We are open 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday. We are completely mask-optional and fully reopened.

Don't have a library card yet? Just drop by; getting a library card takes only a minute! We just need some quick contact information from you and you'll be all set, no ID or anything else needed.

Since 2003, Vermont Humanities has invited students, adults, and seniors across the state to read the same book and participate in a wide variety of community activities related to the book's themes. The 2022-23 Vermont Reads pick is *The Most Costly Journey*, a graphic novel that explores the lives of migrant farmworkers in Vermont. Jericho Town Library has put together a take-home reader's guide to help readers engage with the book. Fill out this short form to receive your guide: <https://forms.gle/c49ozLDZiEXcN4ms5>. The first ten people to sign up will receive a free copy of the book; all participants will receive a print reader's guide and a surprise treat from Vermont's finest ice cream company! Open to all, no matter where (or if) you have a library card.

Homebound Access Program: Jericho Town Library provides delivery services to anyone who is homebound (permanently or temporarily) and cannot come to the library to pick up their books in person. Patrons can request materials via phone, email, or a snail-mail paper form. We make deliveries the first and third Wednesday of each month and patrons can return books at that time. For more information go online to <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/homebound-access-service.html> or call Gretchen during regular library hours, 802-899-4686. We are here to assist you with delivering the perfect book to read this winter!

Did you know that you can borrow snowshoes from Jericho Town Library? We have 20 pairs in a variety of sizes that will fit your whole family, from preschoolers through adults! Snowshoes can be checked out by all Jericho Town and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library cardholders. Stop by the library to check them out, or read more at <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/beyond-books.html>.

Thursdays, 10:30 AM: Playgroup for kids under 5. This fall, we'll have playgroup on Thursdays instead of traditional storytime. Playgroup will take place in the children's area on the second floor of the library, and will be an informal program for kids to just PLAY and enjoy our great collection of toys! This is a wonderful opportunity for children under 5 to socialize, and for families to connect with other parents and caregivers in the community.

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Miscellaneous continued from page 6

voter guide for the 2024 General Election.

Interested applicants can view the job post on the Vermont careers page of the state's website, or can learn more about the position by contacting lauren.hibbert@vermont.gov or 802-828-2124.

Scams: gift card fun facts

From AARP/Fraudwatch

If you are asked to pay for anything with a gift card — it is a scam.

The most common scams, in which the target was approached to pay for something by purchasing gift cards, were to pay a fee to claim a large prize, sweepstakes, or lottery; to pay an upfront fee for a service or product; or to do a favor for a friend or someone at work.

Slightly more than a third of U.S. adults, mostly younger than age 50, have been targeted by scams seeking payment by gift card.

Of those who were targeted, a quarter of them followed through by purchasing gift cards and sharing the numbers off the back, believing they were taking care of some financial obligation.

A quarter of consumers in the U.S. have given or received gift cards that had no funds on them. *As soon as the numbers on the back are revealed to the scammer, the money is taken by them.*

Younger consumers were targeted more often for gift card payment scams in 2022.

Twice as many women bought gift cards to pay for an alleged financial obligation as men.

If you are buying a gift card for a gift, be sure to buy it from a secure place such as behind the retail counter of a store or on a web site from the retailer, restaurant, or credit card redeemed points. **Racks of the cards unattended in a store are not safe.**

United Way Volunteer opportunities

GET CONNECTED TO VOLUNTEERING! United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, but opportunities are increasing. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

HELP DETERMINE THE FUTURE — Milton Family Community Center has leadership opportunities that make a

real impact on others. Consider joining their board of directors in 2023. To find out more about this opportunity, contact Nicole Sener at nsener@miltonfamilycommunitycenter.org.

TAKING FOR "GRANT"ED — Burlington Housing Authority has need of volunteer help with grant writing. Experience with grant writing preferable. Contact Crystal Jones, cjones@burlingtonhousing.org.

ONE PET AT A TIME — Franklin County Animal Rescue needs volunteers to help with animal care and cleaning. Volunteers can help clean out kennels, change liners, and work toward helping with the animals. General shelter cleaning takes place on Sunday and Monday afternoons. Orientation is provided and takes place on the second Monday of the month. Volunteers under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Contact 802-524-9650 or info@fcrpets.org.

SPREAD THE WORD — Education & Enrichment for Everyone (EEE) is looking for volunteer help with publicity, specifically to create and update a Facebook account and submit a calendar of events to Front Porch Forum neighborhoods. All work can be done remotely. Contact Carol Roach, 802-881-8376 or eeevermontorg@gmail.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS! — The Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) is celebrating 40 years of helping Vermont's young people turn their curiosity into a career and will be celebrating all year long. They are looking for volunteers to help with the coordination of various events such as house parties, advocacy events at the State House, a food truck fair, or a barn dance. Work can be done remotely and would require about two to three hours a week. GIV is also looking for data base support and volunteers to reach out to the more than 12,000 alumni who attended GIV over the past 40 years so they can join the celebrations. Contact Tamira Martel, 802-865-4448 or tamira@giv.org.

Vermont Electric Cooperative Community Fund

By Charlie Van Winkle, Board of Directors
VEC, Lamoille and Franklin Counties

Do you know a local non-profit in the community that's seeking funding? The Community Fund of the Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) might be able to help!

As a member of the Board of Directors of VEC, I'm really proud of this fund. Since its first grant in 2015, the fund has supported more than 80 local non-profits, thanks to generous VEC members who voluntarily round up their monthly electric bills or donate their member capital. As a member, if you elect to "Round Up" the most it would cost you is \$11.88 a year. Groups interested in funding can apply online in just a few minutes for grants of up to \$1000. It's a great example of Concern for Community, one of the Seven Cooperative Principles.

To learn more, read about eligibility guidelines, and to apply for the fund, please visit <https://vermontelectric.coop/community-fund>.

Stay-at-home parent?

From the VT Department for Children and Families

After two-plus years, wearing masks, hand sanitizing ourselves enough to flood a reservoir, it feels like we are finally turning the corner. Many have turned the challenges presented by COVID into a positive. We've reconnected with our families, rediscovered old hobbies, traveled less, and saved more. We learned how to work from home, found joy in being there when our kids get off the school bus... and so many other discoveries that turned a challenging situation into something we can see the blessings in, too.

So why not take a new look at foster care?

If you've ever thought about foster care, now might be the best time to learn more about it. Kids in foster care need the stability you can offer. Can you provide the unconditional care and support a foster child needs to regain their hope and confidence? Could you also work with your foster child's biological family toward hopeful reunification?

If so, we would love to hear from you — no obligation. We'll walk you through the process and help you learn about the needs in your community.

To learn more, go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/foster>. If you want us to contact you, complete the form at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/foster-care-inquiry>.

KEEP LOCAL KIDS LOCAL. THANK YOU!

Libraries continued from page 7

Our amazing second-floor play area was transformed a couple years ago with a generous gift from the King family, commemorating the life of beloved Jericho resident Kelly King. The second floor also features the Makerspace and some beautiful mosaics by local artist Mary Lacy. Some fan-favorite toys in the play area are the grocery store, kitchen, puppets, and of course, the train set! The play area is open whenever the library is.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Please let us know how we can assist you by contacting varnumrequests@gmail.com or 802-644-2117.

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask.

Tuesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: CrafterNoon. Join Patty for a weekly activity using various beads to create something unique. All ages welcomed! Reminder, all youth under 13 must have a responsible adult on-site.

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Toddler Time. Join us for a story or two, followed by a hands-on activity.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations. Join us as we gather around the table to build community and connections.

Find more information about these events and updated offerings on our website: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>. For questions, contact varnumrequests@gmail.com or 802-644-2117.

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday-Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. (Hours can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

The Varnum Library is not totally ADA compliant, but does offer an entrance ramp.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have a new website: www.westfordpubliclibrary.org. Check it out! If you are not seeing something new, make sure to clear your cache. If you bookmarked the old one, make sure to delete that and bookmark the new one.

The library hours of operation (meaning come in and browse the shelves, use the computer, grab a DVD, etc.): Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. Patrons of all ages are welcome; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. If you feel you need curbside service, for whatever reason, please email Bree at the library and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (March 1), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (February 18), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Blind Date with a Book, all month long! Check out our display of wrapped books. All you get is a very brief summary. Will you find a new favorite author? Will you have a new reading experience? Spice up your reading by checking out a “blind date” book — take a chance on a new book!

New art is up at the Library through the end of February titled *Creative Minds*, a collection of artwork created by Essex High School AP Art and Art 4 students. In this collection, the observer will embark on a journey through the minds of teenagers and experience the diversity of the concepts they’ve explored.

Tuesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Learn to Crochet.

Thursdays, 11:15 AM, in the Library: Early Literacy Storytime. Kids from birth to pre-school will sing songs, read stories, move, and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. February 2: Groundhog Day February 9: Hugs. February 16: Presidents’ Day. February 23: Tooth Fairy and Teeth.

Thursdays in February after school, 3:00 – 4:30 PM (pick up as late as 5pm): LEGO Club Part Two! Anyone is welcome to sign up. Grades 1-4; sign up required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home) to the library each week. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun!

Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:00 PM, Fiber Arts is back as the Maker Group, now open to all makers — whether you knit, crochet, make jewelry, sketch, paint, paper craft, or any other art — or if you are a tinkerer — all are welcome!

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: National Take Your Child to the Library Day — all day! Enjoy a special Bingo scavenger hunt, balloons (while supplies last), stickers, and bookmarks. Enjoy exploring the library with a child — it’s the perfect time to discover a new favorite book, a great family DVD, or relax coloring with your child. It’s also a great time to get a family library card, if you’ve been putting it off!

Tuesdays, February 7, 21, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy — whatever your game, we will play it. Meet up with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards, a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Saturday, February 8, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Trustees Meeting.

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: *Westford Documentary* by Sophie Hopkins, Westford resident and Essex High School senior in the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) who has made a documentary film about Westford as her senior capstone project. Come see Westford through her eyes and those whom she interviewed. Sure to bring a unique perspective to Westford. Conversation and discussion to follow. Running time, approx. 38 minutes.

Saturday, February 18: Westford WinterFest. The Library is open extended hours, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Enjoy lots of activities on and around the Common! The library is offering a story walk around the Common and the Winter Passport Program is back. Get your passport stamped and redeem for a chance at several gift cards. Check out the library for materials, art, get a card! The story walk will move up to the school trails for the rest of the winter.

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 PM: Adult Book Group discusses *Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows* by Balli Kaur Jaswal. A lively, sexy, and thought-provoking East-meets-West story about community, friendship, and women’s lives at all ages — a spicy and alluring mix. Every woman has a secret life...

Nikki, the daughter of Indian immigrants, has spent most of her life distancing herself from the traditional Sikh community, preferring a more Western life. When her father’s death leaves the family financially strapped, Nikki takes a job teaching a “creative writing” course at the community center in London’s close-knit Punjabi community. Because of a miscommunication, the proper Sikh widows who show up are expecting to learn basic English literacy, not the art of short-story writing. When one of the widows finds a book of sexy stories in English and shares it with the class, Nikki realizes that beneath their white dupattas, her students have a wealth of fantasies and memories. Eager to liberate these modest women, she teaches them how to express their untold stories, unleashing creativity of the most unexpected and exciting kind. As more women are drawn to the class, Nikki warns her students to keep their work secret from the Brotherhood, a group of highly conservative young men who have appointed themselves the community’s “moral police.” But when the widows’ gossip offers shocking insights into the death of a young wife and some of the class erotica is shared among friends, it sparks a scandal that threatens them all. Print copies available at library; ebook and audiobook copies available on Libby.

Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/WestfordVTpl). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; www.westfordpubliclibrary.org; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Please sign up at least one week before the program date! All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesday, February 1, 3:00 PM: Bead Pin. Create a fun bit of jewelry with beads and safety pins! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please register.

Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children’s books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Tuesday, February 7, 3:00 PM: LEGO Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed LEGO play after school. Please register.

Wednesday, February 8, 3:00 PM: No Sew Pouch. Make a simple drawstring pouch to hold your treasures! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please register.

Wednesday, February 15, 3:00 PM: Bubble Art. Learn how to paint with bubbles! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please register.

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, 3:30 PM: Chess Club. Learning chess has been proven to have many benefits, like building creativity, problem solving, and concentration! Ages 7+. Space is limited, so please register!

Friday-Saturday, February 24-25, 4:00 PM – 10:00 AM: Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Take your stuffed animals to the library for a sleepover! Drop your stuffed animals off at the library and we’ll take good care of them through the night — we’ll even take pictures so you know how much fun they had! When you come to pick them up in the morning, we will have breakfast and a slideshow of all the pictures from the night before! Space is limited, so please register.

Adult events

Saturday, February 11, 11:00 AM: Simple Soapmaking. Learn how to make soap using a melt-and-pour soap medium. Please register.

Thursday, February 16, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. This month we will read *Miss Benson’s Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. Book club will meet in the library; a Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

Family events

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 AM: Sled Dogs at the Library! Come to the library to meet some real sled dogs and learn more about them! Space is limited, so please register.

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Fridays, 4:15 PM); Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Library has a new website. Same address, different look: <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>. We’re still adding new content, but you’ll find the same links to the catalog, digital resources, and program announcements.

Weekly children’s programs at the Library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from infant-5 and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

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

Monthly, third Fridays (February 17): *Hora De Cuento* (Spanish Storytime). Are you interested in hearing some great stories in Spanish? Join Spanish speaker Chichi Barrett for thirty minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us in the Community Room.

Stitch it Up! Need to do some sewing but don’t own a sewing machine? Library to the rescue! Borrow our Brother XM2701 Sewing Machine. Ask for it at the desk.

The library has a variety of other “non-book” items to lend: a firewood moisture meter; blood pressure monitors; a Kill-0-Watt electricity meter; snowshoes for adults and youth. STEAM kits include a singing drum and meditation kit, a bird-watching kit, and other kits. StoryTime Bags contain five picture books and songs on various themes such as Friends, Pets, The Seasons, Things That Move, Numbers, and more.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group: contact Gwen Landis, 802-

434-5012 or gwennie1972@yahoo.com, for information on participating.

Mystery Book Group: contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or msparent@gmavt.net, for information on participating.

Library hours: open for in-person browsing and pick-up at the circulation desk on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 802-878-6955.

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

Closed Monday, February 20 for Presidents’ Day.

COVID Test Kits are available while supplies last. Up to four boxes per person ages 2+. Call, stop by, or fill out the form on our website.

Now accepting book donations, one box/household per week. Fiction and nonfiction, juvenile and adult, hardcover and paperback in very good condition. Please bring items into the library. No textbooks, religious books, magazines, VHS, encyclopedias, coffee table books, or mildewed or stained items please. Thank you!

All ages

Saturday, February 11, 10:00 AM: Meet Sled Dogs!

Thursday, February 23, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Family-Friendly Open Mic Poetry for Adults and Young Adults. Original and attributed work welcome! One poem per person with additional readings if time permits. Order determined by drawing names randomly. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate provided.

Saturday, February 25, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Family Game Day. Enjoy the library’s cozy atmosphere and games or bring your family’s favorites. Game tables are available in the Adult and Children’s areas.

Children’s area

New STORYWALK® — *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats is located along the fence in the back garden. Bundle up and enjoy!

Grab ‘n’ Go Craft Kits on Fridays while supplies last.

Exploration Station, ongoing. See the blue table for this week’s challenge.

Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen. Rock ‘n’ read with Miss Noreen!

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

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Each week, builders are invited to explore and create. No pre-registration necessary. Best for ages 9 and up, or 6 and up with an adult helper.

Adult area

Through Wednesday, February 15: *The Most Costly Journey / El Viaje Más Caro* display. Stop by the library to see four panels highlighting the Vermont Humanities Council’s Vermont Reads 2022 Book. The theme is *Family*. Feel free to pick up a free copy of the book (while supplies last). Then, be sure to attend our community discussion on Monday, January 30 at 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, February 14, 2:00 PM or 6:00 PM: Creative Cards with Noreen. Adults only. Come and learn how to make two cards. We will be using a rubber band technique and a special heart folding technique along with mica watercolor paints! Limited space available. To register: 2:00 PM class: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/519770005077>; or 6:00 PM class: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/519773886687>.

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 AM: Karen’s Crafts. For adults. Make intricate snowflakes using a unique cutting and curling technique!

Thursday, March 2, 12:00 PM: Noontime Book Group Meeting at the Library, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man’s coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Calling All Contract Bridge Players! Looking for a friendly game? We’re looking to fill a table or two. Please RSVP to essexfreelibrary@essex.org.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Tech Time. Want to learn how to download audio and ebooks? Use a Chromebook, laptop, or cell phone? Learn a language online? Use free library digital resources? Drop in with your device and your questions. We’ll do our best to answer them! No appointment needed.

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

Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Hand and Foot Canasta. Printed rules and score sheets provided. Meet at the reserved table in the Mezzanine.

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Rummikub for Adults. Meet at the reserved table on the Mezzanine.

Saturdays, 12:00 – 2:00 PM: Spanish/English Intercambio. If you are a native English speaker looking to improve your Spanish or if you are a native Spanish speaker looking to improve your English, our Intercambio may be for you! For the first hour of every session we will speak exclusively in Spanish and for the second hour we will speak exclusively in English. Come join the conversation!

Museum Passes are available for year ‘round fun! <http://Essexfreelibrary.org/MuseumPasses>

Find out “What’s New” weekly: http://Essexfreelibrary.kohavt.org/?browseCategory=essexfreelib_aspen_new_books

Digital Resources: <https://essexfreelibrary.kohavt.org/DigitalResources>

Requesting Donations: Seeking board games. Must have all pieces including instructions and be in very good condition. Please call/email first due to limited space.

Social Media: Check us out on Facebook and Instagram for updates on events!

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road trashing

To the Editor,

Someone just tossed a couch in the tall grass off the side of the road onto our property. Very upsetting, now I'll have to pay \$40 to bring to the dump. I guess I also feel sorry for whoever did it as they likely didn't have the money to pay that fee themselves. Tough times for everyone but this is so disrespectful.

Two years ago someone dumped their entire bathroom renovation project on our property as well, toilet and sink included. I picked it all up and brought it to the dump. The attendant at the dump asked "So, did a renovation I see..." I responded with, "Actually one of my neighbors did and decided to dump this on my property." He was very understanding and didn't charge me for it. There are still good people among us.

Peter Neff
Cambridge

Let's build a community bread oven

To the Editor,

Imagine this: You're at the Town Common, the sun is setting on a warm summer evening as you chat with friends and neighbors, folks you've known for years or are just meeting for the first time. Live music is playing nearby, and all around you the air is thickly filled with music, laughter, and the smell of fresh baked bread and pizza bubbling away in a wood-fired oven. A group is cheerfully gathered around the brick-and-mortar pizza oven near the Gazebo, busily shuffling dough and pies in and out. A long table holds various sauces and toppings, contributions from those attending — an informal, gloriously unstructured potluck.

Community bread ovens are not a new concept, but are making a big comeback — and for good reason. "An oven is a story magnet. People rarely pass by the park oven when something is baking without stopping to talk."

Take a look at what some of our neighboring towns have done: <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/johnsons-bread-oven-draws-community-together/Content?oid=9957408>

<https://www.splendidtable.org/story/2018/08/08/community-oven-creates-special-relationships-through-food>

How wonderful would it be to have a place like that to gather with friends and family for pizza night, invite the whole neighborhood even. Come out on a Saturday morning, bring firewood and dough, stoke the fire and throw in a couple of sourdough loaves for a truly excellent meal at home later. A shared space to bake for yourself, for friends and family, or to later sell. What if we set aside a bit of community enhancement funding to purchase supplies, and build our very own communal oven? I for one would be there baking every week...

Food for thought (and for friends) —

Kristen Elliott
Westford

Tick disease

To the Editor,

We all know that ticks are here in Vermont. We also know they carry Lyme and other diseases, which are a threat to not only the pet population but also people.

We live on Pleasant Valley Road and have several working dogs. We recently learned, the very difficult and sad way, that deadly tick-borne illnesses are close by. Sadly, two of our dogs have succumbed to kidney failure as a result of tick-related disease known as Lyme Nephritis in the last several weeks.

We share this message to alert you that deadly strains of tick-borne disease are in our area. More importantly please talk to your vet about vaccinations AND regular tick maintenance protocols. When your pets (dogs or cats) — or you — come in from the outdoors, check immediately for ticks. It has been heart wrenching to see our dogs go through this. We want to alert our community so you can take action to avert the danger for you and your pets.

Please be safe out there.

Patty Richards
Underhill

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Music Salute to Robbie Burns: On Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 PM, join *Catamount Pipeband of Vermont* and the Vermont Institute of Celtic Arts in celebration of the works and life of Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns. There will be copious amounts of music performed by the *Catamount Mini Pipe Band*, special guest singer Rev. Arnold Thomas, Green Mountain Celts, and a growing list of other musicians. The evening ends with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, attributed to Burns, and all guests are invited to sing along. Enjoy the evening as Ian Gauthier, MC, singer and story teller, leads us through the celebration. Tickets are \$12 (children under 12 free). The event will happen at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15 Jericho; parking is available onsite. There's no time like the present to raise a glass to the legacy of Robert Burns. Step through time and celebrate the life and work Scotland's revered national poet, Robbie Burns. The Burns night tradition started soon after the poet's death in 1796, when several of his friends gathered to celebrate Burns life and work. The tradition has continued around the world for over 200 years.

Community Concerts @ First: On Sunday February 5, 3:00 PM, Paul Asbell plays and sings Steel-String Americana at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, 39 Main St., Essex Junction. Join us for the first concert of the 2023 CC@F season! Blues guitarist Paul Asbell will share his fresh takes on blues and jazz standards, old-timey country tunes, and original pieces from the "American roots" tradition. In his 50-year professional career, Paul Asbell has played and recorded with Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, David Bromberg, Mary McCaslin, Bobby McFerrin, and many others. Paul has taught guitar for over 50 years. He presently teaches at Middlebury College and the University of Vermont. Concert proceeds will support Essex CHIPS and First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. \$20 suggested donation; under 18 attend for free. Tickets are available online or by phone: 802-878-5745 or <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/118903>.

Homegoings, a special series from Vermont Public's *Brave Little State*, features conversations with artists of color who live in Vermont — about Black grief, resilience and art. On Saturday, February 11 at 7:00 PM, some of the artists featured in the series to join forces for a soulful evening of performance, art and conversation: *Homegoings: A Live Performance*, on stage at Spruce Peak Arts in Stowe. Hosted by journalist/musician Myra Flynn; Made possible with support from The Vermont Arts Council. For tickets to the live event at Spruce Peak Arts or to livestream the performance, go online to <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/events/vermont-public-brave-little-state-homegoings-concert-hosted-by-myra-flynn/>.

Westford Coffee House postponed till spring: Michael Kirick has announced that due to resurgence of Covid and other respiratory outbreaks this winter, he has postponed Coffee House until spring when, hopefully, folks will be ready to head back out into the public arena more enthusiastically.

Seeking recommendations for Westford's Sunday Concerts on the Common. It is time again to start putting together the 2023 Sunday night Concert On the Common schedule and band lineup. Now is the time to send any band recommendations my way (Michael Kirick, mkirick@hotmail.com) for consideration. Any feedback is helpful. Did you like a particular band from past years? Know a new band to check out? I try to keep the genre types varied, but please let me know if certain types are more (or less) desirable. All feedback helpful.

Also, I had a food truck break down last year, and my lined-up prime vendor cancelled at the last week before the season started, leaving us without dependable show-ups. I will be trying to line up trucks again this year, so let me know what types of food trucks would be welcome.

Thanks again to everyone coming out for a Sunday night show or two. I have a limited budget (so we're not getting *Phish*, even though their studio is in town), but will stretch it as much as possible to get the best bang. For example, I have Paul Asbell lined up for a show, but the date hasn't been set yet. If someone wants to help sponsor a more costly band, I can entertain that

possibility for collaboration and sponsorship acknowledgement. Looking like I will shoot for two sets of three concerts each for July and August, with a one week break in between as a rain date (or a mystery filler, if someone volunteers at the last minute).

Start putting in your requests for sunny Sundays now! Cheers for new season of music in Westford.

Call to Artists: Serenity. After a hectic election season rolling into the holidays, it is time for *Serenity* — whatever you envision as serene or calming. This exhibit runs through April 2023 in the Jericho Town Hall as part of the Jericho Town Hall Art Project. This exhibit is part of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort between the Town of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members are Catherine McMains, SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander, gallery owner; and artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment, 802-899-3211.

Join the Idea Exchange for Teaching Artists. The Vermont Arts Council and Teaching Artists Connect have launched Idea Exchange for teaching artists, a series of five virtual, bi-monthly meetings through May 2023, with goals to build community, provide support, share skills, and offer networking. Topics vary. Upcoming Wednesday sessions, 4:00 – 6:00 PM, are:

- March 29: Marketing and communications;
- May 31: Successful collaborations.

Learn more and register at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/schools/teaching-artists>.

Burlington City Arts has announced the opening of the 2023 Diane Gabriel Visual Artist Award application period. Applications close Friday, March 17 at 11:59 PM. The family of Diane Gabriel (1947-2017), one of Vermont's most celebrated artists and educators, established the award in 2021. The award is given on an annual basis to emerging Vermont-based artists. The Diane Gabriel Visual Artist Award supports an artist's creative development by encouraging experimental approaches to art making, with a special focus on artists interested in catalyzing innovative ideas, exploring new media, and better establishing their artistic practice. The awardee of The Diane Gabriel Visual Artist Award receives a prize valued at \$2500, with the winner's work showcased via BCA promotion and social media. This award is open to emerging artists living and working, in any visual medium, in the state of Vermont. There is no application fee. Visit <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/artist-resources> (scroll down to Diane Gabriel Visual Artist Award) for more information or to apply, or contact Jacquie O'Brien, Curatorial Assistant and Gallery Coordinator, JOBrien@burlingtoncityarts.org. A panel comprised of artists, arts professionals, and community members will select the recipient, and the award will be announced on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at BCA's Summer Artist Reception.

Winter classes and exhibits at Burlington City Arts: BCA offers a wide variety of mediums for adults, teens, youth, and families of all experience levels, there's something that will ignite everyone's imagination. Gain new skills and expand your creative horizons with offerings like Mixed Level Darkroom Photography, Pet Portraits, Photo Editing: PhotoShop, Rings, and Screen Print. Young artists can discover new ways to express themselves with options like Teen Drawing, Winter Break Camp: Fantasy Drawing & Painting (ages 9-11), Winter Break Camp: Darkroom Photo (ages 12-18), Friday Teen Wheel, and our newly added Youth Portraits class. Details and more information at <https://canvas.burlingtoncityarts.org/classes>.

Creative Futures Grants call for applications: Funding is available for both non- and for-profits. During its 2022 session, the VT Legislature allocated \$9M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Vermont Arts Council for grants to creative sector entities that have sustained economic harm due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Awards of up to \$200,000 will be available to creative sector non- and for-profit businesses, including sole proprietors, that can demonstrate economic harm caused by

OBITUARY

John P. Barron (61) of Essex Junction, VT passed on Monday, January 16, 2023 at his residence, surrounded by his family. The son of June Elizabeth (Pasho) Barron and Harold "Jack" Barron, John grew up in Huntington, VT with six siblings and close to his many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Deeply motivated by family, John brought comfort and joy to people young and old; knowing him has been described as like "putting on your favorite pair of slippers." Even during chemotherapy treatments, he could be found working on projects around the house, the warm home he shared with his wife, daughter, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter. With a soft-spoken faith in God, John walked that faith each day in love towards everyone he came across, mentoring to the world what a devoted husband, brother, father, and friend truly looks like. An avid drag racing fan, John happily shared his extensive knowledge with anyone. His passion brought the family together, camping on trips to New England Dragway in New Hampshire and anniversary trips to Sanair Super Speedway in Canada. John spent countless hours in a small hobby room dubbed by his grandchildren as "Papa's Tree House" building model replicas, reading, and enjoying a good John Wayne film. Sporting a healthy sense of humor consisting of snappy one-liners, John embraced the joys of life, from his extensive vinyl music collection to his love of nature. In his own lingo, John would "go drown a worm" (go fishing), "take the bullets for a walk" (go deer hunting), or "see big blue" (the ocean) — and he savored every moment. Other memories include playing cards on Texas Hill, dances in the garage, roasting hot dogs in the snow, or being pulled around the yard on the snowmobile. While there were many layers to John and his big heart, the deepest by far were what family and friends meant to him. He even taught his wife to play a strong cribbage hand and to throw a good game of dice. The Barron family would like to extend deep gratitude to Dr. Rehman, nurse Cori, and the staff of the oncology and radiology clinic who all gave loving care to John over the past year and a half. Thank you also to Sandra, Julie, and Prairie for hospice service during these final months, as well as your support and tender love in his final hours. Your support allowed our entire family and his two close friends, Bill and Keith, to fulfill John's desire to stay in his home. *Thank you.* Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. You may honor John by listening to the song his Lord used to comfort his spirit over these past months, *Over the Rainbow* by Isreal Kamakawiwo'ole. Please visit awrfh.com to share your memories and condolences.



SUMMER CAMPS

Poker Hill Children's Theatre

Poker Hill Children's Theatre still has a few summer camp openings the week of Monday-Friday, June 19-23.

The camp will be held at Poker Hill Arts, Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Children eligible to sign up are those whose age has them entering second grade through those exiting fifth grade at the end of the current school year. Tuition is \$300.

There will be a performance and a potluck picnic on Friday, June 23. For more information and to register, please email dthomas0712@gmail.com.

Registration is open for summer Fairy Camp

By Christine Gluck, Poker Hill Arts

Summer dreamin' here — because parents are asking already! Poker Hill Arts summer Fairy Camp registration is open. See more on our website <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/magical-fairy-camp> and Facebook <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/magical-fairy-camp>.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration is open

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, age 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and at Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

"Whether kids come alone or with friends, they are guaranteed to meet new people and form new bonds while experiencing Vermont's natural resources to the fullest," said Fish and Wildlife Education Specialist Hannah Phelps. "An important take-away message and common theme during the week is that conserving and managing habitat will help ensure Vermont will have fish and wildlife in the future."

Phelps added, "We would love to have all of the advanced sessions filled for campers who have already attended a basic session. Advanced sessions are for campers who have completed a basic session in a previous summer and who are 16 years old or younger. Advanced sessions include more in-depth activities about backpacking, camping, natural resources, and unique hunting and fishing techniques."

Conservation Camps open Sunday, June 18 and continue until Friday, August 18. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging, and equipment — and financial assistance is available.

Information and registration are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call 802-522-2925.



The Westford Music Series celebrates February with the all-male Green Mountain Chorus, Vermont's preeminent barbershop ensemble, on Sunday, February 5, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. For 25 years the Green Mountain Chorus has drawn together seven decades of fraternal, bonding ranging from professional-caliber singers to amateur sing-in-the shower types. Based in Winooski, the chorus conducted by the talented Neil Cerutti is the oldest barbershop chorus in the state and is a member of the national Barbershop Harmony Society. Known for their gleeful nonsense and ear-tingling close harmonies, they never fail to bring a joyful experience to their audience. Free will donation admission. Pie raffle as extra fun. Call 802-360-0939 for more information.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 9

or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding amounts will be based on 2019 (pre-pandemic) operating revenue. These funds are for any regular operating expenses including but not limited to payroll and benefits, utilities, rent, and insurance. Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria: severity of Covid-19 pandemic harm, community and cultural impact, economic impact. Full details are on the grant program web page. The seven segments of the creative sector economy (the collective enterprises, organizations, and individuals whose products and services are rooted in artistic and creative content) comprise Vermont's creative economy: culture and heritage; design; film and media; literary arts and publishing; performing arts; specialty foods; and visual arts and crafts. The program will be open for three rounds; the deadline for round 1 has passed. Round

2 opened January 3 with deadline February 28, notifications by mid-April; round 3 opens May 1, deadline June 30, notifications by mid-August. Applications that are not funded in one round may be reconsidered in the next round. Virtual Grantseeker Workshops to help applicants find out about the Creative Futures grant program and the application process, get tips for a strong application, and get questions answered. Workshops will be recorded and posted on the Council's website after the event; closed captioning will be provided. We invite you to contact us with specific accommodations you need to facilitate your participation in the workshop. Contact Michele Bailey, 504/ADA coordinator, mabaily@vermontartscouncil.org or 802-402-4614. Voice and relay calls welcome. For questions about the grant program, contact creativefutures@vermontartscouncil.org.

SPORTS NEWS

Chittenden County Soccer School 2023

By Eric Barker

Registration is open for **Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2023, Monday-Friday, July 10-14 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the "love of the game" to all our players.**

Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

Half- and full-day camp options! Age groups range from 5-16+!

Please email barkereric15@gmail.com, with any questions. Or visit our website, <http://chittendencountysoccerschool.org>.

Seeking volunteer coaches for Girls on the Run

Volunteer to be a Girls on the Run coach for your community this spring! The impact of a Girls on the Run volunteer coach is as boundless as it is beautiful. The Girls on the Run program is an after school program that uses a research-based curriculum to empower, increase self-worth, and spark joy in its participants, while integrating running.

Our 10-week season begins the week of Monday, March 27. Teams meet twice weekly for 90 minutes each session to connect, move, learn, and have fun! Not a runner? Haven't coached before? No problem! Girls on the Run VT (GOTRVT) provides training, easy to follow lesson plans, supplies, and support from GOTRVT for a transformational season.

Visit <http://gotrvt.org/coach> to learn more or sign up to volunteer. Questions? Contact GOTRVT at Info@girlsontherunvermont.org or 802-871-5664.

Weekly fitness class at Jericho Community Center

Join your friends and neighbors on Thursday evenings throughout the winter for an hour of movement, fun, and laughter as you discover your best body and calm mind in Your Best Body Movement Class at the Jericho

Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center on Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM (\$8 per class).

Whether you are an elite athlete or just beginning, we are all the same when it comes to having fun and learning to find our best personal fitness practices. This class strengthens your heart, stomach, back, leg, shoulder, and arm muscles for better balance and safer movement. You'll enjoy greater strength and endurance gains that ease joint pain and enhance all your indoor and outdoor fun and games. We close each class with a bit of Pilates and Yoga techniques that stretch your muscles and soothe your mind.

The sessions are offered by Trish Densham, fitness professional, certified personal trainer, and advocate of all things in motion. To sign up or to find out more, contact Trish at tdmover@gmail.com or call/text 802-999-1265.

Vermont 2023 hunting and fishing licenses and lawbooks available

Vermont 2023 hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses, as well as the 2023 lawbooks for these activities, are now available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website and wherever licenses are sold.

License buyers can also easily add a \$15 Habitat Stamp to their purchase to further support habitat conservation in Vermont.

Print copies of the 2023 Hunting & Trapping Lawbook and the 2023 Fishing Lawbook are available from license agents statewide. The department's website (<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/>) has links to online versions as well.

Mount Mansfield Girls Lacrosse Club 2023 registration is open

Welcome to the 2023 season of middle school girls lacrosse. Program is for girls in grades 4-8. The season starts at the end of March (depending on snow) and runs through the first week of June.

Practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM at Browns River Middle School, Jericho. Games are Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June.

Email melissamutolo@live.com to register.

SCHOOL NEWS

Cambridge Rotary speech competition

High school students, here's a great opportunity to develop/showcase your public speaking skills! We're looking for students to prepare and deliver a five-minute speech (memorization not required) for round one, which will be held on Thursday, February 16, at the Jeff Church, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville (time TBD). For more information, go online to <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4785/Stories/speech-contest-news>. There are cash prizes: the District Winner receives \$1750 total, and Runner-Up \$1500.

The Speech Contest Topic is "Why is Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Important?" Prepare and deliver a five-minute speech that relates this topic to your life, school, and Rotary values.

For Club Round 1 on Thursday, February 16, the prize is \$200.

Area Round 2 on Wednesday, March 15, the prize is \$300.

For District Round 3, with two finalists, each finalist winning \$500. The contest finishes up with District Round 4, with the winner's prize of \$750, and the runner-up's prize of \$500.

To get set up for Round 1 or to answer any questions, contact Richard Stewart: rjcsnz@gmail.com or call or text 303-478-3525.

VSAC-assisted college scholarships

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) administers more than 120 scholarships available to Vermont residents. VSAC's scholarships booklet for students planning to attend college in 2023-2024 is available online at https://www.vvac.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf_resources/Scholarships_Booklet.pdf, and the Unified Scholarship Application (USA) can be completed by logging into MyVSAC. Before you get started on applying for VSAC-assisted scholarships, here are 3 things you should know:

Scholarships are competitive: Your goal is to help the scholarship committee get to know you and believe in you. From proofreading your application to writing a powerful scholarship essay to getting great recommendations letters, you'll want to be professional while at the same time being you.

Communication is key. To succeed, you'll need to own the application process. Scholarship committees expect you to complete all requirements on time. So, don't wait for others to follow up. Be proactive and verify that all items are complete and on time.

Eligibility is important: You and others will expend time and energy on the application process. So, before you start, make sure you're eligible for the scholarships you're applying for—and make sure you meet all requirements and submit your best work.

To apply for a VSAC-assisted scholarship, you'll need to determine which scholarships you're eligible for, complete the Unified Scholarship Application (USA, a single application for all VSAC-assisted scholarships), and submit required documents. Look in the VSAC scholarships booklet for a list of all available scholarships. Download the 2023-2024 scholarships booklet online at https://www.vvac.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf_resources/Scholarships_Booklet.pdf or order a free print version by mail at <https://www.vvac.org/pay/student-aid-options/scholarships/vvac-assisted-scholarships>.

High school seniors can earn a free degree at CCV

Your student can finish high school and complete the first year of college at the same time through the Early College program at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) in Burlington. They can also continue on after the program to complete a free associate degree through the McClure Free Degree Promise. Learn more at <https://porch.ly/CCVJan8/klou4>.

Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program Preschool screening

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2023? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program invites families

with eligible preschool students to call 802-521-5601, to make an appointment for a developmental screening.

Who: Community of Cambridge/Jeffersonville children (ages 3 and 4 by September 1, 2023)

What: Preschool Screening

Where: Cambridge Elementary School/Preschool

When: Thursday, February 16; two sessions: 1:00 – 2:00 PM, and 2:00 – 3:00 PM.

How: Contact Beth Brown (802-521-5601) no later than Friday, February 3, to reserve a time for your child.

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

Come to DISCOVER CTE open house

Interested in technical education? Looking for a different pathway to college or a career? Come to DISCOVER CTE Open House in February, at The Center for Technology, Essex, 2 Educational Dr., Essex Junction.

Students in grades 6-11 and their families will hear general information on CTE, then visit a program area to meet instructors and participate in a hands-on activity. Parents can also join for more in-depth information in a parent workshop.

You can come to one, two, or all three sessions and see programs you want to learn more about. Just choose a Pod! We offer one session Thursday evening and two sessions Saturday.

Choose a Program Pod:

POD 1: Pre-Tech 1 / Automotive Technology / Building-Residential & Mechanical Systems

POD 2: Pre-Tech 2 / Computer Animation & Web Design/ Design & Creative Media

POD 3: Pre-Tech 2 / Engineering & Architectural Design / Computer Systems Technology

POD 4: Pre-Tech 3 / Childhood Education & Human Services/ Cosmetology

POD 5: Pre-Tech 3 / Health Professions / Dental Assisting

POD 6: Pre-Tech 4 / Natural Resources-Forestry & Mechanical

POD 7: Pre-Tech 5 / Professional Foods

Choose A Session :

Session 1: Thursday, February 9, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Discover CTE Session; Session 1 Parent Information: 7:10 – 7:30 PM.

Session 2: Saturday February 11, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Discover CTE Session; Session 2 Parent Information: 11:10 – 11:30 AM.

Session 3: Saturday February 11, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Discover CTE Session; Session 3 Parent Information: 12:40 – 1:00 PM.

For on-line virtual tours and to register online: <https://www.ewsd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4376>.

Junior Conservation Technician program for high school

Get paid to work outside and learn about conservation career pathways! The Junior Conservation Technician (JCT) program is a paid work-based opportunity for high school-aged students (14-18) to learn from and work alongside conservation professionals at Audubon Vermont and from around the state. Junior Conservation Technicians will work on conservation projects around the nature center such as: bird banding, monitoring forest plots, improving plant and wildlife identification skills, habitat restoration, invasive plant removal, environmental education, trail work, and so much more!

We are looking for teens who are excited and able to commit part of their February, April, and summer breaks, plus one weekend in March and May to this program. JCTs will work outdoors in all seasons on projects at the Green Mountain Audubon Center in Huntington.

For more information about the program including program dates and the application link, visit <https://vt.audubon.org/conservation/JCT>.

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354

for more information

or email mtngazette@gmavt.net.

SENIOR NEWS



Join the fun! The Smuggs 55+ Ski Club meets every Wednesday during ski season (except February 22) at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville. The club is for those aged 55 and older who like to ski (alpine or nordic), snowboard, and/or snowshoe. Non-skiers are welcome, too. In the off-season we meet for other outdoor activities, including hiking and biking. We gather at 9:00 AM in the Oak Room, in the building with Morse Mountain Grille. Look for the club's sign as you walk through the Village. After coffee, pastries, and a brief meeting, we put on our gear and head out for the morning. Newcomers are invited to visit us. If you decide to join the club, annual membership dues are \$30 a person. Ski passes are available from Smugglers' Notch Resort. If you have any questions, contact President@smuggs55plus.com.

PHOTO BY SUSAN LARSEN

Free Senior Grab & Go Meal February 8 at CCJ

The February Age Well-sponsored Grab & Go Senior Meal (note, new reservation information) will be held on Wednesday, February 8 at the Jericho Community Center, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center, from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This is a free meal for anyone age 60 and up.

This month, the meal is stuffed chicken with ham and cheese,

mashed potatoes, baby beets, potato dinner roll with butter, applesauce birthday cake, and milk.

Please register by Friday, February 3 by contacting CCJ Manager Jen Greenwood, 802-274-4024 or ccjvermont@gmail.com.

Age Well is a nonprofit organization that serves Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties and is the largest Meals on Wheels provider in Vermont. Our mission is to provide the support and guidance that inspires our community to embrace aging with confidence. To learn more and donate, visit <https://www.agewellvt.org/>.

Westford Senior Luncheon February 13

Please join us on Monday, February 13 at the Red Brick Meeting House in Westford for a potluck lunch. Doors open at 11:30 AM and lunch will be served around 12:00 PM.

There will be no presentation/entertainment so there will be plenty of time to get caught up with each other and even mingle with folks you may have never met before. Reminder, if school is canceled because of snow, so is the luncheon.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions to Mary Fay, 802-878-1215, or Cori Hill, 802-878-7415.

Upcoming CVCOA events

From the Central Vermont Council on Aging

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) offers a variety of events and opportunities for people age 60+ and caregivers. Check out the opportunities below (dementia-friendly social time, technology training, Medicare education) and visit our website regularly for updates and news: www.cvcoa.org.

Wednesday, February 1, 10:30 AM, on Zoom: Memorable Times Online, "Hollywood's Hidden Talents!" This dementia-friendly program is free and provides relaxing and fun social time for people with mild to moderate memory loss and their caregivers. Registration required; contact Barb Asen, basen@cvcoa.org or 802-476-2681 for more information and the Zoom link.

Tuesday, February 21, 5:00 PM: We offer monthly Medicare & You workshops to help individuals who are new to the Medicare system. If you want to participate, register by calling 802-479-0531 or by sending an email with your name, address, phone number, and the date of the workshop you would like to register for, to: medicareworkshops@cvcoa.org. Learn more on our website at <https://cvcoa.org/insurance-and-medicare-counseling>.

College news continued from page 3

Emily Bouchard of Duxbury, VT has been named for the fall 2022 President's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Wes Bradeen of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Bradeen is majoring in Professional Nursing.

Noah Burnham of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Burnham is majoring in Business Administration.

Mason Combs of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.

Jake D'Amico of Cambridge, VT was named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY. D'Amico is studying Business Economics.

Gavin Dewey of Waterbury, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Dewey is majoring in Civil Engineering.

Iris Finn of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Finn is majoring in English.

Reilly Finn of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY.

Eleanor Gautsch of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Gautsch is majoring in Physics.

MegAnne Gilmore of Jeffersonville, VT presented their research at the Fourth Annual Winter Creative Activities and Research Days (CARD) at Radford University, Redford, VA. CARD was held November 29-December 2, 2022. Gilmore presented: *Interdisciplinary Poster | The Impact of Radiofrequency Ablation on Opioid Use in Patients with Musculoskeletal Pain in the Neck*. The Radford University Office of Undergraduate Research (OURS) sponsored the event. Working closely with faculty and other students during the fall semester, undergraduate students solved wicked problems we face in society and on our planet. Students presented their research projects through poster projects or orally to an audience. OURS provides transformative experiential learning opportunities to undergraduate college students to help them gain experience that will serve them well in their workplace and all of their lives. For more information about Winter CARD at Radford University, please contact OURS at ours@radford.edu.

Shannon Harness of Waterbury, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Harness is majoring in Social Work.

James Hermanowski of Waterbury, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, earning Highest Honors.

Samuel Keller of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Belmont University, Nashville, TN.

Ceilidh Rose Kiegle of Jericho, VT, a junior majoring in computer science, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Ella King of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. King is majoring in Elementary Education - K-6.

Christine Lawson of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Lawson is majoring in Environmental Sciences.

Mason Maeder of Underhill, VT, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, has been named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2022 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Shaelyn McNulty of Underhill, VT has been named to

the Fall 2022 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

William MLuch of Jeffersonville, VT has been named for the fall 2022 President's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Isabella Mosca of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Mosca is majoring in Business Administration.

Emma Page of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Page is majoring in Psychological Science and French.

Ryan Peoples of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Peoples is majoring in Business Administration.

Rosemarie Phelan of Jericho, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Connor Philbrick of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.

Iain Pless of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Pless is majoring in History.

Lily Porth of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Porth is majoring in Professional Nursing.

Allyson Ratz of Cambridge, VT, a 2025 bio psychology major at Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL, has made the Fall 2022 Dean's List.

Brenna Redmond of Jericho, VT has earned a spot on the fall 2022 Dean's List at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. Redmond's major is Forensic Science.

Emma Rippie of Jericho, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Madison Roberge of Underhill, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, earning High Honors.

Amaya Rogers of Waterbury, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Lindsey Rusnock of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Rusnock is majoring in Music Education.

Aidan Scott of Duxbury, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Owen Senesac of Cambridge, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Anna Schwarz of Cambridge, VT has been named for the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, earning Highest Honors.

Grace Solod of Underhill, VT, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Biology And Biotechnology, has been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Zachary Taylor of Waterbury, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Taylor is majoring in Biochemistry.

Olivia Turnbaugh of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Turnbaugh is majoring in Psychological Science.

Timothy Turvey of Cambridge, VT has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Turvey is majoring in History and Political Science.

Lily Wolf of Underhill, VT, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Mechanical Engineering, has been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

We partner with Technology4Tomorrow to offer technology training for older adults. "How Do I?" Tech Drop-In Sessions, held the first Tuesday of the month (February 7), 10:30 AM, and the third Thursday of the month (February 16), 3:00 PM, are a great way to troubleshoot individual issues and questions. On Tuesday, February 24, 2:30 PM, there will be a special training called "Let's Create Your Very Own Personal Playlist of Music" to help you navigate options for creating a playlist of your most beloved songs. Find Zoom links to join these sessions and more info at <https://cvcoa.org/technology-for-tomorrow-sessions>.

Are you looking for in-person technology training options? Our Community Engaged Tech Specialist Meredith Holch is offering five-week Intro to Digital Culture Courses in February-March at the Barre Area Senior Center and Twin Valley Senior Center. Call our Helpline at 1-802-477-1364 to be connected with Meredith for details or visit <https://cvcoa.org/senior-planet> for more information and sign up form.

Friendly Visiting Volunteers needed

Age Well is seeking volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Help older Vermonterers by delivering Meals on Wheels, providing friendly visits, grocery shopping, errands, assistance with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, respite, minor home repairs, veterans visiting other veterans, and more. Volunteers feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact they have on those they support.

Time commitment is based on your availability; it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Contact our Volunteer Department, 802-662-5249 or volunteer@agewellvt.org, for information.

Volunteer: make a difference in your community

From Central Vermont Council on Aging

Volunteers are special. They see a need in the community and know that things only improve when people act. At Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA), our volunteers have a tremendous impact, helping older adults age in place and stay connected to the communities they know and love.

Whether you are looking to serve a couple of hours per month or several hours per week, we have volunteer opportunities to fit any schedule. Volunteers are needed throughout Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties.

You can build new skills or utilize your experience in service of others: lead exercise classes, visit with your neighbors, deliver for Meals on Wheels, contribute to building dementia-friendly communities, support technology skill building, inspire artwork, assist with grocery shopping or transportation, and more! View position descriptions at <http://www.cvcoa.org/volunteer>.

Doing good is good for you and your community. Consider volunteering with CVCOA and make a difference in 2023! Start your journey today at <http://www.cvcoa.org/volunteer-application>.

Interested in becoming a leader for Tai Chi for Falls Prevention classes? Take advantage of upcoming class leader training in March and April! Registration is required. See details on our website at <http://www.cvcoa.org/volunteer-training> or contact Anne Greshin, 802-241-4840.

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Jericho's earliest settlers' resting place restored

By Maeve Kim

Most Jericho residents know about the beautiful cemetery near the top of Barber Farm Road in Jericho Center. But they might not know about the town's two smaller cemeteries. A slow walk through either is like walking through the town's history and getting an idea of what life was like when the town was new. One gets a hint into how difficult and dangerous life was for early settlers.

More than two dozen members of the Brown family are buried in the Castle Cemetery, which is reached by a short walkway just to the left of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church off VT Rt. 15. Joseph Brown was one of the first three settlers in the area (along with Azaria Rood and Roderick Messenger). Brown and his family arrived in the area in 1774 and built a log house near what is now VT Rt. 15. In 1777, the entire family was taken prisoner by Native Americans and sold to British soldiers in Canada, where they worked as servants and scouts for three years.

Two sons, Charles and Joseph, finally escaped, and their parents joined them back in Jericho after a peace agreement between Great Britain and the nascent United States. But the dangers weren't past. Ira Allen warned the pioneers that a British invasion from Canada was probable, so the three pioneering families loaded their belongings on boats and traveled to the southern part of the state.

They returned months later, at the end of the Revolutionary War. Joseph, his wife Hannah, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren now rest in the cemetery nearest their original cabin. One of the Brown's descendants, Olive Brown, married into the Castle family, for whom the cemetery is named.

Wars and raids weren't the only dangers facing Jericho's early settlers. Many families lost young children to disease. Elihu and Harriette Brewster, for example, buried an infant, a one-year-old, and a two-year-old within thirteen years.

Another family mourned the loss of a 22-year-old with a touching epitaph:



*All that's bright must fade
The brightest still the fleetest.
All that's sweet was made
But to be lost when sweetest.*

The Jericho Cemetery Commission is in the process of restoring and repairing stones in both small cemeteries. Eric Bianchi of Bianchi Stone Crafters is working at Castle Cemetery, and Tom Joslin is doing repairs at Lowrey.

"The Jericho Town Clerk's office contains a notebook with information such as birth dates, a sketch of each stone, and the written words on each monument. The notebook was created by Cedric Alexander and Adam Strang when [1973] they were teenagers. They did a very good recording. In the end, it seems interesting to review all the original families that created Jericho. To my knowledge, no direct relatives are in town today." ~ Bert Lindholm, Jericho Cemetery Commissioner

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PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

The Ruins
By Kimberly Madura
For Wendy

Watching over you
in room 4060
on curve 25.
Let's get some air.
Primal cries set
against a backdrop of
sea lavender
and purple roses.
Standing by
your side in
midnight
gardens
at the grave.
I got to hold
you
in your pain.
Baby keep your
head up.
I'm reaching
for your hand,
until the end.

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