

4-H'ers rack up wins at Big E horse events



Three members of the Whispering Pines 4-H Club in Westford participated in 4-H horse events, September 21-23 at the Eastern States Exposition, in West Springfield, MA. They were (left to right) Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; Madison Trudell, Fairfax; and Madeline Langlois, Westford.

PHOTO BY MARY FAY



Fairfax 4-H'er Madison Trudell was selected by her peers as Vermont's sportsmanship delegate for the Dick Woolam E.S.E. Memorial Award for Sportsmanship as part of the 4-H horse events at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA.

PHOTO BY DANA TRUDELL

Ten Vermont 4-H horse club members recently returned from West Springfield, MA where they competed in the 4-H horse show and other equine events at Eastern States Exposition. The 4-H horse events took place Thursday-Saturday, September 21-23.

Vermont's delegation (with horses) to the "Big E" included

4-H continued on page 2

Underhill awards ARPA funds

By Jen Silpe-Katz, Underhill Finance Officer

After a very inclusive and somewhat exhaustive process, the Selectboard of the Town of Underhill recently announced that it has awarded several American Rescue Plan (ARP) awards totaling over \$600,000 to fund approximately 14 organizations and/or specific projects, which will directly impact the residents of Underhill and help make the town more resilient, healthy, and safe for decades to come. These grant awards were made after the Town solicited projects and ideas from every resident. The ARPA Advisory Committee set out to make sure that all interested had an equal access to apply for these funds. It was an opportunity to get things done that normally we would not have the resources to do in our small town.

ARPA funds continued on page 2



After the detailed work of the Underhill ARPA Committee, the Underhill Selectboard made funding decisions among the many worthy proposals. The projects funded as of September 15, 2023 are: (left column, from top) Essex-Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf — budget assistance; Deborah Rawson Memorial Library — HVAC system; Underhill Central School (UCS) — garden and playground upgrades; United Church of Underhill/Harvest Crossing — housing assistance; (center column, from top) Underhill-Jericho Fire Department — life safety and radio equipment; Underhill Energy Committee — generators and electrical upgrades; Town Clerk of Underhill — records digitization; (right column, from top) Jericho Underhill Land Trust — Mills Riverside Park parking lot upgrades; Browns River Middle School PTO — 9 Hole disk golf course; Brewster River Mountain Bike Club — recreation path at UCS; Underhill Recreation Committee — Town Pond park and playground upgrades.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF UNDERHILL



Each year, Harvest Market recognizes citizens of Jericho and Underhill for their service to our communities. This year's honorees are (left) Joan Haley, Parade Marshal, and (right) Sherri Morin, Community Citizen. Also honored at this year's Harvest market is Jessica Alexander, Community Citizen (not pictured). PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations to Old-Fashioned Harvest Market honorees for 2023

The Steering Committee for the United Church of Underhill Old-Fashioned Harvest Market announces the 49th annual Harvest Market honorees: Community Citizens of the Year 2023 Jericho Town Clerk Jessica Alexander and Underhill Town Clerk Sherri Morin, and Harvest Market Parade Marshal 2023 Joan Haley.

Jessica Alexander has been the Jericho Town Clerk for 23 years. Jessica grew up in Jericho Center, living in Lewis Chapin's house, who was the first Town Clerk in Jericho. She thinks she may have been destined to be the Town Clerk from this. When Jessica was in the seventh grade she began to research the history of her parents' house, looking through old town records and discovered how interesting town records are — e.g., there is the voting checklist of 1922, which lists the first women of Jericho allowed to vote for the first time in the nation's history. In addition to being an excellent Town Clerk, Jessica is also an inpatient physical therapist. She works part-time at the UVM Medical Center on weekends, where she has worked since 1999.

Sherri Morin has been the Town Clerk for Underhill for the past 20 years. When a person walks into the Underhill Town Hall, Sherri is the one who will greet them with a cheery smile and an incredible wealth of information about how to get the business of being a town citizen done. She and her family have lived in Underhill for thirty-three years and she has been a strong presence for the citizens of Underhill. Prior to being the Town Clerk, she worked as a paralegal and the skills she learned in that role have served her well. She likes it when people come into the office. She likes the excitement of coming in each day and having something new come across her desk. People come into the office with a problem that she can help them solve and visit with them at the same time. She likes to help people understand better what she and the other town employees do.

Joan Haley and her family moved to Underhill in 1976 and lived just down the road from the United Church of Underhill for many years. She can remember the early years of the Harvest Market when she was involved with the Clutter Barn, when it was in the parsonage garage on Park Street. She still is a part of

Citizens continued on page 2

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bumblebees collect nectar



A bumblebee on a marigold, in late September. Like their relatives the honeybees, bumblebees feed on nectar, using their long hairy tongues to lap up the liquid; the proboscis is folded under the head during flight. Bumblebees gather nectar to add to the stores in the nest, and pollen to feed their young. They forage using color and spatial relationships to

identify flowers to feed from... In the early spring, the queen comes out of dormancy and finds a suitable place to create her colony. Then she builds wax cells in which to lay her eggs, which were fertilized the previous year. The eggs that hatch develop into female workers, and in time the queen populates the colony with workers, feeding the young and performing other duties similar to honeybee workers. The larvae must be fed both nectar for carbohydrates and pollen for protein. After the emergence of the first or second group of offspring, workers take over the task of foraging and the queen spends most of her time laying eggs and caring for larvae. The colony grows progressively larger and eventually begins to produce males and new queens. In temperate zones, young queens leave the nest in the autumn and mate, often more than once, with males (drones) that are forcibly driven out of the colony. The drones and workers die as the weather turns colder; the young queens feed intensively to build up stores of fat for the winter. They survive in a dormant state, generally below ground, until the weather warms up in the spring. (Information from the Wikipedia article on bumblebees.)

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Citizens continued from page 1

the Clutter Barn team working to set up and prepare for the big weekend. Joan is also a member of the Ladies Lunch Bunch and enjoys the fellowship and friendship of that group of women. They try out new restaurants in the area that one of the members will suggest. When asked about her grandchildren, Joan's face lights up. She proudly tells of her three sons, her seven grandchildren, and her seven great grandchildren. She says that she really enjoys spending time with all of them — a true family legacy. We are grateful that Joan has been a part of our United Church of Underhill and the people of the church say thank you for being a presence in our lives. We are so happy that you are our Parade Marshall in 2023.

4-H continued from page 1

Viola Brown, Vernon; Anna and Megan Carson, South Londonderry; Madeline Langlois, Westford; Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; Shyanne Wedge, Shoreham; and Britney Zager, Gill, MA.

Three 4-H teen leaders (without horses), Jasmine Akley and Elizabeth Brown, both from Vernon, and Madison Trudell, Fairfax, competed in a separate division with other teen leaders from the other New England states.

All delegates, including the teen leaders, took part in a general knowledge contest, fitting and showing and judging. In addition

Cambridge Town Office closure

By Dana Warren, Cambridge Town Clerk

The Cambridge Town Clerk's Office will be closed Tuesday-Monday, October 3-9 for building repairs, and re-opening on Tuesday, October 10.

You may contact us at 802-644-2251 and leave a message or email us at clerk@cambridgevt.org. We will get back to you when we are back in the office.

The Cambridge Greenway closed for repairs

By Laird MacDowell, Chair, Cambridge Trails Committee

The Cambridge Greenway was heavily damaged from the July 11 flood and is currently being repaired by Bob Edwards and Sons Excavation using heavy equipment, so the ENTIRE 1.25-mile-long Greenway is CLOSED to pedestrians and cyclists until the repairs are completed.

The contractor reported three cyclists rode by his excavator while it was installing rip rap rock on the Brewster River embankment — a major safety issue.

I repeat, the Cambridge Greenway is CLOSED to all users during reconstruction.

Underhill/Jericho Playgroup on Wednesday mornings

Come join us at the Underhill/Jericho Playgroup! This open playgroup is held in the UID building (the old Underhill ID School, between Browns River Middle School and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library) in the multipurpose room at 10 River Rd., Jericho every Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. We follow the MMUUSD calendar.

Geared toward children from birth through age 5, this is a great opportunity for kiddos and caregivers to socialize and create connections within our community. There is no registration required. Bring your own snack. We will also play outside on the playground when possible, so please dress for the weather.

Email underhill.playgroup@gmail.com to sign up for reminders and updates.

ARPA funds continued from page 1

The ARPA Advisory Committee outlined an application and evaluation process aligned with the legal requirements of the SLFRF Final Rule. In addition to the regular posting locations physically and online, a postcard was sent to all Underhill residents soliciting projects. Project proposals were accepted from October 2022-January 2023; the committee received more than 50 proposals with funding requests exceeding \$3.5 million. Each proposal was reviewed by individual members of the committee, discussed at monthly public meetings, and evaluated by the committee with the criteria listed in the application.

After the committee presented their recommendations to the Selectboard, the Board made their funding decisions. This

Bolton Town Office closed October 9

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 9 in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Watch the Harvest Market Parade on MMCTV

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Sharing Mount Mansfield Community Television's (MMCTV's) video of the annual Old-Fashioned Harvest Market Parade from Saturday, September 22: <https://archive.org/details/UnderhillHarvestParade2023>. Enjoy!

Permitted fireworks display in Bolton October 8

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

A permitted fireworks display will take place at The Ponds at Bolton Valley, on Sunday, October 8, from dusk until 10:00 PM.

Save and Swap kids' clothes, winter gear in Cambridge November 10

To all the parents pulling out jackets, boots, and clothes for cooler temperatures and making that pile of items that don't fit: please consider setting them aside until Friday, November 10.

The Cambridge Winter Wellness Swap will take place at the community center that weekend. There are many worthy causes out there that benefit from donating and consigning your winter theme items, but please consider saving it all for the local swap. Community + Cambridge Area Rotary + Smugglers' Notch is an amazing combo that leads to a healthy confidence boosting week for 4th-6th graders in our community.

So yes, it is a bummer the short people you are responsible for keep getting taller, and you only got one winter out of those

News briefs continued on page 3

process was unique. We were able to give everyone a voice and believe that choices were made to have the greatest impact on the most residents in all areas of the town, and its impact will be felt beyond the town's border into neighboring Jericho and Essex with several jointly funded projects.

The ARPA Advisory Committee meeting minutes, evaluation criteria, list of proposals received, and the Final Rule for SLFRF funds can all be accessed through the Town of Underhill website at www.underhillvt.gov.

For more information contact Jennifer Silpe-Katz, Town of Underhill, at jsilpe-katz@underhillvt.gov or 802-899-4434 extension 2.

were on the winning team. Other just-for-fun horse events included barrel racing and water, egg, and spoon and arena races.

Vermont 4-H club members placed in the top 10 in several classes at the 4-H horse show, as indicated below. For some classes, two judges evaluated the riders, so two scores are listed.

Jasmine Akley: Teen Leader General Knowledge (seventh); Teen Leader Judging (sixth)

Elizabeth Brown: Teen Leader Fitting and Showing (fourth); Teen Leader General Knowledge (fifth); Teen Leader Judging (first)

Viola Brown: General Knowledge (tenth); Judging (tenth); Ranch Pleasure (third and second); Western Discipline Rail (second and fifth); Western Equitation (third and second); Western Fitting and Showing (tenth); Western Pleasure (fourth and sixth); Western Trail (fourth and sixth); Western All-Around (second and second)

Anna Carson: In-Hand All-Around (second and fifth); In-Hand Discipline Rail (fifth and fifth); In-Hand Hunter (sixth and sixth); In-Hand Obstacles (fifth and fifth); In-Hand Suitability (fourth and fourth); Small Equine Fitting and Showing (fourth)

Megan Carson: Hunt Seat Discipline Rail (sixth); Hunt Seat Equitation (eighth); Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing (sixth); Hunt Seat Pleasure (seventh and tenth); Hunter Under Saddle (ninth and fifth)

Madeline Langlois: Equitation Champion; Fitting and Showing Champion; Hunt Seat Equitation (first and first); Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing (first); Hunt Seat Pleasure (second and second); Hunter Under Saddle (second and second)

Kelsey Paradee: Hunt Seat Discipline Rail (fourth and first); Hunt Seat Equitation (third and second); Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing (second); Hunt Seat Pleasure (first and first); Hunter Under Saddle (first and first)

Madison Trudell: Teen Leader Fitting and Showing (first); Teen Leader General Knowledge (eighth); Teen Leader Judging (ninth). Madison was selected by her peers as Vermont's sportsmanship delegate for the Dick Woolam E.S.E. Memorial Award for Sportsmanship.

Shyanne Wedge: General Knowledge (sixth); Judging (sixth); Western Discipline Rail (ninth and second); Western Equitation (sixth and seventh); Western Fitting and Showing (sixth); Western Pleasure (seventh and fourth); Western Trail (second and second)

Britney Zager: Ranch Pleasure (fifth and sixth); Western All-Around (fourth and seventh); Western Discipline Rail (fourth and ninth); Western Equitation (eighth and eighth); Western Fitting and Showing (third); Western Pleasure (ninth and ninth); Western Trail (fourth and fifth)

Mary Fay, Westford, served as the coordinator for the Vermont delegation and 4-H horse show announcer. Chaperones were Cheryl Brown, Vernon; Amy Carson, South Londonderry; Krista Paradee, Swanton; and Peg Zager, Gill, MA. Jolene Fontaine, Jericho, was barn manager. Adult volunteers Tara Taylor, Athens, and Tina Wyman, Cambridgeport, decorated Vermont's section in the horse barn.

For information about the Vermont 4-H Horse Program, contact Wendy Sorrell, University of Vermont Extension 4-H livestock educator, at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.

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*Funding is subject to availability and eligibility. For the most up to date rebate information visit www.efficiencyvermont.com/floodrebates.

COMING EVENTS

Westford Halloween Walk IV: potions and pumpkins aplenty

Come for a stroll my dearies, and trade a shriek for a sweet... Do you hear that? It's not the rustling of fall leaves, it's the whispered shuffling of costumed ghouls and boos, come to haunt the Common once more!

That's right, friends! We are bellowing for all mummies, monsters, ogres, elves, and all Cousin ITs to the Westford Town Common (VT Rt. 128, Westford) on Sunday, October 29, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, for the 4th Annual Westford Halloween Walk!

This new tradition for Westford is a free spooky trick-or-treat walk for our Westford youngsters and young-at-heart folk, planned and (g)hosted by your Westford friends and neighbors. Volunteers from the community will conjure spooky décor for their trick-or-treat tables, which will be spread out on the Common. If possible, please bring a nonperishable food item to support the Westford Food Shelf. I have a feeling in my bones there will be games at the Gazebo, for the little ones to burn off some of their sugar rush.

I heard from the Reaper that new contest has arisen: Pumpkins, specifically best pumpkin carving and best painted pumpkin!

Along with the pumpkin contest, we will still have a ghastly competition for the spookiest table decorations, so be sure to vote before you leave. More to come on prizes for best tables and pumpkins, but they will be hair-raising!

We are howling for volunteers who would decorate a spooky table and provide candy to our little boos. We also are seeking donations of extra bags of candy (which can be dropped off at the Westford Public Library). Finally, we are seeking donations of pumpkins, corn stalks, or a general donation to offset costs.

The previous Annual Westford Halloween Walks have always been enjoyed and well attended by our little Westford boos, ghouls, and their families. It has always been made possible by the generosity and good Halloween vibes of the Westford community. Please consider hosting a table, making a donation, or simply joining us to be part of this fun, *spooktacular* new tradition.

For questions, donations, or to claim your table, please email your hosts-with-the-most at westfordhalloween@gmail.com.

Carve out some time for some gourd Halloween fun!

The Westford Halloween Walk planners are Rebecca DaVanon, Kathleen Porter, George Elliott, and Kelly Morrill.

Vermont's Grand Ghosts & Weird Wonders, by Joe Citro

The Jericho Historical Society in partnership with Deborah Rawson Memorial Library is pleased to sponsor *Vermont's Grand Ghosts & Weird Wonders*, a talk by Joseph A. Citro on Saturday, October 28, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, at the Jericho Community Center, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center.

Note: This event will not be filmed, so do come in person!

Vermont is more than dairy farms, maple syrup, green trees, and white church steeples. It's also ghosts, vampires, and all manner of menacing things that go bump in the night. For over 30 years Joseph Citro has been collecting and chronicling

Vermont's "alternate history" — our tales from the Dark Side. For this event he'll share a few of his favorites: some you may already know; some may surprise you. And a couple might be too close for comfort!

Join us for a pre-Hallowe'en sampler of delightful local oddities. Please bring a spooky tale to tell or an unsettling experience to share! A Q&A session will follow the presentation and a selection of Joseph Citro's books will be available for purchase.

For additional information contact info@jerichohistoricalsociety.org or visit <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.



A misty autumn morning dawns at the pond in Mills Riverside Park, Jericho. PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

Ongoing Events

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (October 12, November 9, December 14) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation for the October 12 meeting: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (October 5, 19), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Cribbage Group: meets the first Tuesday of the month (October 3, November 7, December 5), 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the meeting room at Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. It's okay if you're a little rusty — come join us for a friendly game.

Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper, on the last Thursday of the month (October 26, November 29, December 28), 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come and enjoy some great soups and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

Bone Builders Class: at the Jeffersonville Church (Second Congregational Church of Christ, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville) from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. It is a drop-in class, but first-timers have a couple of pages to fill out and sign. It is free, but a donation bucket is available for those wishing to reimburse the church for the use of the space. All are

welcome. We have a good time — be prepared for some laughter as well as improving your strength and balance. Call Melody Tobin (802-644-2409) to discuss, or just show up.

Weekly Community Choir on Thursdays — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong*! We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings! We meet from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Thursdays at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Whether you sing in the shower, sing Karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a great singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing (no performances except for one short one for family and friends at the end of the season). We sing most weeks, and you can come as often as you are able; if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to

News briefs continued from page 2

boots — but give those boots a second season with a new family (good for the environment and a good deal for another parent!) and support an amazing program at the same time.

Friday, November 10 — lock it in!

Proposed Westford Community Wastewater Project updates

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner

Thank you to everyone who attended the September 13 Community Wastewater Informational Meeting. Approximately 162 people attended in-person or via zoom. If you missed the informational meeting, you can view it at <https://lcatv.org/westford-wastewater-information-2023-09-13>.

You can also view the slide show presented at the meeting at https://www.westfordsfuture.com/uploads/1/13/8/4/138498261/vermont-westford-community-presentation-for-presentation-9-13-23_3.pdf.

The Westford Planning Commission and Wastewater Outreach Advisory Committee will hold another informational meeting on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 PM at the Westford School and via Zoom. This event will be similar to last week's event. For more information on events visit <https://www.westfordsfuture.com/events.html>.

Visit <http://www.WestfordsFuture.com> for more information on the Community Wastewater Project.

Cambridge Food Shelf now accepting clean clothing

Right now the Cambridge Food Shelf is accepting donations of freshly cleaned (no animal hair, please!) Fall and Winter clothing, sizes infants to adults. We are especially in need of larger sized items for men and women. Coats and jackets — YES; shoes and boots — NO.

We are pleased to have clothing available for no cost for anyone who may need it. Drop off during our open hours please: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, at the Congregational Church, Main St., Jeffersonville. Thank you in advance.

Questions? Call 802-644-8911.

Update on Underhill Town pond and tennis courts

From the Underhill Recreation Committee

A quick update: The town pond is closed for the season for swimming.

The area around the pond is still open and can be used for picnics and such, and the tennis courts will remain open through October.

VTrans reopened another LVRT section

By Laird MacDowell, Chair, Cambridge Trail Committee

At a recent press conference with Governor Phil Scott,

it was announced that the section of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) from Cambridge Junction to Wolcott Village was officially reopened to public use at 7:00 AM on Saturday, September 16. This trail section was closed due to flood damage, mostly in Johnson, and VTrans has applied a new layer of fine, packed surpac gravel to this section, which is 23.2 miles long and passes through Johnson, Hyde Park, and Morrisville.

The only remaining closed trail section of the 93 mile long LVRT is from Wolcott Village heading east to Walden, a distance of 21.1 miles. This is due to major river flood damage in Hardwick and other parts of the trail with a bridge collapse, culvert washouts, and slope failures. This section of the LVRT is not expected to reopen until mid-2024.

The other open sections of the LVRT are from Cambridge Jct. west to Swanton, and Walden east to St. Johnsbury — so more than three-quarters of the entire LVRT is now open for public use.

Position opening for Bolton Town Clerk/Treasurer

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Select Board is seeking to fill the position of Town Clerk/Town Treasurer/Delinquent Tax Collector for the Town of Bolton. This position is responsible for overseeing the administration of public records, elections, licensing, vital records, collection of taxes and fees, and delinquent tax collection. This position is also responsible for the appointment and supervision of the Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Town Treasurer, Election/Poll workers and other statutory duties. This position provides the town's public contact and town communications, support for town boards, and FEMA and grant administration. For the full description of this salaried position, see the Town of Bolton website www.boltonvt.com.

Must be a registered voter of the Town of Bolton per Vermont State Statute. This position becomes an elected position at Town Meeting, March 5, 2024, and therefore, does not require specific pre-election educational and/or work experience prior to employment.

To apply, interested parties must submit a letter of interest, resume, and provide three references. Please submit electronically to selectboard@boltonvt.com, or hard copies by hand or via the U.S. Postal Service to the Select Board, c/o the Town of Bolton, 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Bolton, VT 05676.

Jericho Zoning Office closure

The Jericho Zoning Office will be closed through Wednesday, October 11, when normal hours will resume.

Westford Town Hall news

By Callie Hamdy, Westford Town Clerk

The draft minutes from the Westford Selectboard meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023 are now available. Read them at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SELECTBOARD-SEPTEMBER-14-2023.pdf>.

Coming events continued on page 5



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Must be signed for attribution with writers address and phone number. Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net

HEALTH NEWS

Free COVID tests for Westford residents

COVID tests are back in at the Westford Library! Thanks to a partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, the Westford Public Library is able to offer free COVID-19 tests, up to two boxes per person (two tests in each box), while supplies last. These tests expire December 2023, even though they are marked May 2023. Please do not enter buildings while sick. If you need a curbside delivery, let someone at the library know by calling 802-878-5639. Tests are also available at the Westford Town Office and the Westford Food Shelf (please take from only one source).

Seated Tai Chi Falls Prevention class — live/Zoom

Age Well, our local Agency on Aging, and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Falls Prevention for those 60 and older, or those who have limiting conditions, who would like to improve their overall health, balance, strength, and well-being.

Tai Chi is a mild form of exercise that gently works the entire body and mind. Over time we will learn the Sun Style Form, and also through mindfulness we will learn ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed (e.g., “white coat syndrome”). The form can be adapted to your personal needs so all can participate fully. All are welcome. This will be offered as a hybrid class: in-person or Zoom classes begin Monday, October 2:

- in-person class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, at DRML; handicapped accessible; or
 - ZOOM class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in the comfort of your own home. A Zoom link will be provided.
- For questions or to register please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Beginning Tai Chi offered October 5-December 21

From Billie Hall, Tai Chi instructor with Age Well

New to Tai Chi? Tai Chi for Fall Prevention is a great beginning class. It helps to improve balance, focus and become more aware of our bodies in space — mindfulness. You will be instructed in each form and progress at your own speed. Adjustments to the movements can be made to suit each individual’s abilities. The goal is for you to improve your balance and be able to continue the practice on your own. This class is offered free of charge through Age Well.

The class is offered on Thursdays, October 5-December 21, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (across from John Leo’s). Certified Instructor: Billie Hall, TCFP Certification through Tai Chi Vermont. To register contact Billie Hall, hall.ba@comcast.net, by October 2.

Lions Club Blood Drive October 11

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, October 11, from 12:00 – 5:00 PM (please note the new time) at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction.

As many may have seen on local and national news, there is a severe shortage of blood due to natural disasters and low donor turnout so, please consider donating. As always, we will be serving slices of pie after your donation.

You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>, entering COVENANT in the search bar. Or call 1-800-733-2767.

Infant, child and adult CPR and first aid class at UJFD Underhill

By Andy Forsberg, Deputy Chief/EMS Supervisor, UJFD

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) and Northeast Emergency Training Solutions will offer an Infant, Child and Adult CPR and First Aid Class on Thursday, October 12, 6:00 PM at the Underhill Fire Station, 420 VT Rt. 15, Underhill. The cost of the class will be \$20 per person.

To sign up or if you have questions or concerns contact Katie, kmf0508@comcast.net.

Farrell Chiropractic Center to sponsor food drive November 2

It is once again time for the Farrell Chiropractic Center annual food drive, this year on Thursday, November 2, to help support our local friends at Essex/Jericho/Underhill Food Shelf this holiday season. The Farrell Chiropractic Center is located on VT Rt. 15 in Jericho.

Bring in a bag of food or a cash donation for the Food Shelf and

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you will receive a complimentary adjustment or laser session. If you are a new patient or have a friend who is interested, come in with a donation and you/they can schedule a complimentary new patient appointment including a thorough exam and X-Rays.

We will also be selling raffle tickets from various local businesses to benefit the Food Shelf. Businesses that have provided items to be raffled include Salt and Bubbles, Lucy and Howe Brewing Company, Brewhouse Coffee Company, Palmer Lane Maple, Autosmith, Jerihill Ace Hardware, Sweet Clover Market, Farrell Chiropractic Center, and more.

To purchase raffle tickets, go online to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/b7c91394-c6df-4839-9c6e-5fbaa233842b>.

Tai Chi/Qigong classes in Underhill

Qigong involves using exercises to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being. Qigong has both mental and physical components and involves the regulation of the mind, breath, body movement, and posture. It is the “mother” of Tai Chi.

Tiger, a Nam Hoa Temple Qigong form, will meet two days per week on Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:15 PM at the United Church of Underhill (UCU or the Harvest Market Church) for 10 weeks from October 2-December 13. The fee for the 10-week session (20 classes) is \$50. Prior experience with Qigong or Tai Chi is helpful but not necessary. Registration required before attending class.

Directly contact Nam Hoa Temple Certified Instructor Jo Osborne for further information or to register for class (joannosborne2@gmail.com).

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County upcoming events

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County has events going on: We have a fall bulb fundraiser happening this month. 50% of your purchase will go to our home-delivered meal program. You can order at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

Pottery Event for a Cause on Saturday, October 7. Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

P.S. We are always looking for volunteers to help prep in our kitchen and deliver meals.

Lions Club “Strides” for diabetes awareness

Mark your calendar: STRIDE with our Lions to help keep diabetes away.

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club is sponsoring a “STRIDES” Walk for Diabetes event at Mills Riverside Park (MRP) on Saturday, October 7, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

This walking event on the MRP trails is an effort to bring awareness about diabetes and its ramifications to the members of our communities. There will be several walking trail options for taking a beautiful autumn stroll on the park trails.

We will have informational tables at the Snowflake Bentley pavilion. We also plan to have someone onsite performing optional testing for diabetes.

Post-walking refreshments and snacks will be provided. This is a no-cost event, although donations will be accepted in support of diabetes programs.

Please plan on joining us for a pleasant autumn outing for diabetes awareness.

Howard Center promotes information on overdoses, suicide

Xylazine and fentanyl test strips at Howard Center’s Safe Recovery: In light of the recent surge in overdoses in Chittenden County, we want to remind the community that our Safe Recovery Program provides:

- free and anonymous Narcan® (Naloxone) overdose reversal kits; and
- free and anonymous Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips.

Safe Recovery is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Individuals do not need to have an appointment to receive services. For more information, call Safe Recovery at 802-488-6067 during business hours. In the event of an overdose, please call 911.

Vermont law enforcement, Howard Center, and other public health leaders joined together to urge Vermonters to call 9-1-1 if an overdose occurs to save people’s lives. Vermont’s Good Samaritan Law provides protections from criminal liability for those who call for help from the scene of an overdose.

What you need to know about overdoses. If you think someone is experiencing a drug related overdose, contact 9-1-1 immediately. It is not always easy to tell whether someone is experiencing a drug overdose. However, if you are worried that they are experiencing an overdose, you should:

- stay with the person — don’t leave them alone;
 - try to keep them awake, and if necessary, help them to walk around;
 - monitor their breathing.
- How can I tell if someone is experiencing an overdose?* Overdose symptoms may include:
- inability to speak;
 - loss of muscle control;
 - pale or clammy face;
 - fingernails and lips may turn blue or dark purple (light-skin people) or gray or ash (dark-skin people);
 - slow or erratic pulse or heartbeat;
 - choking or gurgling sounds;
 - vomiting;
 - unconscious;
 - unresponsive to stimulus.

Suicide Prevention Awareness — Howard Center is committed to providing essential resources. Suicide impacts everyone, regardless of background. Early identification of signs — like openly discussing suicidal thoughts, mood swings, or giving away possessions — is key to life-saving intervention. In Vermont, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death, with 52% involving firearms. To combat this, Howard Center offers free gunlocks at multiple Burlington locations.

If you are in crisis, Howard Center’s First Call for Chittenden

County is available at 802-488-7777, along with other national hotlines such as 9-8-8.

We have also recently updated Howard Center’s publication, *Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan*, to its third edition. To increase the accessibility of the guide, translations are now available in French, Nepali, Swahili, and Somali. You can view and download the PDF at <http://HowardCenter.org/Suicide-Prevention>.

If you are interested in learning more about Suicide Prevention, Gatekeeper Training, or for copies of the guide, please call Howard Center at 802-488-6000. (Note: this guide is not an alternative to medical care. Please consult your physician for appropriate medical care.)

Copley Hospital news

Our annual Gravel Moxie ride is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. We hope you will join us for this fun scenic ride in support of Copley Hospital. Riders can choose from a 50-, 25-, or 10-mile family fun ride. New routes — new venue! Riders will enjoy backcountry roads in Morrisville, Hyde Park, Johnson, North Hyde Park, Eden, Craftsbury, and Wolcott while being challenged with curves, slopes, and hills and greeted with views of Mount Mansfield, the Worcester range, and beyond. Our 10-mile family fun ride takes riders on trails with gentle sloping. Bicyclists will take on some of the best gravel our green mountain state has to offer while taking in some of the most beautiful countryside in support of our community hospital. Thank you to Lost Nation Brewing, Morrisville for hosting this year’s event. Check out bike routes via <https://www.copleyvt.org/support-copley/copley-gravel-grinder/>; register at <https://www.bikereg.com/>.

Mansfield Orthopaedics has welcomed its newest member, orthopaedic surgeon Erin Pichiotino, MD, MPH. Dr. Erin Pichiotino specializes in hip and knee reconstructive surgery. She treats patients of all ages and treats for a variety of conditions ranging from sports injuries to musculoskeletal and degenerative diseases such as arthritis. She brings more than six years of experience to the practice, having worked most recently at New England Baptist Hospital where she completed her fellowship in Adult Reconstructive Surgery. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 802-888-8405.

Earlier this month we replaced our 40-slice CT Scanner with a Canon 160-slice CT Scanner. Director of Radiology Michael Gilliam said that he is impressed with the speed and functionality of this top-of-the-line scanner as well as improved patient comfort. Precise, reliable, and safe imaging!

Are you interested in making a difference? Our volunteer opportunities range from welcoming and assisting patients and visitors at the Information Desk, working at Second Chance Thrift Store, clerical support, and being a caring presence to our patients. If any of our current open volunteer positions sound like something that interests you, visit <http://copleyvt.org> and fill out the volunteer application link, or reach out to our Manager of Volunteer Services Samantha Diaz, SDiaz@CHSI.org.

On Tuesday, October 17 Copley Hospital Auxiliary will be hosting their fall meeting and luncheon at The Woodlands at Stowe. Learn more about the Auxiliary, become a member, and enjoy this wonderful buffet luncheon prepared by Chef Bill. The price of the luncheon is \$15. Guest speaker is Infusion Center’s Laura Labow, APRN. Contact Ruth Ann, 717-676-7213, if you are interested in attending.

Copley Hospital Auxiliary’s famous Thanksgiving “Pie Sale” is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21 — mark your calendars. Bakers needed, contact Lois at 888-3701. Last year’s sale raised over \$1000 for Copley.

With fall comes winter and flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Preventions recommends everyone six months or older get a flu vaccine each year, as long as they do not have certain symptoms or conditions. Those who should consult a medical professional about flu vaccines may be immunocompromised, have a history of severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine, or are children between 2-4 who have received a diagnosis of asthma or people who are pregnant. Last week, we launched our annual employee influenza immunization program with a goal to vaccinate 100% of employees against influenza.

As your community hospital, it’s a privilege to care for you and your family.

NAMI VT offers free mental illness and recovery workshop

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont (NAMI Vermont) is offering a free Mental Illness and Recovery workshop for those who want to learn more about mental health conditions, recovery, and available resources in Vermont. This daylong workshop will be held Saturday, October 21, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM, in the Mount Mansfield Room at the Howard Center, 208 Flynn Ave., Burlington. Pre-registration is required to reserve a spot in the workshop. For more information or to register, visit <https://namivt.org/programs/mental-illness-and-recovery-workshop/> or contact Executive Director Laurie Emerson, 802-876-7949 ext. 101 or program@namivt.org.

Mental Illness & Recovery is a program developed by NAMI Vermont to provide education and information about mental health conditions. Any interested community member is encouraged to attend, including but not limited to healthcare providers, individuals with mental illness, and friends and family members of those with mental illness. Participants will learn basic information about major mental health conditions including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and borderline personality disorder. The workshop provides an overview of effective treatments for mental illness, information on accessing services throughout the state, evidence-based practices available in Vermont, coping strategies, crisis prevention, and next steps for making progress in one’s mental health journey.

Light refreshments will be provided at the workshop. There will be a lunch break (lunch not provided).

The NAMI Vermont Mental Illness and Recovery workshop is free and made possible by a grant from the Department of Mental Health.

New bear population estimate based on 2022 data

Vermont’s black bear population is estimated at 7000-8500 based on 2022 data, the most recent available, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

“It is important to look at the 2022 population estimate as part of the typical cycles of growth and decline in a bear population that is stable over the long term,” said wildlife biologist and Black Bear Project Leader Jaclyn Comeau. “The 7000 to 8500 bear estimate for 2022 is a five-year high. We will be watching closely in the coming few years to see if the population drops as we have seen it do before, after high years in previous cycles.”

Comeau stressed that the current population estimate is not a basis for changes to Vermont’s bear management at this time. She added that today’s robust bear population is the result of a decades-long research and conservation effort that includes land protection, regulated hunting, and significant public education on proactive conflict prevention.

As recently as the early 1970s Vermont’s bears were found only in mountainous areas and the Northeast Kingdom, and likely numbered between 1500-3500. Today they are found

in every Vermont town except for communities on the Lake Champlain Islands. Since the mid-1990s the population has been relatively stable, fluctuating from 4000-7500 bears in consistent cycles of growth and decline. The population has seen steady growth since 2019.

“Taking active steps to coexist with bears is our responsibility as Vermonters,” said Comeau. “That means respecting these powerful animals as an important part of our native biodiversity, using proactive conflict prevention strategies like keeping human food out of bears’ reach, and relying on a scientifically regulated hunting season to keep the bear population in line with Vermont’s social carrying capacity.”

The department’s bear population model uses age and sex data from hunter harvests and non-hunting mortalities like vehicle strikes to estimate the population and account for model uncertainty. Because the model relies on annual data from hunters, it lags one year behind the current hunting season.

“Hunter harvest data are used by state fish and wildlife agencies to model bear populations nationwide,” said biometrician and Research Program Manager Dr. Katherina Gieder. “We are confident in our bear population model estimates because they consistently match what other data indicate about the population trend over time. Model certainty has also increased in recent



Living in our beautiful state includes caring for and living with our wildlife, including black bears. To learn more about how to live with bears in a way that keeps them, and us, safe, go online to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s webpage on bears: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears>.

PHOTO FROM THE VT FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

years, especially since making it mandatory for bear hunters to submit a tooth from their harvest to the department in 2018. It’s a good example of how community science can directly inform wildlife conservation.”

Health continued from page 4

Strength training

Parents have been pressing me recently to comment on whether I think it is safe for older children and teenagers to do strength training. Let me see if I can raise a few points about this issue.

How it works, why it can be beneficial, and when to be cautious

Strength training increases the amount of muscle mass in the body by making muscles work harder than they’re used to. It can result in increased endurance and strength for other sports and reduce injury risk from sports by half. It has also been shown to improve cardiac health, lean body mass, bone mineral density and reduce cholesterol levels.

The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses strength training for children and teens who are old enough to participate in organized sports, provided it is properly designed and supervised.

Weightlifting, bodybuilding, and powerlifting are not

recommended for children since they are designed to push maximal amounts of weight and can injure growing bones, muscles, and joints.

Is strength training safe?

Generally, yes. But not if a teenager tries to do it without advice from a trainer, coach, or physical education instructor. These individuals can help create a gradually progressive age-appropriate routine that strengthens all major muscle groups rather than just one or two by increasing the amount of resistance they use as their muscles get stronger over time.

A pre-training physical is also a good idea. Children generally need low amounts of weight and more frequent repetitions of the lifting exercises than heavy load lifting.

These exercises can be done usually for 20-30 minutes two or three days a week with at least a day off between these strength training sessions. A warmup with stretching should be performed before lifting and a cool down stretching period should follow

at the end.

Your teenager should never do strength training without supervision or someone nearby to serve as a spotter who can prevent them from dropping a barbell onto their chest should they become unexpectedly exhausted.

Teenagers should also avoid the use of anabolic steroids or performance enhancing drugs that are supposed to further help muscles develop. These drugs can cause mood changes, severe acne, but even worse heart disease, sterility, and even cancer — so they should not be used at all.

Hopefully, tips like these will raise the bar — or is it the barbell? — when it comes to strengthening your knowledge of the risk and benefits of strength training.

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

Coming events continued from page 3

purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Planning to come? Please email Doug Varney so that we have enough copies of music for our first meeting. Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219, or just show up on a Thursday evening!

Coming Events

- Wednesday, October 4**
Restoring old growth forest characteristics. 6:30 – 8:00 PM, on Zoom. Old-growth forests were once the predominant natural condition across New England and New York before European settlement; however, it is now one of the rarest. Though new old-growth forests cannot be created, there is an opportunity through both passive and active management to restore old-growth characteristics in our current forests. This session will focus on the new publication *Restoring Old-Growth Characteristics to New England’s and New York’s Forests*, the goal of which is to increase the amount of old-growth characteristics in the region by giving decision-makers the information they need to adopt old-growth restoration strategies in ways that complement their ownership goals, helping to sustain our native forests and their many benefits. Webinar presented by Paul Catanzaro, MA State Extension Forester and Professor at University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.womenowningwoodlands.net/event/restoring-old-growth-characteristics-webinar>.
- Thursday, October 5**
Anxious Nation (2022). 6:00 – 8:30 PM, Film House of the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St., Burlington. Sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont (NAMI Vermont), the film unfolds the epidemic of anxiety and explores why we are such an anxious nation. The screening will be followed by a facilitated Q&A and/or panel discussion. NAMI Vermont and partnering organizations will provide free mental health and suicide prevention resources. Free to the public thanks to a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation. For more information about the *Anxious Nation* documentary, visit <http://anxiousnation.com>. To learn more about NAMI Vermont’s free program offerings and advocacy work, go to <http://namivt.org>.
- Saturday, October 7**
Painted Theater Curtains. 1:30 PM, Brick Meeting House, Westford Common, Westford. The Westford Historical Society presents Christine Hadsel’s program and highlights Westford’s own curtain. Handicapped accessible. Free and open to the public, though donations gladly accepted and appreciated. For further information please contact Caroline Brown, 802-878-8890, or Glenn Rogers, 802-878-4524.
- “STRIDES” Walk for Diabetes.** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Mills Riverside Park, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. This walking event on the MRP trails is an effort to bring awareness about diabetes and its ramifications to our communities, with several walking trail options for taking a beautiful autumn stroll on the park trails. Informational tables at the Snowflake Bentley pavilion; onsite optional testing for diabetes. Post-walking refreshments and snacks provided. This is a no-cost event, although donations will be accepted in support of diabetes programs.
- Cambridge Village History Walk.** 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Cambridge Village. For this first Cambridge Village History Walk the host, Cambridge Village Historic Preservation Committee, has chosen 10 locations around the village that are historically important and will have experts stationed at each to explain the history of the site and answer questions. The Cambridge Village Market and Rusty’s Pizza and Pie will offer refreshments and the Cambridge Historical Society will have pies and books for sale. Rain or shine; free and open to all. For questions or more information contact Geana Little, committee chair, at rgtle@stowaccess.com.
- Community Center in Jericho Clothing Swap.** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace,

- Jericho. Jericho Town Library (7 Jericho Center Circle)** will accept donations of clean, gently used clothes and shoes in the week leading up to the swap during its open hours: Tuesday, October 3-Friday, October 6, 10 AM – 6:00 PM. Or, drop your clothes off at the Community Center on Friday, October 6, 4:00 – 7:00 PM. To shop: browse and select free clothes on Saturday, October 7, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. You don’t have to donate in order to shop. Interested in volunteering to help out with the swap? Contact catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, avaserstein@yahoo.com, or learn.love.laugh@gmail.com, or call the Library, 802-899-4686.
- Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8**
Maple Open House Weekend. all day, statewide. Add to your fall road tour and explore how producers make syrup — from tree to tap to table! Though it’s fall there are lots of ways to enjoy sugarhouse tours, sampling syrup, tours of the woods, pancake breakfasts, and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy, maple ice cream and creemees! Find all the details at www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW. Find a Vermont sugar maker online at <https://vermontmaple.org/buy-pure-maple/>. To substitute maple in your favorite dish or recipe, go online to <https://vermontmaple.org/substitute-maple-for-sugar>.
- Wednesday, October 11**
Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a Blood Drive. 12:00 – 5:00 PM (please note the new time), Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. As many have seen on local and national news, there is a severe shortage of blood due to natural disasters and low donor turnout so, please consider donating. As always, we will be serving slices of pie after your donation. Schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>, entering COVENANT in the search bar, or by calling 1-800-733-2767.
- Conservation 101: How We Protect Farms, Forests, and Community Land.** 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online. Join Vermont Land Trust staffers Donald Campbell, Maggie Donin, and Bob Heiser as they give you a behind-the-scenes look at how they protect land in Vermont. They will share how they conserve forests, support farms, and help communities protect town forests and other important places; hear about different types of projects their team has tackled over the years. To register, contact lisa@vtcoverts.org.
- Thursday October 12**
Community Coffee Hour. 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Jericho Ale and Bean, 51 VT Rt. 15, Jericho Corners. Come join your friends from the Community Center for coffee and conversation. Meet new friends or ones you already know. Join in the conversation and sample the good coffee and pastries. Perhaps this will become an ongoing fun gathering.
- CPR and First Aid Class.** 6:00 PM, Underhill Fire Station, 420 VT Rt. 15, Underhill. Underhill Fire Department (UJFD) and Northeast Emergency Training Solutions will offer an Infant, Child and Adult CPR and First Aid Class; \$20 per person. To sign up or for more information, contact Katie, kmf0508@comcast.net.
- Saturday, October 14**
Copley Hospital’s annual Gravel Moxie ride, start and end at host Lost Nation Brewing, 87 Old Creamery Rd., Morrisville. Choose a 50-, 25-, or 10-mile family fun ride. Riders will enjoy backcountry roads in Morrisville, Hyde Park, Johnson, North Hyde Park, Eden, Craftsbury, and Wolcott, while being challenged with curves, slopes and hills and greeted with views of Mount Mansfield, the Worcester range, and beyond. The 10-mile family fun ride takes riders on trails with gentle sloping. Bicyclists will take on some of the best gravel our Green Mountain state has to offer while taking in some of the most beautiful countryside in support of our community hospital. Check out bike routes at <https://www.copleyvt.org/support-copley/copley-gravel-grinder/>; register at <https://www.bikereg.com/>.
- Managing invasive plants on her land.** 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Button Farm, Colchester. Do you have invasive plants on your land but aren’t sure what to do about them? Or have

- you tried controlling them but feel like you aren’t making any headway? Join Women Owing Woodlands – Vermont for an interactive workshop that will help you develop an invasive plant management plan, including tips on when and how to work with an invasive plant contractor, and learn techniques for controlling several invasive plant species. While we won’t focus a lot of time on plant identification, we will cover basic identification of some species including common and glossy buckthorn, Japanese and common barberry, honeysuckle, and poison parsnip. Come ready to share your own tips, tricks or questions. Learn more and register at <https://join.vt.org/event/managing-invasive-plants-on-her-land-a-women-owning-woodlands-vt-workshop/e511239/register/new/select-tickets>.
- Richmond Elementary School PTO Big Truck Day.** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Richmond Elementary School, School St., Richmond. Come meet local servicemen and women and check out the trucks they operate. There will be police cars, fire trucks, military vehicles, construction equipment, farm equipment, and more. This family-oriented, community event will allow children of all ages to see, touch, and explore many of their favorite big trucks and vehicles. There will be food, drinks, face painting, arts and crafts, and more! Parking might be limited; look for signs for additional parking a block before the entrance to Richmond Elementary School. Cost: \$5/person donation (\$20 max per family) to help support the new RES playground, field trips, classroom materials, and moral support for the hard-working staff at RES. Hope to see you there!
- Saturday-Sunday, October 14-15**
Women Game of Logging Levels 1 and 2. 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM both days, Morrisville. Women Owing Woodlands – Vermont invites you to learn to be safe with a chainsaw in the woods! Game of Logging Level I focuses on introducing the participant to open face felling and the development of techniques to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength. Level II focuses on saw maintenance and practice felling. Each person in the class will fell a tree. Class size is limited to 10. The cost for this class is \$175 for WOW participants thanks to a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation Forest Health and Integrity Program. For more information or to register contact VT Coverts: info@vtcoverts.org or 802-877-2777.
- Monday, October 16**
Scam Jam. 7:00 PM, Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. There are people out there who have very sophisticated methods for separating you from your hard-earned money. Residents of Jericho and nearby communities are invited to attend a scam-jam by Elliott Greenblatt, a volunteer AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, explaining the numerous techniques of con artists and steps to take to avoid victimization. This community service is sponsored jointly by the Jericho Center Preservation Association and the Jericho Town Library.
- Wednesday, October 18**
Public hearing on draft management plan for Mills Riverside Park. 7:00 – 8:00 PM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library project room, River Rd., Jericho. The Jericho Underhill Park District board has been working on a draft management plan for Mills Riverside Park; the plan can be found at https://www.millsriversidepark.org/fileadmin/files/Legal/JUPD_Management_Plan_06-07-23.pdf?. Feedback is welcomed and can be sent to jupddistrict@gmail.com.
- Saturday, October 28**
Jericho Energy Task Force Repair Café. 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Volunteers will be on hand to help residents with repair projects ranging from sewing to mechanical and electronic issues. We’d like to know what kinds of things people might want help with so we can try to find volunteers who can do those repairs. As we get closer to the event we’ll let people know what kind of volunteers we have on hand (we’ll accept all offers of assistance) and create a sign-up sheet. Please email me at vtphyl72@gmail.com.

Library news continued from page 6

email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420.

Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 6:00 PM: Mandarin Club with Keyuan Xiang. Interested in learning Mandarin, or just want to know more about Chinese culture? Join Keyuan Xiang at the library for lesson! You don't need to come to each club meeting, but registration is required for the day or days you would like to attend. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to 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

Free Covid Tests Free at-home Covid antigen tests are available at the library thanks to the Vermont Department of Health. Individuals may pick up two kits (four tests) per person. Ask for them at the circulation desk.

Trustees meetings are on the second Monday of the month via Zoom until further notice.

The Friends of Richmond Free Library will hold this year's book sale on Friday, December 1, 5:30 – 8:30 PM, and Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The bag sale will start at 2:00 PM on Saturday — all you can fit in a bag for one set price. In anticipation of the Friends sale, the Library will accept donations through Friday, November 17 (the Friday before Thanksgiving). Please bring one box at a time to the Circulation Desk on the first floor for staff members to review. Materials must be in good and clean condition. We accept hardcovers with intact book jackets, paperbacks, CDs and DVDs. We do NOT accept magazines, textbooks, condensed books, VHS or cassette tapes, software discs, encyclopedias or dictionaries or out-of-date non-fiction items. We will return to you items we can't use.

Adult events

Tuesday, October 12, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge to discuss *A Long Way to a Small Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers. Follow a motley crew on an exciting journey through space—and one adventurous young explorer who discovers the meaning of family in the far reaches of the universe in this light-hearted debut space opera from a rising sci-fi star. Contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or gwennie1972@yahoo.com, for information on joining this group.

Saturday, October 14, 12:00 PM: Cookbook Club, organizational kickoff meeting. Help select the books we'll cook from for the next few months, grab a copy of the November book and pick a recipe to cook for our next meeting. We'll meet Saturday, November 18 at 12:00 PM to share thoughts and dishes from *My Vermont Table*. Email Suzanne, skrohn@richmondvt.gov, with any questions.

Wednesday, October 18, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Book Pumpkin Craft for Teens and Adults Bibbidi bobbidi book! Turn an old book

into a seasonal work of art you'll love to display. Drop in or take home a kit until supplies run out. No registration required.

Thursday, October 19, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge to discuss *The Case of the Missing Servant (Vishnu Puri #1)* by Tarquin Hall. Meet Vish Puri, India's most private investigator. Portly, persistent, and unmistakably Punjabi, he cuts a determined swath through modern India's swindlers, cheats, and murderers. Contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055, mparent@gmavt.net, with any questions.

Wednesday, October 25, 5:00 – 6:30 PM: Need Tech Help? We're very happy to announce that Jim Poulin of Richmond has volunteered to help patrons take charge of their devices! Are you stuck on how to use Libby or Hoopla? Does your Windows laptop go on strike when you tell it to do something? Jim can help and will be at the Library. This is the last tech help session until spring.

Wednesday, November 8, 6:00 PM: What Happens to Vermont's Recycling? Kat Moody from CWSD joins us to talk about what really happens to the recyclables they process. Does recycling actually do anything? Where do those cardboard boxes go? What's tossed out? No registration required. All ages are welcome.

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 PM: Climate Action Book Discussion. Join Richmond Climate Action Committee to discuss *The Nutmeg's Curse* by Amitav Ghosh. The Nutmeg's Curse frames climate change and the Anthropocene as the culmination of a history that begins with the discovery of the New World and of the sea route to the Indian Ocean. Ghosh makes the case that the political dynamics of climate change today are rooted in the centuries-old geopolitical order that was constructed by Western colonialism. This argument is set within a broader narrative about human entanglements with botanical matter — spices, tea, sugarcane, opium, and fossil fuels — and the continuities that bind human history with these earthly materials. Copies are available to pick up at the library.

Children's events

Friday, November 3, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Thankful Pocket Craft for Kids. A "Thankful Pocket" is a pocket to hang on a doorknob and collect notes about things that you are thankful for. Volunteers from the Embroiderers Guild of America will be leading this fun sewing craft for kids ages 8-12. Each participant will receive a kit with everything necessary to assemble and decorate their own "Thankful Pocket." A variety of simple sewing stitches and techniques will be used. This opportunity is free but please sign up by contacting the Library, 802-434-3036 or library@richmondvt.gov.

Tuesdays, November 7-28, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Lego Club (four-week session). We have loads of Legos. Periodically we offer multi-week sessions of after-school Lego Club. Lego enthusiasts work together or separately to build amazing projects. No registration is necessary, just come play!

New VOX Books Vox Books are books that talk. More specifically, they are high-quality children's picture books with a built-in audio device that reads the story page by page offering

encouraging "beeps" along the way to signal to a child when to turn the page. The controls are simple enough for a small child to understand. Kids love them! Thank you to the Williston-Richmond Rotary Club for funding the purchase of eight new VOX books for our growing collection. Come check them out.

Children's ongoing programs

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

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

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 infant through five years and their grownups are invited to join the fun.

Third Saturday of each month (October 21, November 18, December 16) through May, 10:30 AM: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime) Join native Spanish speakers, Chichi and Eva for 30 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.

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, October 9, in observance of Indigenous People's Day.

Free COVID Test Kits and Gun Locks Still Available. No library card or ID needed.

Showcase your collection at the library! What do you collect? Matchbox cars, small artwork, baseball cards, model planes/boats/cars, vintage textiles or hats, stuffed animals, something

Library news continued on page 8

DON'T HIBERNATE. BUTTON UP.

There's no need to sleep away the winter. Button up your home with up to 75% off weatherization project costs.* You'll stay warm and cozy – save money, too.

Join us virtually for Weatherization
Wednesdays throughout
October to learn more!

ButtonUpVermont.org

*subject to eligibility and availability

 **ButtonUpVermont**

sponsored by Efficiency Vermont

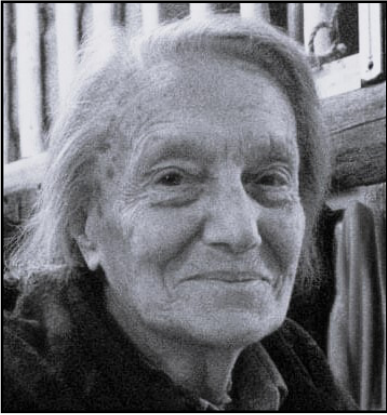


OBITUARIES



Memorial service for Dr. Danforth

A memorial service in honor of Elliot Danforth Jr., MD will be held at the Underhill Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center, VT on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 2:30 PM. Dr. Elliot Danforth, Jr., MD of Underhill, VT passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the McClure Miller Respite House, Colchester, VT at the age of 89.



Marie Adele Flaim Tedford, 99, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and dear friend, passed away on Friday, September 15, 2023 at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, VT. She succumbed to a heart ailment that came on suddenly, after a full day spent in some favorite pastimes — animated conversation, dining out, walking in her Underhill Center, VT neighborhood, and planning activities with friends and family.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Walter “Ted” Tedford; son Thomas O’Brien and his wife, Linda; son Charles O’Brien; daughters Patricia Goudey O’Brien and Paula Diaco; nine beloved grandchildren and their spouses; 11 great-grandchildren; son-in-law Jonathan Draudt and Miya Cline; two nieces; and a cousin. She was predeceased by two daughters, Barbara-Jean O’Brien and Laurie Tedford, and by her son-in-law Robert Diaco. Marie was the second of four children born to Jenny Genantone Flaim and Charles Flaim in Fort Lee, NJ. She attended Catholic schools in Fort Lee and graduated from St. Cecilia High School in Englewood, NJ. She was a writer all of her life, publishing numerous articles for craft magazines in New Jersey and newspaper articles in Vermont. She published a children’s book, *The Bearamores Visit the Badlands*, for an educational publisher, and she wrote six editions of *Collecting Books* with her daughter Pat for Random House’s *House of Collectibles*. In 2019, Marie released a volume of short stories about growing up in Italian neighborhoods in New Jersey, *Nanny Goat Hill* from the Tamarac Press. A lifelong lover of books, Marie was a founding member of the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association. For decades she conducted her business, Mountain Reverie Books, selling rare and antiquarian books from the small shop beside her house in Underhill Center. In recent years, Marie enjoyed spending time with friends and family, especially enjoying a weekly gathering of writers from around the neighborhood in her adopted state. She never liked leaving Vermont except to visit special people, and she would say about taking her leave now, “It was not my idea.” A memorial celebration of life is planned for Sunday, October 8, 2023, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, at the Town Hall in Underhill Center. The family will combine this celebration with memories of Marie’s daughter Laurie, who passed away just prior to the recent pandemic. Friends of Laurie’s and Marie’s are welcome to be with us to celebrate two very wonderful people. Beverages and light refreshment will be available.

Library news continued from page 7

else that will fit in our display cabinet? Please read the display policy (page 10 of Library Policies posted online) and fill out the form if you’re interested. Thanks!

- Children’s area
Leaf Peeping In The Library! Through October 31, there will be bright autumn leaves hiding throughout the library, and it’s up to you to find them all! Grab a tally sheet, explore the library to find the leaves, write down how many you find, and enter your guess for a chance to win an autumn-themed picture book!
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.
Fridays: Grab’n’Go Craft Kits. While supplies last.
Storywalk ® along the back garden fence: The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson.
Adult area
Tuesday, October 5, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group. The Scent Keeper by Erica Bauermeister, a moving and evocative coming-of-age novel about childhood stories, families lost and found, and how a fragrance conjures memories capable of shaping the course of our lives.
Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Tech Time. Drop in with your device and your questions. We’ll do our best to answer them! No appointment needed.
Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Drop-In Needlecraft Group. Enjoy chatting with other crafters as you work on your project.
Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Hand & Foot Canasta. Meets on the Mezzanine.
Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Rummikub for Adults. Meets on the Mezzanine.
Museum Passes are available for year ’round fun! State Parks, ECHO, Shelburne Museum and more! http://Essexfreelibrary.org/MuseumPasses.
Digital resources: https://essexfreelibrary.org/DigitalResources
Social media: check us out on Facebook & Instagram for updates on events!
Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313; @essexfreelibrary; website https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/.



William “Bill” Terrien, 79, of Jericho, VT peacefully passed away at his home on Saturday, September 9, 2023 surrounded by his children. Bill was born in Burlington, VT on February 4, 1944 to Bernard and Dorothy (Mahoney) Terrien. He graduated from Rice High School in Burlington. Bill went on to serve in the Navy and married Gertrude “Cookie” (Schwab) Terrien in 1969. After the Navy, Bill worked at IBM for 30+ years until retirement, raised his

two kids, and loved many furry grandpets. After retirement, Bill enjoyed golfing and often played 36 holes every morning. Bill and Cookie played hundreds of rounds of golf together and with friends. Before Bill became a staple on the golf course, he enjoyed downhill skiing for many years with his family. After retirement they also enjoyed going to lunch and on afternoon drives. When not out and about, Bill could be found in his garage tinkering or watching westerns. Bill is preceded in death by his wife Cookie, his parents Bernard and Dorothy Terrien, his brother John Terrien, his sisters-in-law Jackie Alaimo and Paula Wilkins, his brothers-in-law Dutch Schwab, Norm Hamel, Don Parfitt, and Jack Wilkins. Bill is survived by his son Bill Jr.; daughter Kerry; sister Sally Parfitt; sisters-in-law June Terrien, Joyce Schwab, and Attu Schwab; brothers-in-law Tom Alaimo and Jack Schwab; along with many cousins, nieces and nephews. A celebration of Bill’s life is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the Eagles Club in Milton VT.

It is with great sadness and disbelief that we share the recent passing of our dear wife, mother, Nana, and friend Vera Terezia Benes, age 74, of Jericho, VT. She passed away unexpectedly in her sleep while she and her husband Peter were visiting one of her best friends, Donna Safford, in Durango, CO. She leaves Peter behind along with her son, Joshua, her daughter-in-law, Rebecca, and her grandsons Luke and Zachary. She was predeceased by her parents and her daughter Christina. Anyone who knew Vera loved her bubbly personality, her genuine kindness, and her true love of life. There was always a certain kind of sparkle about her. Vera was born on December 16, 1948 to Al and Vera Soucek in the city of Pardubice in what is now known as the Czech Republic. Vera and her parents fled their country during the communist takeover in 1949. Vera was just an infant when they had to navigate the woodland, swamps, and mountains to safety and freedom in Germany. They left Europe by boat to Canada and settled in Toronto. Eventually her father, Al, who was in the hospitality field, moved his family across the border to Long Island, NY and eventually to Vermont. The first business that her family began in Vermont was the Haus & Heim Ski Lodge in Jeffersonville, VT. It was on VT Rt. 108 on the way to Smugglers’ Notch, then known as Madonna Mountain, where Vera learned to ski with her dad and fell in love with the sport. She easily made friends with everyone at the resort, from the ski patrol to the lift operators. In between her days on the mountain, Vera attended and graduated from Lamoiile Union High School in Hyde Park, VT and later, Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Vera’s dad, Al, really wanted his daughter to meet a nice Czech man, not so easy in rural Vermont. A longtime Czech friend of his, who came to ski at Smugglers’ Ski Area and who was living in Toronto, visited the Haus & Heim and reunited with Al. This friend knew of a family who had a restaurant business in Toronto and happened to have a son named Peter, the same age as Vera! In what turned into a whirlwind fairy tale romance, Peter and Vera soon became a couple. In 1971, they were married at Saint Mary’s Church in Cambridge Village with the reception at Smugglers’ Notch, of course. If there was ever a couple truly meant to be together, it was Peter and Vera. Peter had to return to Toronto for three years to help his parents run a second restaurant they were just opening. It was there where their daughter Christina was born. In all the time they were there they could not wait to move permanently back to Vermont. In 1976, they built a house facing Mount Mansfield on 10 acres of land. This would become their forever home. Their neighbors Cherie and Henry Sorrell became their friends for life. Vera, Peter, and their family loved skiing and horseback riding with their horses, Prince Charming and Shadow Dancer. Vera’s parents opened the Alpine Restaurant in Jericho, while Peter and Vera took over the Continental Restaurant in downtown Burlington. When Peter’s parents sold their restaurants in Toronto, the family bought a nice Victorian building on three acres of land on Shelburne Road in South Burlington, VT where they operated the Benes Inn Restaurant. The restaurant received awards from the Gourmet Diner’s Club of America four years in a row, 1981, 1982, 1983, and 1984. All was well in their lives until their daughter was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of nine. After a valiant struggle, she passed away three years later. Happier days were to return with the birth of their son, Joshua, in 1989. Vera was an incredibly supportive mother and cared for and loved her son with all her heart. As a family, they enjoyed many wonderful vacations, went on many horseback rides, and enjoyed many adventures and skiing up on the mountain. Vera’s association with Smugglers’ Notch continued for decades, working first as a ski instructor. She became known as Princess Vera along with her ski partner, Princess Pam, and they both became very popular among the kids. Later she moved indoors and worked in the Sport Shop as the Assistant Manager. She enjoyed working at Smugglers and loved the people she worked with. A memorial service will be held at Smugglers’ Notch in the Main Meeting House, the same building as Morse Mountain Grille, on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 2:00 PM, with a reception following. All who attend are encouraged to wear a little bit of sparkle in Vera’s honor and to share perhaps a favorite memory of her. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Christopher Ashton Kessler, 27, of Jericho, VT unexpectedly passed away on Monday September 25, 2023. He was born in Greensboro, NC on April 15, 1996. Christopher, or Ashton, as he preferred to be named, was a bright and intelligent young soul. He always knew how to light up a room, just by his contagious smile. He loved to laugh and have a good time with those that he loved. Although Ashton faced many battles within his own

life, he was strong willed and always had room in his heart for others. If Ashton were here today he would tell you that his greatest accomplishment would be his daughter, Acadia, who he loved deeply. Acadia was always a bright light in Ashton’s life and he always did what he could to show her that Ashton is survived by his daughter, Acadia Legrand-Kessler (age 8) and his first love, Shalena Legrand; his parents Jaime (mother) and Neil (father)

Bernier, and Gil Stewart (biological father); his two siblings, Brittny Bernier (sister), and Tristen Bernier (brother). Services were held Sunday, October 1, 2023 at Corbin & Palmer Funeral Home, Essex Junction, VT. All who knew Ashton were welcome and encouraged to bring favorite memories, stories, and photos to share. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.vtfuneralhomes.com.



Madeline May Mobbs, “Tiny”, 90, of Richmond, VT passed away on Saturday September 23, 2023. Madeline was born in Burlington, VT on November 13, 1932, the daughter of the late Basil and Fern Burritt. Madeline loved knitting, crocheting, word search books, and watching the Boston Red Sox. She is survived by her five children: Linda Sorrell and husband Charlie of Essex Junction, VT; Reginald Mobbs and wife Joanne of Jonesville, VT; Douglas Mobbs and wife Debbie of Richmond; Stephen Mobbs of Richmond; and Rick Mobbs and wife Vicki of Georgia, VT; 14 grandkids, 23 great-grandkids, and eight great-great-grandkids. She was predeceased by her husband Francis Mobbs; and by sons David and Paul Mobbs. A very special thank you to UVM Hospital and McClure Miller Respite House for their care and kindness during this time — it was a blessing and comfort. Visiting hours were held on Friday, September 29, 2023 with a funeral service following at Gifford Funeral Home, Richmond. Burial followed at Riverview Cemetery, Richmond. Donations may be made to the McClure Miller Respite House, 3113 Roosevelt Hwy, Colchester, VT 05446. To send online condolences to her family please visit www.vtfuneralhomes.com.



Michael D. Poulin, 72, of Richmond, VT passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, September 23, 2023 following a motorcycle accident. Michael was born on April 4, 1951 to Francis and Caroljean (Lozon) Poulin in Jacksonville, NC. After relocating to Vermont, Michael graduated from Burlington (VT) High School in 1969. He then joined the U.S. Navy and served four years as a Machinist’s Mate in the Vietnam War. For 49 years, Michael was a proud member of the Super Hog Motorcycle Club of Vermont. He loved all his “brothers” that he rode with and enjoyed many adventurous journeys with them. Michael was greatly respected as a mechanic and spent many years building, fixing, and tinkering around with all kinds of motorcycles. For 16 years he worked for Green Mountain Harley Davidson before retiring in 2016. You could always find him in his garage working on one project or another. Michael met Patty Goodrich in 2003 and they married in 2006. He was a loving husband and friend to Patty, who will miss him dearly. Micheal was predeceased by his father Francis, his brother Andrew, and his sister Mary. He is survived by his wife Patty; his mother Caroljean of South Burlington, VT; his sister Cathy and her husband Ray Croteau of Grand Isle, VT; his sister Jane and her husband Ken Cassidy of Richmond, VT; his brother Joe and his wife Kingsley of Colchester, VT; and his brother John and his wife Karen of Shelburne, VT. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Vermont Chapter of the American Diabetes Association at https://donors.diabetes.org/login. A Celebration of Life for Michael was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at Ready Funeral & Cremation Service, South Chapel, Burlington, followed by visitation. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the Ready Funeral & Cremation Service, Burlington. To send online condolences to the family please visit www.readyfuneral.com.



Col. Robert Francis Charlesworth, 53, of Manlius, NY was born to eternal life Saturday, September 16, 2023, at home peacefully with his family by his side. Rob, as he liked to be called, was born September 3, 1970 at Highland Hospital in Beacon, NY to Robert J. and Ruth F. Charlesworth of Kingston, NY. Rob is survived by his wife of 17 years, Betsy (Elizabeth) A. Scherr of Jericho, VT and their three children: sons Myles and Martin Charlesworth and daughter Morgan Hull; dog, Milo; his parents, Robert and Ruth Charlesworth, Murphy, NC; his sisters, Nancy Cronin

and daughter Morgan Hull; dog, Milo; his parents, Robert and Ruth Charlesworth, Murphy, NC; his sisters, Nancy Cronin

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

What is an old-growth forest?

By Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

On a highly-altered landscape, the idea of an old-growth forest is captivating to many. But what are old-growth forests? And why do they matter?

Definitions vary. Some would say that the only true old-growth forests are *primary forests* — the tiny fraction that have never been extensively altered by humans, or by humans of European descent. Others would say that an old-growth forest is any forest that is *old* — that has escaped extensive disturbance for a long period of time, usually at least several centuries. Others would say that a forest becomes old-growth when it attains *late-successional characteristics*, the suite of traits common to many older forests. These characteristics include multiple generations of trees (what I call “multi-generationality”), some big, old trees, and lots of dead wood on the forest floor.

By *any* definition, most people have never seen an old-growth forest in Vermont, or anywhere in eastern North America. Unless you specifically seek out one of our few remnant old-growth forests, a walk in Vermont’s woods will carry you through an area that was a field or a clearcut within the last 150 years, and probably as recently as the 1960s. The vast majority of Vermont’s forests are just 60-100 years old — just at the beginning of their centuries or millennia-long journey towards old-growth. While old-growth forests once covered more than 90% of Vermont, today the number is closer to 0.1% — perhaps one thousand acres in total.

What are old-growth forests like? While they are defined by their irregularity and their variability (and so are difficult to make generalizations about), old-growth forests — whether they are *primary* or just *old* — often feature those *late-successional characteristics* mentioned above. While the most obvious of these is big, old trees — but not a lot, often just 10-12 per acre — old-growth is equally characterized by multi-generationality, by tons of dead wood on the forest floor, by a canopy filled with gaps, by deep, well-developed soils. Interestingly, while many people imagine that old-growth forests are peaceful and easy to appreciate, these qualities make them seem incredibly “messy,” chaotic, even jarring, to most.

From an ecological perspective, *old-growth forests are not just valuable because they’re old — they’re valuable because of these characteristics*. On a landscape that was once dominated by old-growth, the characteristics mentioned above are the conditions to which our native flora and fauna have adapted for thousands of years. Each of these characteristics supports vital natural processes and provides important habitats for wildlife, and all are woefully underrepresented on our modern landscape.

The rareness and uniqueness of old-growth forests has convinced some people that the best thing for our forests is just to leave them alone. Unfortunately, this is not so. While we should certainly protect all existing old growth forests and set aside some unmanaged reserves, we need to acknowledge that our forests are facing an apocalyptic array of threats and stressors:



According to one definition given by Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper, “a forest becomes old-growth when it attains late-successional characteristics, the suite of traits common to many older forests. These characteristics include multiple generations of trees (what I call “multi-generationality”), some big, old trees, and lots of dead wood on the forest floor.” These photos show a forest with these characteristics, and also the gaps in the forest canopy that allow light in to sustain the growth of new young trees.
PHOTO BY ETHAN TAPPER

they have been cleared and exploited, have lost native species and had non-natives introduced, are simultaneously navigating a climate crisis, a biodiversity crisis, and a mass extinction event. Many — if not most — of our forests have been altered to an extent where they will likely never become old-growth without our help. Of the forests that may someday become old-growth on their own, this process will likely take two or three centuries, leaving our planet and our biodiversity to suffer in the meantime.

While we say “Not In My Backyard” to local forest management, forests — including old-growth forests — will be exploited across the world to feed our need for resources, forcing peoples and ecosystems elsewhere to bear the cost of our consumption. As we pretend that the beauty and the importance of old-growth means that we should leave every forest unmanaged, our forests and the biological communities that they support will continue to suffer without our help.

To me, *old-growth forests are a call to action*. At a time when old-growth is more needed than ever before, we can use forest management to create old-growth characteristics, and the myriad habitats and benefits that they provide, in decades rather than centuries. We can do so while protecting biodiversity,

sequestering and storing carbon, producing local, renewable resources, and supporting a vibrant and just local and global economy. To me, this is a far greater tribute to old-growth than leaving every forest alone.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department 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>

Love butterflies?
Leave your leaves!

By Maeve Kim

So many people add a big chore to their autumn list, a chore that many folks don’t enjoy at all and that takes time that could be used for something fun. Even worse, it’s a chore that is not only unnecessary but is actually destructive!

Community columns continued on page 10



Chittenden Solid Waste District



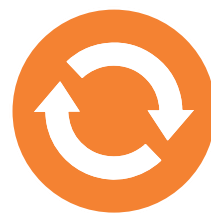
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We Can Take It!



CSWD offers convenient drop-off locations for trash, recycling, food scraps, and special materials like batteries and appliances.

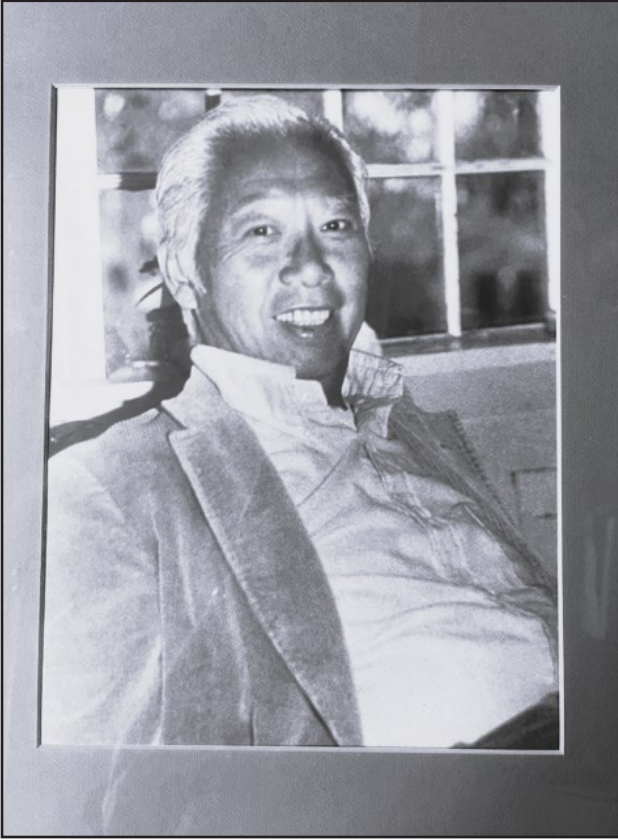
You’ll be surprised by all the things we can help you keep out of the landfill!



www.cswd.net

NOW OPEN Tuesday – Saturday in Essex, Milton, South Burlington & Williston from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



On Sunday, October 15, 2:00 PM at the Pierson Library in Shelburne, David Sisco will present *From China to Vermont: The Story of Longtime Resident Guy Cheng*. Vermont has long attracted gifted artists, but few perhaps whose background is as eclectic as Guy Cheng's. Born in China in 1918, Cheng first came to the U.S. to represent China in the Davis Cup in 1936. The story of his life — from receiving an MBA from Tulane University to becoming a much-collected silversmith and artist, whose works were sold at Tiffany's — will be told by David Sisco, his stepson, a jewelry designer himself and co-owner of Designers' Circle Jewelers in Burlington. Perhaps you remember Cheng's store on U.S. Rt. 7 in Charlotte, with its unusual door? Or maybe you're a collector? If so, wear your jewelry and share your memories of this remarkable artist who made Vermont his home. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served. The Pierson Library (formerly the Shelburne Town Hall) is located at 5376 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne. Sponsored by the Chittenden County Historical Society. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Submit your poem, short story, or essay for the VT Writers' Prize

Green Mountain Power (GMP) and *Vermont Magazine* are encouraging writers to get their entries ready for one of the state's top literary contests, the Vermont Writer's Prize. Entries are due on January 1, 2024. Winners are selected in prose and poetry, and each winner receives \$1250 and their works will be published in *Vermont Magazine's* Summer 2024 issue. Submissions can be essays, short stories or poems that focus on *Vermont — Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values*.

"Each year we receive so many thoughtful works that show a deep connection to this amazing state. What Vermont means to you is different for everyone, and honoring your Vermont experience through creative writing is what this is all about," said Kristin Carlson, a Writers' Prize judge and Vice President at GMP.

Entries are being accepted now, and the deadline is January 1, 2024. They must be unpublished, and poems have a 40-line limit, and prose entries must be less than 1500 words long. Individuals may submit only one work. Entrants may be amateur or professional writers. Employees of *Vermont Magazine* or GMP and previous winners are ineligible. More details, including how to submit, are available online at <https://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit>.

The Prize was launched in 1989 to celebrate writing about Vermont and Vermonters, while honoring the literary legacy of the late Ralph Nading Hill Jr., a Vermont historian and writer and a longtime member of GMP's board of directors.

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 the Volunteer Connection (<https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/>) to learn more about these and other opportunities.

HAVE A HEART — The 2023 Vermont Heart Walk is returning to the Burlington area on Saturday, October 21 and is offering volunteers the opportunity to help with setting up the event, hanging banners and signage, registration, handing out water, and breakdown/cleanup. The event opens at 8:30 AM and the walk begins at 9:00 AM. To be part of this exciting event, contact Chelsea Kondratowicz, chelsea.kondratowicz@heart.org.

FILL THE EMPTY BOWL — Spectrum Youth & Family Services is in need of volunteers for their Empty Bowl Dinner on Tuesday, October 10 at UVM's Davis Center. Tasks include food pick-up, registration, serving, clean-up, and more. Shift start times range from 11:00 AM – 7:30 PM. Contact Charlotte, atcstevenson@spectrumvt.org.

A BRIEF RESPITE — Age Well's Respite Squad Volunteer Program provides support to individuals and families that are

caring for loved ones at home. They are seeking volunteers to provide a much-needed break to care givers once a week for three hours to enable them to address their own needs and well-being. Volunteers build trust and bonds with the families they assist and provide them with crucial assistance. Contact Age Well's Volunteer Department at 802-662-5249 or volunteer@agewellvt.org.

SORT AND STOCK — Green Mountain Habitat ReStores are in need of volunteers to help with their intake of used clothing. Volunteers sort, hang and stock gently used donations. A perfect opportunity who can come in two to three hours a day a few times a week. No experience needed. Both weekday and weekend shifts are available. Contact volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

VCF awards flood relief grants

The Vermont Community Foundation has announced that it has awarded another \$2,359,846 in flood recovery and relief grants across the state. The new round of grants from the Foundation's VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund 2023 brings the total awarded from the fund to \$4,430,284 since it was created ten weeks ago. Over that same time period, the fund has raised more than \$11.3 million.

The VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund 2023 is supporting storm and flood-related requests through the Foundation's Special and Urgent Needs (SUN) grant program. SUN has temporarily modified its guidelines to support urgent nonprofit needs related to this disaster. Nonprofits directly impacted by storms and flooding are encouraged to visit <https://vermontcf.org/our-impact/programs-and-funds/special-and-urgent-needs/> to learn more about available funding. Locally, recent grantees include Bryan Memorial Gallery Foundation, Jeffersonville – \$2500, and the Varnum Memorial Library, Jeffersonville – \$5000.

In our wider area, these organizations have received awards: Lamoille County Mental Health Services awarded \$75,000 to support crisis counseling, mental health case management, and housing contingency funding for flood survivors with mental health challenges. The mental health agency provides developmental and behavioral health services that enhance independence and quality of life.

Town of Johnson/Johnson Public Library awarded \$10,000 to support flood repair and recovery, and resumption of programming. The library provides books, information, and resources for residents and visitors alike, as well as programming and events to foster a sense of connection among residents.

Waterbury Good Neighbor Fund awarded \$30,000 to support grants to individuals and families impacted by flooding. The fund provides emergency financial help through no-strings-attached gifts to individuals and families in the community.

A complete list of flood-related grantees to date can be found at <https://vtfloodresponse.org/grantees>. Visit <https://vermontcf.org/vtfloodresponse.org> to contribute or learn more about the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund 2023.

Miscellaneous continued on page 11

Community columns continued from page 9

We all love seeing butterflies: monarchs, glorious swallowtails, little blue azures, flitting white beauties, astonishing fritillaries, and so many more. But many people don't know that most of those beauties don't migrate. Monarchs and a few others do — but most butterflies overwinter right here in cold Vermont, and vast numbers of them burrow under decaying leaves.

So every time we rake and bag leaves and take them to the dump, we are killing hundreds of next summer's beautiful butterflies!

Also, fallen leaves are part of nature's vast recycling system, returning nutrients to your soil and your plants. If you just have to rake, push the leaves under your trees and shrubs, especially under the drip line of big trees. Insects will discover the decaying matter and emerge in the spring to delight us all.

JFiN at Jericho Town Forest

By Bernie Paquette

From a giant tree (stump) to a red Eft to what looked like ocean coral, our Jericho Families in Nature (JFiN) walk at the Jericho Town Forest filled our exploration desires and taught us what to do when walking slowly in the woods in nature. Can you hug a forest? Read on (and see photos) for how we learned to do so at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2023/09/jfin-jericho-families-in-nature-at.html>.

Before we even stepped onto the trails we found items of interest worthy of a closer look. Why do Jewelweed seed pods explode? Answer: when the tiny pods are ripe, the slightest touch causes them to snap open, flinging the seeds in all directions; hence, the alternate name is Touch-Me-Not. The common explanation for this explosive seed-flinging is that it allows the plant to disperse its seeds more widely.

From Bernie, Laura, Abbey, and Liz — then JFiN Planning Team

About the Jericho Town Forest

By Gary Irish, Jericho historian

Jericho never had a town forest in the usual sense that many other towns do (such as Hinesburg, which a few years ago cut trees in the Hinesburg Town Forest and had the lumber milled into flooring, which was used in the Hinesburg Town Hall). What you think of as the town forest had its origins in 1933 when the Village of Jericho water system was established by damming up Ford's Brook near its headwaters on the Leighton Rice property to create a reservoir from which water could be pumped to the incorporated village. This went from 30 users when the system was created to over 400 by 1983, and the spring-fed reservoir was no longer sufficient, so five deep wells were drilled to increase the water supply, along with an underground reservoir on Steeplebush Road, the higher elevation giving more pressure to the system. But by the late 1980s, with the development of Jericho East, the production of these wells dropped from 65 gallons per minute to 15 gallons per minute, so the decision was made to connect to the Champlain Water District. This process was completed in 1994, and, with the water district no longer having any use for the 39 acres of land that their system had occupied, they donated this land to the Town of Jericho for recreation use.

Apparently sometime after that, the name "Town Forest" was adopted for this area. I know several years ago, there was a move to take out the dam on the brook but having never been on this property in my life, I have no idea if that ever happened. Certainly, the town has never used it as a forest in the sense of harvesting trees. As to the origin of the trees, as I say, I have never been on the property, so I don't know if this was once farmland and thus likely open land and the trees have just filled in over the years since the 1930s, or if they were something planted by the water system folks. But either way, they for the most part have likely been there for at least 90 years, and perhaps longer.

(Much of the information above is from Volume 3 of the *Jericho Town History*, and while I did a good deal of the work of putting that history together, the section on the Jericho water system was written by Ron Buxton — Gary Irish)

New nature comics: Insect Mating and Predation series

By Bernie Paquette

Introducing Nature Comics Insect Sex Series. Do insects blush? They sure have reason to.

The place where many of them make more insects, a.k.a. have sex, copulate, do the dirty deed, roll in the hay (well, perhaps not all [species] do it in hay) but the place many if not most of them do it, have sex, is OUTSIDE. Yup, in the park, by your favorite swimming location, in fields of tall grass, on trees, shrubs, flowers. Heck if it is above sixty degrees you can probably find some doing in your backyard right now.

If you are 18 or older you can view some of the mating observations in the post. If you are under 18, just go outside and look for yourself, no one needs to know except for the insects themselves. As far as I know, they don't blush (much): <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/09/single-panel-comics-insect-sex-series.html>.

Not your cup of tea? Try this new series: Insect Predation. What do meat-eating insects eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, or even a snack? Can you hear them crunching? What happens to the not-so-good-tasting bits and pieces?

The nature-inspired single-panel comics Insect Predation Series aims to explore observations of the meat eaters and occasionally the vegetarians as well, while they chase down, chew down, and occasionally just paralyze their prey for later consumption by them or their offspring: <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/09/single-panel-comics-insect-predation.html>.

Remember to leave room for the wild things. They wish to raise families too!

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin

at 802-453-6354 for more information

or email mtngazette@gmavt.net

Miscellaneous continued from page 10

VTrans project updates

September 28, 2023

Richmond-Bolton U.S. Rt. 2 Rehabilitation

Traffic impact: Traffic Control with one-lane of alternating travel throughout various areas. Motorists can expect moderate traffic delays during all working hours. Please slow down and follow the posted speed limits.

Project update: Completed installation of the second lift of pavement between Kenyan Road and the Richmond/Williston town line. Installed driveway tie-ins within the Richmond Village.

Construction activities: The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, October 2:

Sunday-Friday, 7:00 PM – 6:30 AM:

- continue adjustment of the drainage structures between Lemroy Court and Baker Street;
- continue ditching, shoulder work, and guardrail installation between Baker Street and the I-89 Exit 11 interchange.

Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM:

- weather permitting, continue the final lift of paving at the eastern end of the project between Cochran Road and Lemroy Court;
- later in the week, weather permitting, continue paving the final lift of pavement from Kenyon Road to the Richmond/Williston town line;
- continue shoulder work from the eastern end of the project to Lemroy Court.

Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits! Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference US-2 Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: July 2024

Richmond U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 Replacement
Traffic impact:

- U.S. Rt. 2: traffic control will be present allowing for 1-lane of alternating travel;
- Monday-Friday, I-89 both southbound passing lane and the northbound travel lane will be closed from 5:30 AM – 3:00 PM and both the southbound and northbound right shoulders will be closed all within the project.

Project update: began construction for the support of excavation wall for abutment #2; began forming and tying rebar for abutment #1 backwall; continued installing fill in front of the Richmond Fire Station.

Construction activities: the following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, October 2:

Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM:

- continue forming and tying rebar for the backwall of abutment #2 with placement of concrete to take place on Thursday;
- continue support of excavation wall for abutment #2;
- continue installing fill in front of the Richmond Fire Station to build up the ground;
- remove the support of excavation around the I-89 median pier and backfill.

Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits!
Project type: complete bridge replacement

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: September 2025

Williston Intersection Project – U.S. Rt. 2 and Industrial Avenue
Traffic impact: minimal impact on the traveling motorists during daytime hours. Motorists can expect lane closures with traffic control present during nighttime work operations.

Construction update: prepped the roadway for permanent pavement markings throughout the project; general site cleanup.

Construction activities: below is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, October 2:

Sunday-Thursday, 7:00 PM – 6:00 AM:

- grinding of the asphalt on the line striping layout in anticipation of the inlaid final pavement markings.
- Thursday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM:
- if grinding work is completed by Thursday at 6:00 AM, then motorists can expect lane closures for the start of the installation of pavement markings on U.S. Rt. 2.

Please follow the posted speed limits!
Project type: installation of new drainage improvements and full-depth reconstruction.

Projected completion: Fall 2023
Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference U.S. Route 2, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

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Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference U.S. Route 2, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Did you know that more than 50% of children and youth in foster care live with a relative or close family friend? Vermont Kin As Parents (VKAP) supports more than 1000 families across Vermont who care for children. Find out more at VKAP.ORG.

To learn more about foster care, go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/foster>.

You can also call your local Family Services District Office and ask to speak to the Resource Coordinator: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact/districts>.

ARPA funding available to fix failed wells, septic systems

Governor Phil Scott and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) today announced \$5M of funding to support low- and moderate-income Vermont homeowners in repairing or replacing their failed or inadequate on-site water or wastewater systems. This is the third round of funding for the program.

“Wells and septic systems can be costly to repair, and this funding will help many Vermonters afford these critical fixes that ensure safe, reliable systems, and healthier living,” said Governor Scott.

Eligible homeowners may apply for this round of ARPA On-Site funding by Tuesday, October 31, 2023. The application process includes submitting an online pre-qualification application. For help filling out the pre-qualification application, please contact a dedicated assistance specialist at 802-828-0141, 877-344-0354 (toll-free), or ANR.HealthyHomes@vermont.gov.

With limited funding, ANR will select approximately 200 priority projects to receive funding based on income, environmental impact, household demographics, and severity of system failure. ANR anticipates issuing awards for priority projects by the spring of 2024. Awardees must complete their projects and spend the funding by September 2026.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- have a failed or inadequate on-site drinking water and/or wastewater system (also known as wells, springs, septic systems or tanks, leach fields, drywells, or cesspools);
- own and live on a residential property with either a single-family home or an owner-occupied, multi-family home with up to four units;
- earn a household income of less than \$80,835 per year.

Community groups cannot directly receive awards but can help homeowners apply or learn about the funding. For those with accessibility needs, ANR has dedicated staff members who can help fill out the pre-qualification application over the phone at no cost.

ANR first announced this funding in 2021 and received an overwhelming response, revealing a true underlying need for lower income Vermonters to access support for basic water and sanitation at their homes. Previous applicants do not need to submit a new application as ANR will automatically consider their first application in future funding rounds.

ANR is in the process of allocating over \$10 million to more than 400 Vermont households from the first and second rounds of funding. Over half of these households have a household income of less than \$30,000, and nearly 90% of these households have a household income of less than \$50,000.

GMP programs, information help with EV decisions

From Green Mountain Power

GMP rebates can help you save when you switch to driving electric. Depending on your income, you can get up to \$3200 from GMP when you buy or lease an all-electric vehicle. This rebate can be combined for bigger savings with up to \$4000 in rebates from the state of Vermont, and up to \$7500 in federal tax credits available for some vehicles. Learn more about GMP's rebates online at <https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/ev-rebate/>.

Curious about EVs, but just not sure you're ready? GMP's *Try-an-EV* service may be just for you. You choose an EV, and try it out for a month through a low-commitment, monthly subscription with Motor that you can cancel anytime. You can check out a VW one month, a Nissan the next, then switch to a Tesla. The subscription includes the car, the insurance, maintenance, and more. The experts at Motor provide an EV concierge service to answer your EV driving and charging questions around the clock. Learn more on GMP's website: <https://greenmountainpower.com/try-an-ev/>.

And once you become an EV driver, GMP will give you a Level 2 charger to install and use while you're enrolled in GMP's home charging program. This gives you access to discount home charging rates, which are like paying about \$1.20/gallon for gas! Questions? Email EnergyInnovationTeam@greenmountainpower.com or call 888-835-4672.

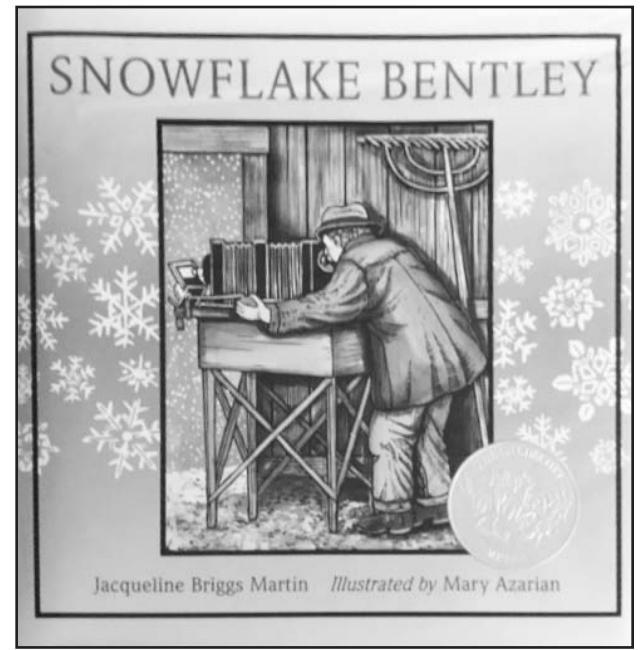
Free business workshops, legislative events

By Pat Ripley, LEDC

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and the Lamoille Chamber of Commerce have several live events planned in the coming weeks, including the beginning of our popular legislative breakfast series starting in November! We are also offering free online business trainings through fall.

Small Business and Individual Retirement Planning In Your 20s to 70s, Wednesday, October 25, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, at GMTCC, Hyde Park. Are you a business owner interested in starting an employer-sponsored plan or improving a current plan? Or are you an individual investor who would like to learn effective strategies for investing in your personal retirement accounts? If so, making time for this short presentation could make a huge difference in your ability to build wealth over time. The presentation will cover the following topics: types of employer-sponsored retirement plans and the characteristics of each; effective investment strategies for optimizing returns and reducing tax liability; the importance of diversifying assets; how to avoid high fees; how to increase returns; how to avoid investor mistakes. Join LEDC and One Day in July Financial Advisor Carrie McDonnell to discuss these important topics and chart your path to the future. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-business-and-individual-retirement-planning-in-your-20s-to-70s-tickets-690269082407?aff=oddtcreator>.

Lamoille County Legislative Preview Discussion, Sunday,



Snowflake Bentley picture book created flurry 25 years ago

By Wayne Howe

The release of Mary Azarian and Jacqueline Briggs Martin's picture book *Snowflake Bentley* dramatically increased those who knew the Bentley story. The success of the book has been not just local or regional, but national. Twenty-five years ago Azarian and Martin's book put the Snowflake Bentley story on the map.

The book began merely as text manuscript. The bittersweet ending arrested the attention of a publisher, who as a girl was familiar with north country winters... she wept. After matching the author with an artist, and convincing Houghton Mifflin that this children's book about a grown up would sell, the book was released in 1998.

Reviews from the publishing industry were complimentary. The Kirkus Review called it "a lyrical biographical tribute to a farmer, whose love of snow and careful camera work expanded both natural science and photography." Horn wrote of the work, "a beautiful blend of Azarian's splendid woodcuts, [Martin's] lyrical text, and factual sidebars." The School Library Journal hailed it as "inspiring." The book sold over 100,000 copies in its first year. In 1999 the book won the Caldecott Medal, the most prestigious and influential award in children's literature. In its citation the Caldecott committee chair wrote: "Snowflake Bentley has a beautiful and thoughtful design, a poetic and informative text, distinguished illustrations, universal appeal and resonance." With the imprimatur of quality — the foil medallion — bestowed on the book's cover, sales and influence of *Snowflake Bentley* have continued to this day.

Mary Azarian and Jacqueline Briggs Martin came to Jericho shortly after the book was released, presenting to an enthusiastic audience, attending a dinner in their honor, and marveling at the Snowflake Bentley exhibit inside the Old Red Mill. Later, Scholastic made a film of the book in 2003, dispatching a film crew from California to Jericho for a few live scenes they threaded through the film.

Copies of *Snowflake Bentley* can be found in schools, libraries and museums across North America. Others have written books featuring Bentley and his work, but none has reached the broad numbers that *Snowflake Bentley* did 25 years ago.

Find further information about Snowflake Bentley online at www.snowflakebentley.com.

November 12, 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM, at GMTCC, Hyde Park. Lamoille Chamber of Commerce, LEDC, and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce are hoping you will join us in this important discussion as we explore issues that are expected to impact businesses in the upcoming Vermont Legislative Session. The Vermont Chamber's experienced team of legislative experts and business advocates will present a dynamic and informative discussion, delving into the critical Vermont business agenda heading into the next legislative session. The team will cover policy opportunities and pressures expected in the upcoming session that will directly impact local businesses in Vermont. Q&A time will be dedicated for attendees to engage with speakers, ask questions, and gain personalized insights on how they can navigate legislative engagement and advocacy on the issues that matter most to them. This is also an opportunity for attendees to let our business lobbying team know what their specific policy concerns are so that business advocates can better understand Lamoille County's policy concerns and include them in the business agenda for the 2024 Legislative Session. A light breakfast and coffee will be served. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lamoille-county-legislative-preview-discussion-tickets-707838322477?aff=oddtcreator>.

The preview session will be followed by monthly Legislative Breakfasts as the 2024 Legislative Session unfolds, starting in January. These breakfasts will all include a light breakfast and an opportunity to speak with local lawmakers as they decide how to proceed with various legislative items.

How to Attract Customers with Content Marketing, Thursday, November 2, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, on Zoom: Content Marketing can help your business drive customer engagement and sales. We will look at creating content in different formats for each target audience, using tools to assist in delivery, schedule and plan, and repurpose content. You will have the knowledge and tools you need to attract and engage customers for growing your business. Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9868579316?pwd=6sqDouHdA6bLng80bnUu7pniAVnBR#registration>.

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 Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at 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.

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>

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from the Old-Fashioned Harvest Market Team

To the Editor,

Members of the United Church of Underhill Old Fashioned Harvest Market Steering Committee would like to thank the Jericho and Underhill communities for the huge outpouring of support this past weekend. Along with the sunshine we had a wonderful, safe, and fun-filled weekend! Harvest Market has become a community-wide event and we appreciate all those who pulled it together to be another special year.

There are so many people to thank for making this weekend truly special, including the Jericho/Underhill Fire Department; the people who live in Underhill Flats, whose lives we disrupt every year; to the many volunteers who stepped up to help, even at the last minute; the vendors who came to share their wares with us. Those of you who march in the parade, including the MMU and BRMS marching bands and the Hanaford Fife and Drum Corps; the Chamberlin family for providing hay rides all weekend; the property owners who allowed visitors to park on their property; Vermont State Police for helping us ensure a safe venue; Browns River Middle School and Mills Riverside Park allowing parking through the weekend; those who donated items to the Clutter Barn, Country Store, and Silent Auction; the Select Boards from both Jericho and Underhill; and so many others.

We hope that you had a wonderful time and if you did not make it this year, we will look for you in 2024 when we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary!

**Dave Cliff
Underhill**

Note on bicycles and cars

To the Editor,

If you are driving a car on a road and a cyclist is riding toward you on the opposite side of the road, please keep in mind that the cyclist has the same right to continue to drive straight that a car does. If you want to make a left turn, you must yield to a cyclist who is approaching the intersection, just as you would yield to a car traveling straight past you.

If you do decide to turn left directly in front of a cyclist riding at speed on the road, causing that cyclist to slam on her brakes (to avoid hitting your car), skid, eject from her bike and skid to a stop in a bloody mess, please stay with that cyclist until help arrives, whether you think you are at fault or not. Leaving a biker alone with a broken bike, a bashed head, and bleeding freely from her limbs is not legal or in any way the right thing to do.

Jericho is a beautiful town to bike through. I see many cyclists enjoying our roads every day. Many of our roads are narrow, have poor or non-existent shoulders, and are a challenge for cyclists to ride safely. PLEASE pay attention, slow down and be kind. We all have a right to safely navigate this town. Thank you.

**Jessica Dion
Jericho**

Jericho Congregational Church

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"
On the Green in Jericho Center, VT
Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Peter 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

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 is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it! Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho and worships Sundays at 9:30 AM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453.

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.

Covenant Community Church — "Come As You Are!"

What is the Covenant? The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo — people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 – 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 – 11:00 AM; Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM – ?

Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo's)

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/>.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

CSWD news you can use
From Chittenden Solid Waste District

CSWD wants to help you with your winter cleanup or clean out! When the leaves start to turn, Vermonters start prepping for the cold months ahead — winter tire changeovers, putting gardens to rest, draining lawn mowers. What do you do with old tires, leftover household hazardous waste like pesticides, old paint, or gas? For those who use our Drop-Off Centers, how do you find out if our hours are affected by winter weather?

Bring your old tires to CSWD

It is illegal to dispose of tires in your trash and dumping on the side of the road is not cool either. Bring your old tires to us and we will recycle them for you: standard vehicle tires (motorcycle, car, van) up to 19.5", large truck tires ranging from 20"-24.5" and large equipment tires can be brought to any CSWD Drop-Off Center (except our Burlington and Hinesburg locations). Tires bigger than that go to the Drop-Off Center located in Williston. For fees, locations and hours, please visit our website, <http://www.cswd.net>.

Handle your household hazardous waste safely

The Rover is coming to the towns of Hinesburg and South Burlington in the next few weeks. The Rover, CSWD's mobile household hazardous waste collection unit, accepts a wide variety of household hazardous waste at no charge from Chittenden County residents. CSWD provides the Rover as a service to residents who cannot make the trip to the Environmental Depot, our permanent hazardous waste collection facility located in South Burlington. Please note: Business waste is not accepted and is limited to 20 gallons of material per resident.

Upcoming Rover Dates: Saturday, October 14, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Shelburne Highway Garage, 114 Turtle Lane, 0.4 mile down Harbor Road from U.S. Rt. 7.

For those who cannot make a Rover date, the Environmental Depot located in South Burlington accepts waste year 'round by appointment. Choose an appointment time that works for you; dropping off is easy and quick. Visit our website to make an appointment: <http://www.cswd.net/depot>.

Winter is coming! sign up for CSWD text alerts

Stay home and stay safe — subscribe to CSWD text alerts and be the first to know about CSWD delays or closures. It's easy to sign up:

- Text "CSWDAlerts" to 474747 on your cell phone. You enter 474747 like you would a telephone number. CSWDAlerts is the actual text you send.

- A message from CSWDAlerts will be sent to you that verifies you are signed up.

- If you choose to opt out of our alerts, please text the word STOP to 474747 at any time.

Enjoy our beautiful season!

Maple Open House weekend October 7-8

Vermont continues to lead the nation by a commanding margin as the top maple producing state. In the spring of 2023, Vermont sugar makers produced over two million gallons of maple syrup, representing about half of the U.S. production of maple syrup.

Add maple to your fall road tour of apple picking and leaf peeping during Maple Open House on Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8. Explore how producers make millions of gallons of the best pure maple syrup — from tree to tap to table! Maple Open House events offer Vermont's sugar makers a chance to welcome visitors near and far into their sugarhouses to learn, taste, and explore firsthand why you should think of Vermont first when you think of maple syrup.

While the sap is not running in the fall, there are plenty of ways to enjoy some traditional and not-so-traditional Open House activities: sugarhouse tours, sampling syrup, tours of the woods, pancake breakfasts, and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy, maple ice cream and creemees! Find all the details at www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW.

There are so many ways to celebrate maple:

- Grab a free Maple Meander passport during Maple Open House or the state's Maple 100 celebration. Get your passport stamped during these fall celebrations and then continue to meander around the state for the rest of the year to earn fun maple swag. Participating locations and details here: <https://vermontmaple.org/meander>.

- Support Vermont producers by purchasing their syrup and other maple products, through their individual online sites or by reaching out directly. Stock up on a gallon or two of syrup and some specialty products just in time for the holiday season! Find a Vermont sugar maker online at <https://vermontmaple.org/buy-pure-maple/>.

- Substitute maple in your favorite dish or recipe. Find out how here: <https://vermontmaple.org/substitute-maple-for-sugar>. Find a new favorite maple recipe on our website <https://vermontmaple.org/recipes/>.

"It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!"

Winnie the Pooh

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin

at 802-453-6354 for more information

or email mtngazette@gmavt.net

Obituaries continued from page 8

(Brian), and Ruth Randall (Tom); and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Rob was predeceased by his grandparents, Ferris and Theresa Charlesworth, and Ruth and Frank Kempsey. Rob graduated from Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington, VT in 1988. Upon graduation he was awarded a four-year ROTC Scholarship to Boston University where he graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Manufacturing Engineering. Later he received his Master's degree in Project Management from George Washington University. Upon graduation from Boston University, Rob received his first Commission through ROTC as an Engineer Officer 2nd Lieutenant. He continued to serve a distinguished 28-year career in the U.S. Army and also held management positions with IBM Corporation and then the Goodrich Aerospace Corporation. Rob is a graduate of the Engineer Basic and Infantry Advance Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College in Washington, D.C. Rob's awards and decorations include the: Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Force Reserve Medal, Combat

Infantryman's Badge, Sapper Tab and Ranger Tab. In July of 2021 Rob retired from the Army. He transitioned back to civilian life and took the position of Director of Lifecycle Management at SRC Tec, LLC in Syracuse, NY. Rob was a loving son, brother, husband, and father. He had a strong love of God and Country and held his family very close to his heart. He was a loyal man, a man of faith, honor and commitment, a soldier who earned great respect. He is a true American hero. Rob and Betsy blended their families and got married in Vermont. Then the Army moved them to Burke, VA and currently to Syracuse, NY. Army life brought many adventures and many friends into their lives. Rob will be deeply missed, but we know he is in God's hands watching over us as we continue our journey here on earth. Visitation hours were on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at Newell-Fay Manlius Chapel, Manlius, NY. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Manlius on Thursday, September 28, 2023; interment followed Mass at Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Syracuse, NY with full military honors. After the burial there was a luncheon at Drumlins Country Club, Syracuse, NY. For guest book, please visit <https://www.scheppfamily.com/>.

Margaret Parker Nichols (Peg) passed away peacefully at home with family by her side in September 2023, after a long illness. Peg graduated from the University of Vermont in 1963,



then married William Nichols and settled in Westford, VT where she lived for 59 years. Peg was predeceased by parents David and Margaret Parker; husband Will; sister Edwina Furman; brother David Parker and sister-in-law Sarah Gruenig. She is survived by her children and their spouses (Sharon and Steve Koller, Sue and Tom Thibault, Nick and Beth Nichols, Jeff and Julia Nichols); by ten grandchildren and their partners, a great-grandchild, brother-in-law Jack Furman,

and three nephews and their families. A private family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to UVM Home Health and Hospice or charity of your choice. For a full obituary and to send condolences and remembrances, visit <http://pegnichols.net/>.

Moon Glow
By Kimberly Madura

suck the marrow
from the moon
and infuse it in
my soul
swallow me whole
propel me to brightly

glow

rise and wane
constant guardian
watching over me
protecting me
keeping me whole
keeping my soul

glow

**Ode to Jericho Center
Town Green Trees**

By Bernie Paquette

We are trees tall and proud,
not ordinary forest trees
though those are grand as well.
Town Center Trees must be strong
our roots are forever walked upon
our leaves are removed (in the fall)
leaves meant to help fertilize us
keep our insect and other creature friends warm,
sometimes our seeds, our very progeny
are harvested — we can only hope
they are cared for and reach a new home.
Nevertheless, we do our duty.
In summer we offer shade
over picnickers' afternoon lunches,
and games that people play beneath us.
In winter we rest,
occasionally offering our blood of sap
for a sweet taste of maple.
In spring we demonstrate renewal
life, all life,
wants to live healthy and vibrantly.
In fall we display our true colors
ablaze — when finally folks look up to us
and note our beauty.
We are your trees
of the Jericho Center Green.

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*Subject to availability and eligibility

SCHOOL NEWS

EWSD Board Meeting October 3

By Ben Dickie, Communications
and Public Relations Coordinator, EWSD

The Essex Westford School District Board (EWSD) will next meet on Tuesday, October 3, 6:30-8:30 PM, in the Library of Essex High School Library (Educational Dr., Essex Junction). The full meeting will be available to watch on Facebook Live thanks to the Media Factory (www.facebook.com/BTVMediaFactory).

Agenda items for the meeting include:

- Youth Truth Data — student engagement, a sense of belonging;
- EWSD student engagement strategies;
- 802 Smiles;
- Governing Process (Policy 4.0) — Board monitoring of policies.

To learn more about the EWSD Board, please go online to <http://www.ewsd.org/page/schoolboard>.

MMU Academic Boosters
Lasagna Dinner October 12

The Mount Mansfield Academic Boosters have been serving lasagna every fall for 36 years as its only fundraiser to support activities for the school year. The meal is open to all in our community and will be takeout only. Place your order now using this link: <http://mmu-academic-boosters.square.site/>.

This year the event will be held on Thursday, October 12, with pickup from 3:30 – 6:30 PM. Final orders and payment must be received by Thursday, October 5 at 5:00 PM.

Pickup will take place at the front entrance of MMU. Servers will bring your dinner directly to your vehicle. It includes lasagna (meat, veggie, GF), green salad and dressing, bread and butter, and a delicious dessert (apple pie, pumpkin pie, chocolate cake, or GF dessert). Dinners are \$15 each.

The MMU Academic Boosters is a group of parents whose goal is to promote, recognize, and reward the achievements of all students and each year sponsors MMU activities and events that encourage a positive focus on students and appreciation of staff. Past activities include purchasing panini presses for the cafeteria, serving Ben and Jerry's ice cream and handing out

snacks and notes of encouragement for all students, and hosting staff appreciation meals. Please see our MMU Booster webpage, https://mmu.mmuusd.org/families/academic_boosters, for further information.

If you want to donate or volunteer for the event, please sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4FA4A82CA1F49-academic#>.

We love alumni parents' help at this event. Have experience volunteering in years past? Please consider helping out. Contact us at mmuacademicboosters@mmuusd.org.

Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, October 12.

Richmond Elementary School
Big Truck Day October 14

From the Richmond Elementary School PTO

The Richmond Elementary School PTO invites area families to Big Truck Day. The family-oriented, community event will be held at Richmond Elementary School, School St., Richmond, on Saturday, October 14, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. A \$5/person donation (\$20 max per family) will help support the new RES playground, field trips, classroom materials, and moral support for the hard-working staff at RES.

Come meet local servicemen and women, while checking out the trucks that they operate. There will be police cars, fire trucks, military vehicles, construction equipment, farm equipment, and more. This special day will allow children of all ages to see, touch, and explore many of their favorite big trucks and vehicles. There will be food, drinks, face painting, arts and crafts, and more!

Parking might be limited; look for signs for additional parking a block before the entrance to Richmond Elementary School.

Hope to see you there!

LNSU Harvest Dinner,
community gathering October 23

CFrom Michele Aumand, CES, Cambridge School District

Join Lamoille North Supervisory Union (LNSU) for a

Community Harvest dinner and gathering. Lamoille North is delighted to invite you to join us on Monday, October 23, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at Jenna's House, 117 St. Johns Rd., Johnson for an evening of celebration and togetherness. This special event is not just about harvest season — it's about coming together as a community to express gratitude for the abundance of support and goodwill that surrounds us.

The evening will include a light farm supper, student performances, and discussions with school district partners. The event is completely free, but we ask you to register at the link below as we have an accurate headcount for food; and seating is limited, so act now to reserve your spot!

Register here: <https://forms.gle/1ZsFuREtdVRtwT6G9>

Help us celebrate the spirit of the fall season!

Underhill/Jericho Playgroup
on Wednesday mornings

Come join us at the Underhill/Jericho Playgroup! This open playgroup is held in the UID building (the old Underhill ID School, between Browns River Middle School and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library) in the multipurpose room at 10 River Rd., Jericho every Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. We follow the MMUUSD calendar.

Gearred toward children from birth through age 5, this is a great opportunity for kiddos and caregivers to socialize and create connections within our community. There is no registration required. Bring your own snack. We will also play outside on the playground when possible, so please dress for the weather.

Email underhill.playgroup@gmail.com to sign up for reminders and updates. Hope to see you there!

Preschool openings in Jericho
for 2023-24 year

Saxon Hill School has openings for the 2023-2024 school year in the three-day Green Class that meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and in the four-day Rainbow Class that meets Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. More information can be found online at <https://saxonhillschool.org/registration.html>, or contact Registrar@SaxonHillSchool.org.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

The Essex Community Players fall production will present Agatha Christie's *Murder in the Studio*, a collection of three radio plays (*Personal Call*, *Yellow Iris*, and *Butter in a Lordly Dish*). A talented cast of eleven directed by Adam Cunningham will entertain you with these three whodunnits. Presented at Essex Memorial Hall, 5 Towers Rd., Essex. Special ticket prices \$12-14; all seats reserved. There will be performances Friday, October 6, 7:30 PM; Saturday, October 7, 2:00 and 7:30 PM; and Sunday, October 8, 2:00 PM. For tickets and information: <http://www.essexplayers.com>.

Weekly Community Choir on Thursdays — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong*! We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings! We meet from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Thursdays at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Whether you sing in the shower, sing Karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a great singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing (no performances except for one short one for family and friends at the end of the season). We sing most weeks, and you can come as often as you are able; if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Planning to come? Please email Doug Varney so that we have enough copies of music for our first meeting. Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219, or just show up on a Thursday evening!

The Westford Music Series concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. The lineup for the 2023-2024 season is as follows: October 15, *Twangtown Paramours*; November 12, *Marsh Lights*; December 17, *Carol Ann Jones and Friends*; January 21, *FREVO*; February 25: *Will Patton Ensemble*; March 24, *Dale and Darcy Trio*; April 7: *Heliand*; May 5, *Howling Waters*.

The Music of J.S. Bach in concert on Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Burlington — Beloved orchestral works of J.S. Bach will be performed including the *Keyboard Concerto in D minor* and the popular *Double Concerto* for two violins, as well vocal arias, and the *Cello Suite No. 4 in E-flat major*. Tickets (\$15-\$30) are available at www.capitalcityconcerts.org, and at the door on the day of the performance while they last. Check the website for venue updates.

Karen Winslow Solo Exhibition Opening Reception — Join us in the Sugarhouse Gallery at Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries on Saturday, October 7, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM for the opening reception of Karen Winslow's Solo Exhibition. Karen will be demonstrating her *plein air* technique throughout the day. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Karen is among the few artists today who is reviving and upholding "Old Master" techniques and traditional craftsmanship. She grinds most of her paints, makes her own mediums and varnishes, and prepares the finest Belgian or Irish linen, panels, or 100% rag paper with the best grounds. View her incredible oil landscapes and still lifes throughout the month of October at Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries, VT Rt. 108 South, Jeffersonville. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. For more information contact 802-899-3211 or www.emilegruppegallery.com.

Bryan Gallery in Jeffersonville announces the grand opening of its latest dual exhibitions: the Main Gallery will highlight the timeless allure of landscapes in *Land & Light & Water & Air*; while the Middle Room Gallery will intrigue with the captivating world of *Nature's Abstraction*. Both exhibitions are open. This year (2023) marks 16 years of Land & Light exhibitions with *A Testament to Tradition and Innovation* in a signature exhibition that pays homage to this storied tradition. Showcasing the works of over 90 talented artists, the exhibition presents an array of Vermont, New England, and Northeastern traditional landscape paintings that capture the interplay of land and light in their most picturesque moments. *Land & Light* runs through Saturday, December 23. Simultaneously, the Middle Room Gallery will feature *Nature's Abstraction: A Dive into the Intricate Patterns of the Natural World*, an exhibition that delves into the intricate and enigmatic beauty found in the natural world with a captivating display of abstract art. Visitors are invited to explore the hidden patterns, colors, and forms that lie beneath the surface of nature's grandeur. The exhibition celebrates the fusion of artistic vision and natural wonders, with a fresh perspective that transcends traditional representation. *Nature's Abstraction* runs through Sunday, November 5. The Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; open Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM or Monday-Tuesday by appointment. For more information contact Stephen Gothard, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org.

Submit a poem, short story, or essay for the VT Writers' Prize: Green Mountain Power (GMP) and *Vermont Magazine* are encouraging writers to get their entries ready for one of the state's top literary contests, the Vermont Writer's Prize. The Prize

Art / Music / Theater continued on page 16



The Westford Music Series will bring the angelic voices of the award-winning husband and wife musician duo The Twangtown Paramours of Nashville, TN back to Vermont for their annual fall tour, as the first concert of the 2023 season — at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Westford Common on Sunday, October 15, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. Well known from past concerts for their well-crafted award-winning songs, top-notch lead singing, and fine harmonies, their music has been called "Sophisticated Americana" best describing their hybrid interpretation of the Nashville and Austin music scene. Free will donations. Pie raffle for extra fun. Call 802-879-4028 for more information. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will CONTINUE the public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY October 25, 2023 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A continuation request to the DRB by Gary & Tammy Davis for a Final Plat Review for four lot subdivision - PUD. The property is located at 52 Cilley Hill Road which is in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB by Pinemarten LLC for a conditional use review for a change of use from retail to restaurant. The property is located at 39 VT Route 15 which is in the Village Center Zoning District.

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

SPORTS NEWS

Guess the date VTrans “Locks the Notch” to support kids on the mountain

Buy a raffle entry to guess the *final date* when the pass on VT Rt. 108 between Smugglers’ Notch and Stowe will close for the winter season. The closure will be determined by confirmation from VTrans.

Half of the raffle proceeds will go to the winner, and half will go to the Smugglers’ Notch Ski & Snowboard club, supporting kids getting out on the hill in the winter.

Buy your entry here: <https://go.rallyup.com/lockthenotch/Campaign/Details?ReturnUrl=/Campaigns/Setup/8fbc4d/Raffle>

Wildlife Tracking Immersion starting November 4

Cold Hollow to Canada is offering a Wildlife Tracking Immersion, open to public sign-up, to train participants in identifying and interpreting wildlife track and sign. We’ll spend eight Saturdays exploring diverse wildlife habitat at field sites throughout the Cold Hollow area (from Jeffersonville north to the Canadian border), learning wildlife sign in snow and other substrates, and building an understanding of how animals move through the landscape.

Participants will have an opportunity to apply tracking skills to monitor conservation priority sites, report rare species, and identify wildlife corridors and road crossings.

The program runs from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Saturdays, November 4, December 2, January 13, February 3, February 24, March 16, April 6, and April 27.

More information and the application are available at <http://www.coldhollowtocanada.org/wildlife>.

Jericho youth basketball registration is open

Registration is open for the Mount Mansfield Youth Basketball League (MMYBL) 2023-24 season — this year, we are excited to welcome kindergarteners into our league!

We are managing registrations via Google Forms. You can read about the descriptions of our programs on our website, <http://mmybl.org>. Unlike previous years, you do not need to log-in or create an account to register. Links to the Google Forms are on the 2023-24 MMYBL Programs page of our website; or use the appropriate link below to register.

For questions, contact admin@mmybl.org.

Recreational League: grades K-2: <https://forms.gle/1ozpXPXtr3dSz7YY6>; deadline to register is Monday, October 23.

Recreational League: grades 3-6: <https://forms.gle/pk9s5dx1AgCY66Uq5>; deadline to register: Monday, October 9.

Copley Gravel Moxie

Copley Hospital’s annual Gravel Moxie ride is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. For this fun scenic ride that supports Copley Hospital, riders can choose from a 50-, 25-, or 10-mile family fun ride. New routes — new venue! Riders will enjoy backcountry roads in Morrisville, Hyde Park, Johnson, North Hyde Park, Eden, Craftsbury, and Wolcott, while being challenged with curves, slopes and hills and greeted with views of Mount Mansfield, the Worcester range, and beyond. Our 10-mile family fun ride takes riders on trails with gentle sloping. Bicyclists will take on some of the best gravel our Green Mountain state has to offer while taking in some of the most beautiful countryside in support of our community hospital. Thank you to Lost Nation Brewing for hosting this year’s event. Check out bike routes at <https://www.copleyvt.org/support-copley/copley-gravel-grinder/>; register at <https://www.bikereg.com/>.

Westford Turkey Trot will be November 18

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

The Westford Turkey Trot is an annual road race on beautiful country dirt roads. This race dates back to the 1990s and has historically raised money to support the children and families of Westford. All proceeds continue to benefit this cause. Your race fee will go towards supporting the Annual Westford Town Library Baby Tea, scholarships, holiday baskets, and grocery gift cards for families in need.

This year’s event will occur on Saturday, November 18 at Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Pre-register for this event by Wednesday, November 1 to receive a free event shirt! Register online at <https://www.runreg.com/westford-turkey-trot>.

Race Day Registration and Packet Pickup will be in the Gym from 8:30 – 9:30 AM. The Tot Trot will begin at 9:45 AM in the driveway, where spectators and runners line the driveway to cheer on the tots. The 10K and 3K Races start will be at 10:00 AM. Racers will line up on Brookside Road, just beyond the school drive entrance.

Post-race concessions will be available for purchase in the gym, hosted by the Westford Common Hall. After the last runner finishes, we’ll announce the race winners (around 11:45 AM), and award raffle prizes. All participants are entered into the raffle. Raffle prizes include handmade jewelry and winter hats, gift cards, maple syrup, crafts, and much more!

This is a Westford Recreation event, fully fueled by the generosity of our community. Race day volunteers and raffle items are still needed — if you would like to volunteer or donate a raffle item, please contact Race Coordinator Meghan Valyou Orisko, valyoum@gmail.com or 617-999-4772.

Cambridge Basketball Association needs volunteer coaches

The Cambridge Basketball Association is looking for volunteer coaches for the upcoming 2023-2024 basketball season, which runs from November to mid-February. See below for openings:

1st and 2nd Grade Co-Ed Intramurals (one practice/week, 1.5 hours)

3rd and 4th Grade Co-Ed Intramurals (one practice/week, 1.5 hours)

5th and 6th Grade Co-Ed Intramurals (one practice/week, 1.5 hours)

5th and 6th Grade Travel Team Boys (One-two practices/week, one-two games per week, give or take)

All volunteer coaches must complete mandatory CPR and First Aid Training. They also must pass a background check.

No experience is necessary; we are willing to train and help design practice plans to ensure developmental progress in our student athletes and coaches.

Please contact Katie French, 802-798-2575 or cambridgevtbasketball@gmail.com, for more information.

Westford Bike Park is open

By Lori Miller, Westford Recreation Committee member

The Westford Recreation Committee is extremely excited to announce that the new Westford Bike Park opened for riding on Friday, September 15! A grand opening of the park will be held mid-October, and we will announce the details soon.

Please enjoy Westford’s newest outdoor recreation spot safely! Remember to wear a helmet when riding. There will be signs posted indicating the challenge of each different part of the track. Ride within your ability and look at the jumps before you ride them.

The trails ARE directional — they are downhill only, so please be sure not to ride up the trails. When heading out to the trails, please stay up on the hill or ride along the gravel road that leads out to the park; don’t ride your bike across the school soccer fields or through the playground areas.

Please help care for the new trails by allowing 24 hours for trails to dry after any significant rainfall in order to prevent erosion and damage.

Happy riding, everyone! Break out your Strider, Nishiki, BMX, Stumpjumper, or whatever mountain bike, and hit the trails!

Westford Rec adult pick-up basketball

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

Play ball! Well, Basketball anyway — have some fun, get a workout, make new friends.

Westford Rec is sponsoring pick-up basketball on Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, for ages 16+ at the Westford School gym, Westford Elementary School, Brookside Road, beginning October 4-January 3 (excluding when the school is closed for holidays, breaks, snow days).

There will be two sessions: a fall session, October-January, and a spring session, February-June. The cost is \$5 to just drop in; or \$20 for the fall session, \$25 for the spring session, or \$40 for both sessions.

Register online at <https://forms.gle/xjzjzHqn6C24FmYM6>.

SENIOR NEWS

Beginning Tai Chi offered October 5-December 21

From Billie Hall, Tai Chi instructor with Age Well.

New to Tai Chi? Tai Chi for Fall Prevention is a great beginning class. It helps to improve balance, focus and become more aware of our bodies in space — mindfulness. You will be instructed in each form and progress at your own speed. Adjustments to the movements can be made to suit each individual’s abilities. The goal is for you to improve your balance and be able to continue the practice on your own. This class is offered free of charge through Age Well.

The class is offered on Thursdays, October 5-December 21, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (across from John Leo’s). Certified Instructor: Billie Hall, TCFP Certification through Tai Chi Vermont. To register contact Billie Hall, hall.bd@comcast.net, by October 2.

Seated Tai Chi for falls prevention class — live/Zoom

Age Well, our local Agency on Aging, and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Falls Prevention for those 60 and older, or those who have limiting conditions, who would like to improve their overall health, balance, strength, and well-being.

Tai Chi is a mild form of exercise that gently works the entire body and mind. Over time we will learn the Sun Style Form, and also through mindfulness we will learn ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed (e.g., “white coat syndrome”). The form can be adapted to your personal needs so all can participate fully. All are welcome. This will be offered as a hybrid class: in-person or Zoom classes begin Monday, October 2:

- in-person class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, at DRML; handicapped accessible; or
- ZOOM class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in the comfort of your own home. A Zoom link will be provided.

For questions or to register please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Friendly visiting volunteers needed

From Lauren Walsh, Volunteer Program Administrator
Age Well (formerly Area Agency on Aging)

Age Well is seeking volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Help older Vermonters by delivering Meals on Wheels, providing friendly visits, going grocery shopping, running errands, assisting with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, providing respite, doing minor home repairs, participating in 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 at 802-662-5249 or volunteer@agewellvt.org for information.

Since 1974, Age Well has been part of Vermont’s Area Agencies on Aging, coordinating services and care for older adults throughout Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. Age Well provides services and resources to older Vermonters (60+) such as Meals on Wheels, Community Meals, Restaurant Ticket Programs, Special Events, Care and Service Coordination, and Health and Wellness opportunities like Tai Chi. All programs and services are offered at no cost to those that receive services.

We are always looking for Friendly Visitors, Senior Companions, Meals on Wheels drivers, and Respite Volunteers!

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County upcoming events

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County has events going on: We have a fall bulb fundraiser happening this month. 50% of your purchase will go to our home-delivered meal program. You can order at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

Pottery Event for a Cause on Saturday, October 7. Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

P.S. We are always looking for volunteers to help prep in our kitchen and deliver meals.

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At the Gruppe Gallery through Sunday, November 5 is an exhibit by Michael Strauss, who will attend an artist reception on October 15, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Strauss will also be at the Gallery on Sunday, October 22, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and will speak at 1:00 PM about Exploring How Art Gets Made with Time-Lapse and Stop Motion Video. The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho; hours Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment; 802-899-3211, emilegruppegallery.com. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 14

was launched in 1989 to celebrate writing about Vermont and Vermonters, while honoring the literary legacy of the late Ralph Nading Hill Jr., a Vermont historian and writer and a longtime member of GMP's board of directors. Entries are being accepted now; the deadline is January 1, 2024. Winners will be selected in prose and poetry, and each winner receives \$1250 and their works will be published in *Vermont Magazine's* Summer 2024 issue. Submissions can be essays, short stories or poems that focus on *Vermont — Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values*. Entries must be unpublished, poems have a 40-line limit, and prose entries must be less than 1500 words long. Individuals may submit only one work. Entrants may be amateur or professional writers. Employees of *Vermont Magazine* or GMP and previous winners are ineligible. More details, including how to submit, are available online at <https://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit>.

Closing Reception for Jericho Town Hall Art: Celebrate. Come meet the artists who created the works of art for the current show *Celebrate* as the Town Hall Art Committee closes it out on Sunday, October 8, 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Jericho Town Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

Call to Artists: Trees For All Seasons: Trees have often been a backdrop in works of art, this is an opportunity to put trees in the limelight. Established and emerging artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography. The exhibit is scheduled from October-December 2023 in the Jericho Town Hall. The main requirement is that the work must be able to be hung on a gallery hanger system and not a photo picture frame hanger. Registration forms are due by Friday, October 6, 2023. For registration materials and information, contact Catherine McMains, catherine.mcmains@gmail.com. Registration materials and other information can also be found on the Jericho Town website, <http://jerichovt.org/>. The exhibit is one 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 include Catherine McMains, SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander,

gallery owner; and artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

Joe's Big Band is teaming with local singer Andriana Chobot for a unique show at Higher Ground Showcase Theater, Williston Rd., S. Burlington on Friday, October 6, 7:30 – 10:00 PM. Andriana will be singing jazz standards at this one of a kind event. Joe's Big Band is a 17-piece jazz ensemble based in the Burlington area that has been performing music ranging from Swing Era classics to contemporary jazz, blues, and funk throughout northern Vermont for over 30 years. The band was founded in the late 1980s by local jazz musician Joe Levesque, who enjoyed giving musicians opportunities to play, as well as sharing the music he loved. Since his passing in 2004, Joe's Big Band has carried on in Joe Levesque's memory. The band is made up of talented, fun-loving musicians from all over the Champlain Valley who faithfully reproduce the timeless sounds of the masters like Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Woody Herman, Stevie Wonder, Brian Setzer, and many more. There will be plenty of seating for those who just want to listen and watch and a large dance floor for those who want to swing. For more information about the show go online to <https://highergroundmusic.com/events/andriana-chobot-with-joes-big-band/>.

BORDERLANDS, the annual outdoor performance event along a forest trail at Shelburne Farms, presents *Bravely Ever Onward* on Sundays, October 15 and 22; and this year, *Illuminated Borderlands*, a nighttime presentation of *Bravely Ever Onward* as a sound and light show will be presented on Saturday evenings, October 14 and 21. This Borderlands performance shapeshifts familiar folk and fairy tales to gather wisdom for a generation experiencing loss. Our inherited stories give us the navigational stars for the young to find their path. What might we discover from the wise elders, the magician, the nightingale, the ravens, the mermaid, Baba Yaga, or the Frog Prince? All proceeds support Treewild, Enchantment Camps, and Shelburne Farms programs for children. For more information and tickets go online to <https://treewild.org/Borderlands/>.

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