

### Silver lining

By Lisa Loomis  
April 23, 2020

Valley Reporter (Waitsfield) editorial

In the midst of this time of self-isolation and social distancing during COVID-19 our lives have changed in so many ways that it's hard to keep up.

A lot of these changes have been difficult and scary and painful. But at least one change in how Vermont conducts itself has been good and that has been the way Vermont's elected leaders communicate with us.

With his three-times-a-week press conference, Governor Phil Scott and his cabinet have been providing unparalleled access to the information they are using to guide their decisions.

Governor Scott and Health Commissioner Mark Levine are standing at the podium for 90 minutes to two hours three times a week fielding calls from print, broadcast and digital journalists from all over the state. Oftentimes other cabinet members are present either in person or by phone.

By demonstrating such willingness to answer every single question from every corner of the state, Scott and his team are providing all journalists with a vast amount of information that they disseminate to their communities, improving all Vermonters' awareness and information during this pandemic.

And that's a good thing. Far too often, only a handful of media outlets cover press conferences. Now that journalists are encouraged to call in versus attend in person, participation is much more extensive and inclusive and this will change how newsgathering takes place in Vermont going forward.

It helps all of us to hear the concerns and questions asked by reporters from other parts of the state. It gives all of us a fuller picture of what is happening and what is important during this challenging time.

Clearly the governor and his cabinet and staff have an enormous amount on their plates, yet, following the governor's example, they are taking the time to respond to every question they are asked.

Compare these extremely informative and useful press conferences with what is happening at the national level where journalists are berated and scolded and talked over. We're lucky here in Vermont that getting critical information to the public is such a high priority for the Scott administration.

That's a real silver lining.  
Reprinted with permission.

### May property taxes — Bolton

By Amy Grover  
Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The final installment of property taxes is due on Monday, May 18, 2020.

Reminder: late payments of the final installment of property taxes incur an immediate 8% late penalty and 1% interest and trigger the process outlined in the Delinquent Tax Collection Policy. As always, there is no "grace period," and May 18, 2020 Federal postmarks are accepted as on time.

Please note: all taxpayers should anticipate making their payment by mail, or by leaving payments in the drop box, as the Town Office remains closed to the public at this time. We are working toward being able to accommodate limited access with a very strict process in place (including masks required, no bathroom access, gloves required, bring your own pen, disinfection after each person) to meet all health and safety guidelines, but that process and the necessary resources are not currently in place. In short, we simply cannot safely accommodate a steady stream of people coming into the office to make tax payments.

While we will continue to accept cash payments (some towns do not accept cash), without having person to person contact, it becomes a very complicated and time-consuming process, if the cash payment is not exact. Paying by check or money order is greatly preferred. One taxpayer said it shouldn't really matter how she pays, because we "have to go to the bank anyway." Actually, we "go to the bank" right from the office with a scanner that deposits checks and money orders directly to the town's bank account.

If your cancelled check is not a sufficient receipt, and you would like a receipt from the office, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope, per the Town's Tax Payment Policy.

Thank you for helping us all stay as safe as possible and reducing exposure on multiple levels by paying your property taxes by check or money order through the U.S. Postal Service or the office drop box. Like everyone, we are looking forward to a return to normal, and we miss being able to chat with our residents.

We recognize that these are challenging times for us all, and financially challenging for some. All taxpayers may request tax abatement from the Board of Abatement for an abatement of taxes, penalties, or interest under 24 V.S.A. § 1535, so long as one of the statutory criteria has been satisfied. One criterion a person can use to request an abatement is an inability to pay their taxes, interest, and penalty fees — 24 V.S.A. §

**Bolton taxes** continued on page 2

## Contest highlights value of Trees



*Hale Marcotte, who attends Fletcher Elementary School in Cambridge, had the top entry in the Grade 2 division in the Growing Works of Art contest, sponsored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program. Hale says, "I really like nature because when I go to bed, I can hear all different kinds of birds in the trees. When I play outside, there is a big tree I like to climb with my brother. We shake snow onto my little sister! We also like going into the woods and sledding. There is a jump between two trees. It is really fun! When we go camping at the beach, my brother and I go into the woods to get wood for the campfire. At my cousin's house, you can bring a snowboard up into the woods and snowboard down by the trees just before you hit a jump over the river."*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

A total of 210 Vermont students from 15 schools and five home school families demonstrated their creativity through artwork and stories about trees for the Growing Works of Art contest, sponsored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry program (VT UCF) as part of its Arbor Day activities.

The theme of this year's contest was "Trees are superheroes." Elementary and middle school students were asked to create a drawing and story about why trees are important to them and were encouraged to share favorite memories.

Entries were judged on creativity and originality (50%) and how well the students communicated their tree story (50%). In many schools, teachers incorporated the contest into their English, science, or art curriculum.

One winner was selected from each grade and received a Vermont State Park punch pass. The top entries are featured online at [go.uvm.edu/growingart](http://go.uvm.edu/growingart). Click on each image for the name and to read the story. The winners were:

Kindergarten: Levi Woodward, Upper Valley Haven Afterschool Program, White River Junction

First Grade: Thea Lenihan, Rochester Elementary School, Rochester

Second Grade: Hale Marcotte, Fletcher Elementary School, Cambridge

Third Grade (tie): Leo Maiello, The Mountain School at Winhall, Bondville, and Rowan Lawrence, home school student, Tunbridge. Rowan is a two-time winner, also placing first in competition two years ago when in first grade.

Fourth Grade: Porter McDonnell, Rochester Elementary School, Rochester

Fifth Grade: Ziva Baker, Mater Christi School, Burlington; Ziva also had the top entry for her grade in both first and third grade.

Sixth Grade: Sean Early, Mater Christi School, Burlington

Seventh Grade: no entries

Eighth Grade: Lydia Beaulieu, Mater Christi School, Burlington

VT UCF is a partnership between University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. For more information, go to [www.vtcommunityforestry.org](http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org).

## Brad Holden – Underhill's Interim Town Administrator

By Phyl Newbeck  
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Brad Holden had been thinking about a new line of work when he learned that Brian Bigelow was retiring from his position as Underhill Town Administrator. A life-long resident of Underhill, Holden wrote to Bigelow and offered to step in as Interim Town Administrator while the town looked for a full-time replacement. "I went to the Select Board meeting on March 19," Holden said. "It was the last public meeting they had and they took me up on my offer. They were already accepting applications and I just offered to take the job until the process was done but it turned out to be a good thing because of the way things changed with the onset of COVID-19."

Holden is enjoying the part time position and his role in keeping Underhill going. Andrew Strimiste, the Zoning and Planning Administrator, has been working from home, and Town Clerk and Treasurer, Sherri Morin, and Assessor, Kermit Blaisdell, have limited office hours. "It was easy to step in

because I know a lot about the town and procedures," Holden said, noting that during his term on the Select Board, which was from 2011-2014, he served with Dan Steinbauer, who is the current chair.

April 27 was the deadline for applications for the Town Administrator position and Holden said dozens of people have applied. A committee will be helping the Select Board decide which candidates to interview but that process will not take place until Governor Scott lifts restrictions on meetings, so things are on hold at least until May 15. Holden has not submitted an application but hasn't completely ruled it out yet. "I told them I'd stay as long as they need me to," he said. "I want them to find the right person and that may take more than one round. The goal was for me to fill in for Brian and keep things together. I want to add to the work he's done and just hope that we can find the right person for the job."

Holden is thankful Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos has loosened the state's Open Meeting laws to avoid bringing

**Brad Holden** continued on page 2

## NEWS

## Six candidates seeking three seats on VEC Board

Six candidates are vying for three seats up for election this year on the board of directors of Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC).

This year members will choose one representative in three VEC board districts. In West Zone, which includes Bolton, Cambridge, Huntington, Jericho, Johnson, Richmond, Stowe, Underhill, Westford, and Waterville, and other towns, there is a three-person contest.

VEC members can vote for candidates online and by mail between May 1-20. Because VEC is holding a modified, "remote" Annual Meeting this year, there will be no in-person voting.

In West Zone, Jeff Forward of Richmond, Ken Hoepfner of Jeffersonville, and Bill Karstens of Alburgh are all seeking the seat in a three-way race.

"Democratic member control is a key co-op principle," noted VEC Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Towne. "And VEC's annual director election is an important opportunity for members to have a say in the co-op's direction," she said.

Because VEC is a cooperative, VEC members elect local representatives — other VEC members — to serve on the twelve-member board. Directors participate in setting policy and are expected to represent the interests of the VEC membership.

VEC members will receive in the mail a packet with in-



Jeff Forward Ken Hoepfner Bill Karstens

Six candidates are vying for three seats up for election this year on the board of directors of Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC). In West Zone (from left), Jeff Forward of Richmond, Ken Hoepfner of Jeffersonville, and Bill Karstens of Alburgh are all seeking one seat in a three-way race.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

structions for voting by mail or on-line.

Statements from the candidates and more information about the modified 2020 Annual Meeting is available at <https://www.vermontelectric.coop/about-us/annual-meeting>.

## Planning building projects in Bolton?

Amy Grover

Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Dreaming of spring/summer building projects? OK, got your permits?

Although most of us have been sidelined for weeks due to the stay-at-home order, there's a glimmer of hope that we may soon get the go-ahead to emerge from our cocoons with renewed energy and our toolboxes in hand. When that happens, will you be ready to get started on your spring and summer building plans?

As a reminder, most new construction projects in the town of Bolton require getting a zoning permit before you build. That includes new homes, additions to existing building footprints, replacing mobile homes, new sheds, garages or barns larger than 80 square feet, home businesses, and accessory dwellings. If you're not sure if your project needs a permit, or how to apply, see the "Do I Need a Permit — Zoning FAQs" handout on the Zoning Applications page (<http://boltonvt.com/documents/zoning-permit-applications/>) of the town website.

While most projects can be approved quickly at the staff level, some may need review and approval from the town's Development Review Board. That can add several weeks, and additional fees to the process. For those reasons, it's best to get started early, even before you have secured financing or scheduled any contractors. It's not too soon to apply for

permits for projects you would like to start building anytime this year.

Normally, we would be pleased to meet with you in person to discuss your plans, what regulations apply, and what permits and fees are needed for your project. Unfortunately, due to the current closure of the Bolton Town Office to the public, that kind of in-person help is on hold, for now. (Check the town website home page for updates.) Regardless, zoning administrator Larry Lewack is available to assist you by phone, 802-434-5075 x225, and by email, [zoningbolton@gmavt.net](mailto:zoningbolton@gmavt.net). Larry's office hours are on Mondays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and by appointment.

Zoning permit applications can be downloaded at the link (above) and printed, then mailed in with your permit fees, or deposited in the drop slot at the Town Office. If you don't have access to a working printer, call us: we can mail application forms to you. (Your completed application can also be scanned at home and emailed. But payment of fees is required to start processing your application.) Please allow extra time for review and approval.

If you're not sure if you need a zoning permit, which permit is needed, or what to include on your application, start with our zoning FAQs. If you're unsure about fees, what rules apply to your project, need help to complete the application or anything else about the process, call or email. We are here to help, and will respond soon!

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Wearing masks during the COVID-19 outbreak

By Courtney Leitz  
Cambridge Selectboard

There has been a great deal of discussion around wearing masks during the COVID-19 outbreak... While Vermont has not mandated that residents wear masks, the VT Department of Health strongly encourages it and we on the Selectboard would like to encourage our residents to follow those guidelines. Masks do not negate the need to be physically distant from others but do help to prevent the spread of coronavirus. One important thing to remember is that wearing a mask ultimately helps you to protect others and the masks that others are wearing are helping to protect you. Masks provide a simple, tangible way for us to help safeguard the Cambridge community while out in public supporting our businesses.

If you aren't the sewing type or haven't had the time to make a mask between trying to continue to do your job from home and homeschooling your kids, here is a link with further info on the importance of masks and a quick video on how to make a cloth face covering from a t-shirt and two rubber bands! <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preventing-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

In addition, Cambridge Cares has obtained a number of masks for residents. You can request one of those masks by emailing them with your address at [covid19@cambridgecaresvt.org](mailto:covid19@cambridgecaresvt.org). Supplies are limited, so there may be a bit of a wait but they will send one out to you as soon as they become available. If you are someone making masks locally and would like to let Cambridge Cares know that you have them, you can also contact them through the above email.

Be strong and be well Cambridge! We appreciate everything that everyone is doing to help stem the tide of COVID-19. This is a fantastic community and it has been encouraging watching the way all of you are working, and volunteering, to help us all get through this.

## Clutter Barn closed until further notice

Traditionally, the United Church of Underhill Clutter Barn opens for collection of donations of gently used household items on the first Saturday in May. This year everything is different because of the COVID-19 crisis. Please note: THE CLUTTER BARN WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Please watch for more information concerning the Clutter Barn schedule for the 2020 season.

## Free Mansfield Dairy products

By Jim Curran, United Way of Lamoille County

Have you worked in Lamoille County and recently been furloughed or laid off as a direct result of COVID-19's impact? We want to help supplement your groceries with products such as milk, cheese, yogurt, and eggs.

Monday-Saturday, May 4-9, bring an old pay stub or proof of employment to Mansfield Dairy and choose up to \$20 in products for free.

Mansfield Dairy, 1424 Waterbury Rd., Stowe. Hours of operation: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; closed Thursday.

PLEASE NOTE: Please wait outside if there is someone shopping in the store, and you MUST wear a face mask to enter.

Provided for by United Way of Lamoille County

## Help support Meals on Wheels

By Amy Grover

Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bolton

Vulnerable older adults are at the greatest risk amid COVID-19. Local Meals on Wheels programs are on the front lines every day, focused on doing all we can to keep older Vermonters safe and nourished. The costs and efforts needed to protect seniors from COVID-19 require additional emergency funds, which is why we are asking federal and state lawmakers, corporations, foundations, and the public to remember these vulnerable older adults in our response.

- Make a donation: Your gift of any size goes a long way to help reduce hunger and isolation: [agewellvt.org](http://agewellvt.org).

- Shop our online auction benefiting Meals on Wheels: <https://www.32auctions.com/AgeWell>.

- Volunteer: Volunteers must be 16+ years or older. Information can be found at <https://www.agewellvt.org/giving-back/volunteer>, or contact 802-662-5249 or [emarks@agewellvt.org](mailto:emarks@agewellvt.org).

- Spread the word: Please let your friends, family, and networks know that older Vermonters need their help! Tell them about the ways they can give (the list above!). Follow Age Well's social media channels – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and share our posts to spread awareness.

## Bolton taxes continued from page 1

1535(a)(3). Although the ability to abate exists, it must be requested, it is up to the discretion of the Board of Abatement (Select Board, Town Clerk, Justices of the Peace), and it is not required that the Board abate any amount, even if the person requesting an abatement meets one of the criteria under 24 V.S.A. § 1535.

Please contact the Town Office if you would like more information on requesting abatement.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Refusal to return to work: COVID-19

By John Mandeville  
Executive Director

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

Here is a link to the clarification on returning to work just issued by the Vermont Department of Labor. There is information here for both employees and employers. Please read to ensure you are aware of the consequences of not returning to your job if you are called back to work.

<https://labor.vermont.gov/unemployment-insurance/refusal-return-work-covid-19>

## Brad Holden continued from page 1

too many people together at one time. With help from the Tech Group of South Burlington, which assists Underhill with IT matters, the Select Board decided to use GoToMeeting software for meetings and hearings. "We're hooked up to the network and there is a lot of personal information," Holden said, "so we were cognizant of security concerns with other platforms." The Conservation Commission met via a telephone conference call, but the Select Board, Development Review Board, and Planning Commission are all using the GoToMeeting software, which also allows for live streaming by Mount Mansfield Community Television. "I wouldn't say we're operating at 100%," Holden said, "but we're close."

Holden noted that while many Town Offices in Vermont are completely closed, Sherri Morin believes it is important to have limited hours in Underhill because residents may

need to conduct title searches if they want to refinance their homes or have other issues which have to be addressed. Only one visitor is allowed in the office at a time and they need to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer.

The interim position has not been without challenges, including questions regarding how much work the road crew could be allowed to do, but Holden notes that a relatively easy mud season has made life easier. "It takes patience to follow the governor's orders," he said, "but I think it's worked well for us."

For Holden, the Interim Town Administrator job has been a nice change of pace. His mother died on New Year's Eve and he is winding down his surveying business. "It's been a big change in my life," he said, "and I'm looking to find a full-time job where I'm not working for myself. It's been nice

having flexibility, but I've had enough of being self-employed." Although the pandemic has created a great deal of stress, Holden is enjoying the opportunity to help out his hometown while he ponders his next step. In the meantime, he's thankful for the way Underhill residents have been responding. "I really appreciate everyone's patience," he said.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Important information about upcoming elections

By Mark Schilling  
Cambridge Town Clerk

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the State of Vermont legislature is seriously considering remote voting for both the August primary and November general elections. It is urgent that you check your voter record to make sure your address is current. We cannot send you a ballot if we do not have your correct address.

You can check your address online by visiting the Vermont Secretary of State's MyVoterPage at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Sign in using the form fields requested. You will need your VT drivers license number. Note that your registered town is CAMBRIDGE, not Jeffersonville.

When you come to your voter information, review your address for accuracy. If you make changes, remember your legal address in this system is always CAMBRIDGE, not Jeffersonville, even if your mailing address is in Jeff. If you need to change your address to a different town, you will need to fill out a new registration. Click the link on the information page.

If you have any questions or issues, contact the Town Office at [clerk@cambridgevt.org](mailto:clerk@cambridgevt.org).

Thank you for taking a minute to review your information.

## Share your stories with the VT Historical Society

By Thomas Stevens  
State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

How are you experiencing COVID-19 and the effect it has on your community? The Vermont Historical Society wants to hear your stories! Visit [digitalvermont.org](https://www.digitalvermont.org) to share photographs, anecdotes, memories, and creative expressions of the impact quarantine has on your life. Add your contributions to the shared archive and help VHS preserve the history we are creating now for future historians.

The VHS also provides digital resources to Vermonters at home. Visit [vermonthistory.org/vhs-online](https://www.vermonthistory.org/vhs-online) to find podcasts, videos, educational activities, and fun online programming.

## Take the 2020 Census today!

By Emma Vaughn, Communications Manager  
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

If you have not already done so, please take 10 minutes today to fill out the 2020 Census and encourage others to do the same: <https://2020census.gov/>.

As of today, only 60% of Chittenden County residents and 43% of Vermont overall have completed the Census. You can track the response at this website created by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information: <https://2020.mapvt.com/>

Results from the 2020 Census will be used to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services, as well as help our communities prepare to meet transportation and emergency readiness needs.

For the first time ever, you can complete the Census online (with over 50 languages translated). You can also respond via mail or phone. Please visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) today!

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

## Higher 3SquaresVT benefits in April, May

Many 3SquaresVT households will get a higher benefit in April and May as part of the federal Coronavirus Relief Bill. This is a temporary increase to help during the current crisis, and will not permanently change a household's monthly benefit.

Households already getting the maximum 3SquaresVT benefit, or a zero benefit, will not get an increase. Everyone else will get the maximum benefit for their household size:

- 1 person = \$194;
- 2 people = \$355;
- 3 people = \$509;
- 4 people = \$646;
- 5 people = \$768;
- Each additional person = +\$146.

3SquaresVT households don't need to do anything to get the increased benefit. If eligible, they'll automatically get it the same way they get their benefits now: on an EBT card, through direct deposit, or by check.

The benefit will be available to eligible recipients for April 2020 on Saturday, May 16 by EBT; Tuesday, May 19 by direct deposit, or when check arrives.

## More COVID-19 assistance links

By John Mandeville  
Executive Director,  
Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

Here is a link to a chart put together by USDA, Rural Development, which provides an easy to understand compilation of the current federal COVID-19 assistance programs for rural communities, businesses, and others:

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA\\_COVID-19\\_Fed\\_Rural\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf).

The link below will take you to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development website page where you will find a list of available resources with additional links to detailed information.

<https://www.thinkvermont.com/2020/04/14/business-tools-resources-covid-19/>

## Free meals for all LNSU children under 18

By John Mandeville  
Executive Director, Lamoille  
Economic Development Corporation

If you are a family with preschoolers and toddlers, you can receive free meals for them! Lamoille North School District is providing free meals to any child under the age of 18. Children from any community can receive meals from any of our sites, open from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at Cambridge Elementary School, Eden Central School, Hyde Park Elementary School, and Johnson Elementary School.

Children do not need to be present to receive meals — a parent can pick up the meals.

On Mondays, all children receive one breakfast and one lunch.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays all children receive two breakfasts and two lunches.

Delivery may be available for families on our bus routes. Please email Tammy, [LNMealdelivery@lnsd.org](mailto:LNMealdelivery@lnsd.org), for more information.

## Still having issues with UI/PUA payments?

By Thomas Stevens  
State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

Are you still struggling with UI/PUA issues? The Speaker of the House and Rep. Krowinski have developed a way for legislators to get your case issues for Unemployment or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for self-employed people directly to the Vermont Department of Labor. As much progress has been made, this new system was developed to get everyone their benefits ASAP, and while we've heard that many people are now enrolled and receiving funds, we'd like to know and to help those who are still somewhere on the queue.

Please contact me, [tstevens@leg.state.VT.us](mailto:tstevens@leg.state.VT.us), or Rep. Wood, [twood@leg.state.VT.us](mailto:twood@leg.state.VT.us), if you'd like us to reach out to the Department of Labor on your behalf.

## Turkey hunting began May 1

By Sarah Pinto  
Chair, Westford Conservation Commission

Please note that the spring turkey season began on Friday, May 1, so be aware when you're out and about, including on the Westford trails. *Wear orange, leash your dog, and make noise.*

Hunting is not allowed on school grounds, but is permitted elsewhere. Orange vests will be placed at the entrance to the woods at Maple Shade Town Forest. Please take one on your way into the woods if you need it, and return it on the way out.

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

## COVID-19, masks, and flattening the curve

By Mark Schilling

One of the most important ways to flatten the COVID-19 curve is to wear a face mask in public. This, along with social distancing and frequent hand washing will help us all bring this terrible situation under control.

The VT State Health Department recommends that all Vermonters wear cloth face coverings when outside of the home, since COVID-19 can spread before a person has any symptoms. Many people are still not complying with this recommendation. Part of the problem may be that they do not know where to find masks. Here is a link to some sources: <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering>.

Some people still may not be able to find or afford masks. Cambridge Cares wants to help. Please contact us at [covid19@cambridgecaresvt.org](mailto:covid19@cambridgecaresvt.org) or 802-242-0426 to request masks. We will send them to you as they become available.

Special thanks to the many generous people and businesses who have contributed to Cambridge Cares before and during this crisis. If you wish to make a contribution of any amount, you may send it to:

Cambridge Cares, P.O. Box 462, Jeffersonville, VT 05464  
Thanks to everyone. Keep Caring!

## Jericho Farmers Market update

We wanted to update you on the status of the Jericho Farmers Market amid the COVID-19 crisis.

You may have heard some discussion in the news that Farmers Markets' operations are limited under the governor's current "Stay Home/Stay Safe" order. However, as our scheduled opening date isn't until Thursday, May 28, we are hopeful that the order will not affect us. If we do need to postpone our opening day, we will be sure to update you on our website, [jerichofarmersmarket.com](http://jerichofarmersmarket.com).

We have lots of vendors signed up, both old favorites and some wonderful new faces, and we're looking forward to seeing you!

For now, we wish you health and look forward to a time when we can safely see each other again!

Elizabeth King  
Manager, Jericho Farmers Market  
[jerichofarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:jerichofarmersmarket@gmail.com)

Whoever saves a life is considered to have saved the world.

— Talmud

## Help us to help you with Census 2020

By Mark Schilling  
Cambridge Town Clerk

Greetings neighbors!

I hope you and your families are safe and well. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete the 2020 Census online now at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Or, if you prefer, respond to the paper questionnaire when you get it in the mail or when it is left at your place of residence. (NOTE: Questionnaires are not mailed to post office boxes.)

Counting everyone in our community is important. Responses to the 2020 Census shape decisions about how billions of dollars in federal funds flow into communities like ours each year for the next ten years for critical services. These services include health care, emergency response, schools and education programs, roads and bridges, and much more.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of census data and census participation. Now more than ever, your response to the 2020 Census matters. Respond today, and make sure your family, friends and neighbors respond too.

ONLINE TIP: If you have not received anything from the Census Bureau yet, you can still respond online. Visit the online form at [www.2020census.gov](https://www.2020census.gov) and select "Start Questionnaire."

## COVID-19: Support for Kinship Caregivers

Vermont Family Service recognizes the COVID-19 Stay Home Stay Safe order has placed additional stress on families and caregivers. Need someone to talk to? We provide support with educational, financial, and emotional concerns while caring for children in a kinship relationship (grandchildren, nieces, nephews, children of close friends or family). Resources are available. Please call Vermont Kin As Parents at 802-871-5104.

## State of Vermont guidance on burning

Mathew Champlin  
Chief, UJFD

In accordance with State of Vermont Guidance, the Fire Wardens and UJFD will not be issuing burn permits in the communities of Underhill and Jericho. We are following the State of Vermont guidance in an effort to minimize the need to put firefighters in close proximity while responding to brush or grass fires. We ask all community members to not burn at this time. The current State of Vermont guidance is in effect until the end of May 2020.



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11:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Friday  
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Saturday  
11:00 AM - 8:30 PM  
Sunday  
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## The Mountain Gazette

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## HEALTH NEWS

**Maternal mental health matters**

Being pregnant or home with an infant during the COVID-19 pandemic can be an isolating and stressful experience. Staying healthy while social distancing and remaining safe at home means families may not have their usual village of support through family, friends, and community.

These are challenging times, but you are not alone. Help is available, and opportunities to connect by phone, text, or online are more important now than ever.

- Connect with a trained mental health clinician by dialing 2-1-1, option 6, or emailing [info@helpmegrowvt.org](mailto:info@helpmegrowvt.org).
- Find a virtual support group through Vermont's Chapter of Postpartum Support International: <https://psichapters.com/vt/#toggle-id-2>.
- Look for a community mental health center in your county. They are ready to offer support for women, children, and families: <https://vermontcarepartners.org/agencies/>.

**UVM Health Network is here to provide care**

*We're here for you:* If you need care, the UVM Health Network emergency departments and urgent, specialty, and primary care clinics are ready to care for you. Video visits, telephone visits, and in some cases in-person visits can be arranged. Contact your doctor by phone or through MyChart ([www.UVMHealth.org/MyChart](http://www.UVMHealth.org/MyChart)) to determine the best option for you.

*Stay home and keep your distance:* If you don't need medical care, staying home and practicing social distancing of at least six feet from other people helps slow the spread of the virus.

*Masks at all facilities:* To better protect you, our community and staff, all employees in our facilities are now wearing masks while they work. Wearing masks may help protect the people around us if we are infected and don't know it.

*Remember hand hygiene:* Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you can't wash your hands, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

*If you are worried you have COVID-19:* Please contact your doctor by phone or through MyChart at [www.UVMHealth.org/MyChart](http://www.UVMHealth.org/MyChart).

**Slow the spread, wear a cloth face mask on public transit**

Keep your commute safe! Wearing a cloth face covering can help protect you and the people around you from exposure to COVID-19 while using public transit.

Follow these best practices when wearing a mask to avoid the spread of germs:

- wash your hands before putting it on;
- be sure your mouth and nose are covered;
- hook loops around your ears or tie it snugly;
- do not touch the mask or pull it down while in public;
- keep it on until you get home;
- remove the mask without touching your eyes, nose or mouth, then wash your hands immediately;
- wash the mask and make sure it's completely dry before using again. Have a few on hand so you can rotate for washing.

If you are required to travel outside your home, make a habit to wear a face covering and continue to respect a six foot distance from others. And for everyone's safety, *do not board the bus if:*

- you have any symptoms of COVID-19: cough, fever, difficulty breathing;
- you have traveled outside of the state of Vermont since March 30 and have not self-quarantined for at least 14 days;
- you have been in contact with any person who is infected with COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- you are not making a non-essential trip per the Governor's Stay Home/Stay Safe Executive Order issued on March 24.

For more information, including best practices for wearing a mask, please visit the following link: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-VDH-mask-guidance.pdf>.

**COVID-19 United Way Response Fund Matching Challenge**

United Way is rapidly mobilizing resources to support organizations on the front lines of supporting communities and families most impacted by COVID-19. We can do more! Thanks to The Pomerleau Family, community donations are being matched up to \$25,000!

For more information and to donate, go online to <https://www.classy.org/campaign/covid-19-united-response-fund/c277514>.

**HealthVermont.gov – your source for COVID-19 information**

The Vermont Health Department's website has lots of new features to help you find COVID-19 information quickly and easily.

Have a question? Type it into our chat bot at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-faq> or search our expanded list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) by clicking the "See all frequently asked questions" button.

Want to learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont? Visit our main page <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19> and click on the map of Vermont to see our new data dashboard. Get more detailed information on cases by date, age, sex, county, and more.

You can also find quick links on wearing cloth masks, what to do if you're sick, and what people coming to Vermont need to do. Browse pages on coping with stress, for group living settings, and resources including translated materials.

Thank you, Vermonters, for staying home and staying safe. We know this time spent apart from others is difficult, but your efforts are making a difference and saving lives.

**COVID-19: reach out to children and families**

We are now entering our third month of sheltering at home, social distancing, home schooling, and other changes brought on by COVID-19. Many families are worried about reduced incomes, lost jobs, the health of family members, housing, and other basic needs. This can lead to high levels of stress.

With households self-isolating, we cannot rely on the community safety nets that are typically there for children. We need our community partners to help us protect children and support families during these unusually stressful times.

The VT DCF has recommendations for how you can help:

- If you are concerned about a child's safety, call 1-800-649-5289 (24/7) to make a report.
- If you know a family who may need help, reach out. Ask how they're doing. Offer to help if you can.

Find information and resources at <https://safefamilies.vermont.gov>.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**Local Innovators series on MMCTV**

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Introducing *Virtually Yours*, a new Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV) series about local innovators during the pandemic. The first video in our series features taekwondo instructor Lenny Yordan, founder of Yordan's Black Belt Academy. Like many teachers, he quickly went "virtual." Here's the link to the downloadable video: <https://archive.org/details/virtuallyyoursyba>.

If you'd like us to feature your Jericho/Underhill/Richmond business or organization, please send me an email at [mmctv15@gmail.com](mailto:mmctv15@gmail.com)! These videos are remotely produced. They aim to support local innovators who are now serving us in new ways, and to document their work for the future.

For more info about MMCTV, your community media center, please see: [www.MtMansfieldCtv.org](http://www.MtMansfieldCtv.org).

**Westford trails**

By Kirsten Tyler, Westford Conservation Commission

We have seven trails in town. You can find a town trail map here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Westford-Trails-Map.pdf>.

Bear in mind, the spring season brings plenty of mud and downed woody debris. We ask that everyone avoid walking in muddy patches to keep the trails in good shape. Trail maintenance is ongoing! We were just hiking the beautiful Shultz and Goodrich trails a few days ago to mark downed trees for chain sawing.

You will find a sign at trailheads but limited parking. We use the small yellow, diamond shaped WCC signs on trees to mark trails. Also, we ask that everyone keep social distancing in mind when encountering other groups.

Here's a link to the Westford Town Lands site, where you can find more maps and more information! <https://westfordvt.us/westford-town-lands/>.

**United Way of Northwest VT — Volunteer Connection**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. A COVID-19 Response section for both needs and in-kind support is easily accessible on the site. As expected, agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering in this new time, so the opportunities are limited. Here is a link for you to see what has been entered so far Volunteer Connection and some examples are listed below:

**URGENT NEED FOR HELP WITH MEAL DELIVERY** — Age Well is in need of volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels and to shop for groceries and get other essentials for seniors in Franklin County, St. Albans in particular. As more and more seniors are reaching out about receiving Meals on Wheels and other services, we need extra hands to help. Please contact Erica Marks, Director of Volunteer Services, 802-662-5249 or [emarks@agewellvt.org](mailto:emarks@agewellvt.org). For more information about how to help, visit <https://www.agewellvt.org/giving-back/volunteer>.

**ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR FOOD DELIVERY AND MORE** — Samaritan House is in need of a few more volunteers to assist in food delivery, errands, and activities for the guests. Contact Hannah Rose, [hannah.rose@samaritan-house.com](mailto:hannah.rose@samaritan-house.com) or 527-0847.

**CRITICAL NEED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS** — American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood and if you are healthy and eligible to donate, please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more information and to schedule an appointment at a drive near you!

**NEW BLOOD DONOR SCREENER** — American Red Cross needs volunteer to provide excellent customer service to enhance the blood donor experience, executing donor temperature screening on potential donors prior to their entry into the blood drive. This position and temp-taking screening station is part of additional screening the American Red Cross has implemented in the interest of the safety of the blood supply, recipients, other donors, staff, volunteers, and general public health regarding COVID-19 outbreaks. Greet donors and model excellent customer service behaviors. Manage donor flow at temp-taking station to ensure only donors passing temp screen are permitted access. Contact Erica Fuller, [Erica.fuller4@redcross.org](mailto:Erica.fuller4@redcross.org).

**UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST VERMONT COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE:** For information on how to help, where to volunteer, community resources, and how to donate to the response fund, visit <https://unitedwaynwvt.org/covid19-community-response>.

**Latest from DOL on unemployment benefits**

By John Mandeville  
Executive Director

**Lamoille Economic Development Corporation**

**COVID-19 Guidance for Employees and Employers**  
Unemployment Insurance Benefits: For more information about who is eligible for unemployment benefits and the application process, visit [labor.vermont.gov/covid19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions](http://labor.vermont.gov/covid19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions).

To file an initial claim: [vermont.force.com/DOLClaim/s/](http://vermont.force.com/DOLClaim/s/) or 1-877-214-3330 or 1-888-807-7072.

To file a weekly claim: [uipublic01.labor.vermont.gov/Claimantportal/portal/login.aspx](http://uipublic01.labor.vermont.gov/Claimantportal/portal/login.aspx) or 1-800-983-2300.

For claims assistance: [labor.vermont.gov/unemployment-insurance](http://labor.vermont.gov/unemployment-insurance) or 1-877-214-3332.

For more information about the federal CARES Act, including expanded eligibility, an additional \$600 weekly benefit, and extended benefit weeks, please visit [labor.vermont.gov/CARESact\\_Vermont](http://labor.vermont.gov/CARESact_Vermont).

**Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA):** The federal CARES Act includes expanded eligibility for unemployment benefits under Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). PUA provides support for workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits who are unable to work as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including self-employed people, independent contractors, workers with limited work history and others.

For more information about who is eligible for PUA, visit [labor.vermont.gov/PUA\\_Eligibility](http://labor.vermont.gov/PUA_Eligibility).

For instructions on how to apply for PUA, visit [labor.vermont.gov/PUA](http://labor.vermont.gov/PUA).

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions about PUA, including eligibility, application process, payment and tax and wage questions, please visit [labor.vermont.gov/pua-faqs](http://labor.vermont.gov/pua-faqs).

For PUA assistance, please call 1-877-660-7782.

**Unemployment Insurance Information for Employers:**  
If you are forced to temporarily shut down business operations or reduce employee hours due to COVID-19, your employees may be able to receive unemployment benefits. Employers' experience ratings will not be charged for benefits paid to employees for any of the COVID-19 related reasons. If you rehire or offer to rehire employees within a reasonable time, you will also be relieved of charges for up to eight weeks if:

- You temporarily ceased operations in response to request from a public health authority, emergency order from the Governor or President or actual exposure to COVID-19 at the workplace; or
  - Your employee becomes unemployed due to a state of emergency declaration or order/directive of the President or Governor; or
  - Your employee isolates or quarantines at recommendation of medical professional or public health authority.
- For more information, call 802-828-4344 or visit [labor.vermont.gov/unemployment-insurance/ui-employers](http://labor.vermont.gov/unemployment-insurance/ui-employers).

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# Home & Garden 2020

## A special Earth Day

By Jake Brown

(This was written for the 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day, April 20 — Editor)

This may be an Earth Day unlike any other, as we manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

But social distancing and other public health protective measures, like staying with our family units and avoiding contact with most others, doesn't mean that we can't celebrate Earth Day. In fact, this year could represent an opportunity for an especially memorable Earth Day — and a chance to do something with your children and other family members close to home that leaves a lasting legacy and a symbol of resilience.

Here are some ideas:

- Plant a tree. A new tree or shrub in your yard can add beauty, shade, and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and more. Many nurseries in our region are open this spring, offering curbside pickup and encouraging other public health safety precautions. It's probably best to call ahead. (And remember, patronizing your local nursery or garden center at this time is a great way to support local business.)

- Plant (or expand) your garden: If you've never planted a garden, maybe now is the time to try it out. If you've got

### The Vermont Spring Backyard BioBlitz

Discover the natural world right at home! Though we may be physically distanced this season, we're still a united community of curious nature lovers. This BioBlitz project is for students, teachers, parents, kids, experts, amateurs, and anyone in our region looking to explore nature apart but together. April 20 through May 20, join this quest to discover biodiversity wherever you are this spring!

Submit your observations of any wild organism (sorry, no friends, pets, or garden plants) living wherever you happen to be — the woods, the yard, or inside your own home!

A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. At a BioBlitz, scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to get a snapshot of an area's biodiversity. These events can happen in most any geography — urban, rural, or suburban — in areas as small as a backyard or as large as a country.

To find out how to join, how to use *iNaturalist* to submit your observations, and other helpful resources, go to: <https://northbranchnaturecenter.org/backyardbioblitz/>.

This Spring Bioblitz is brought to you by North Branch Nature Center, Vermont Alliance for Half-Earth, and Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

These same organizations sponsored a Fall 2019 Bioblitz for schools in the Winooski River watershed. Students submitted a total of 2517 observations, representing 551 different species. One of the exciting findings was the sighting of *Parancistrocerus leionotus*, a species of potter wasp. This is only the 20<sup>th</sup> record of this species in *iNaturalist* and only the second in New England. It is listed as a threatened species in Ontario, though little is known about its population status in the United States.

The *iNaturalist* app makes collecting photographs and biological information about living things easy. High quality data uploaded to *iNaturalist* become part of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, an open source database used by scientists and policy makers around the world.

experience under your belt, maybe it's time to add new crops, or expand the garden to grow more of your successful produce. Again, you can support your local garden center by buying seeds, soil, and other supplies locally.

- Start composting. Have you always wanted to try composting? How about committing to it on Earth Day? Local solid waste districts can help with information on how to compost in your backyard, or take your scraps to a regional facility if there is one in your area. You can find more about composting at <https://cswd.net/composting/backyard-composting/> or <https://www.lrswd.org/index.php/composting>.

- Consider going paperless with your VEC electricity bill. You will save paper and time, and the co-op as a whole will save money. If you already use VEC's online portal SmartHub, you can change your settings to turn off your paper billing. You can also email [support@vermontelectric.coop](mailto:support@vermontelectric.coop) or call 1-800-832-2667 to sign up.

Taking any of these steps is good for the planet and can be a wonderful learning opportunity for the whole family. And you may always remember that Earth Day 2020, with all its challenges, represented a step toward a more resilient future.

Jake Brown is an Energy Services Planner with the Vermont Electric Co-op.

### VT Land Trust virtual tours, webinars, and films

By Amy Ludwin, Conservation Commissioner, Bolton

Even in the midst of uncertainty, spring is arriving. Cardinals are singing, silver maples are blooming, wood frogs and peepers are calling, bluebirds are flitting around yards, and pussy willows are bursting out of their shiny buds. "What a comfort it is to be in nature, where spring is happening despite it all," writes Vermont Land Trust's Liz Thompson.



Plant a tree to honor Earth Day 2020, like this flowering cherry tree. GRAPHIC BY SUSANN MIELKE/PIXABAY

We're excited to introduce our first virtual events lineup! Plus, we have fun nature articles, backyard activities for the whole family, a food guide to support our farmers during this time, and recent conservation successes.

We wish you all health, safety, and the solace of nature. Stay grounded during this pandemic while learning about Vermont's natural landscape and connecting with us from your home. Check out VLT's virtual events, tours, webinars, films, and more at <https://www.vlt.org>.

You can enjoy more from our #StayGroundedVT campaign on Facebook and Instagram.



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# Home & Garden 2020

## Leaf, yard debris collection weekend at Essex CSWD

The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) will hold three leaf and yard debris collection weekends at the Essex Drop-Off Center in April and May. These events will help CSWD safely manage the high volume of traffic we are experiencing at Green Mountain Compost. We ask that during the state of emergency, residents continue to follow Governor Scott's directive to limit trips outside of your home to essential needs only.

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10

Times: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Essex Drop-Off Center, 218 Colchester Rd., Essex Junction

Guidelines:

- ONLY leaf and yard debris will be accepted.
- Customers are always asked to wear masks and to practice social distancing.
- Only six cars/trucks will be allowed to access the leaf and yard debris drop-off area at one time.
- Dumping mechanisms are allowed.
- Both residential and commercial loads will be accepted.
- Access will be granted to the leaf and yard debris area only. The Essex Drop-Off Center is not reopening at this time.

Stay on top of CSWD news by visiting [www.CSWD.net](http://www.CSWD.net), following us on Facebook, and through our text alert system. Visit the Contact Us page on [cswd.net](http://cswd.net) for instructions on signing up for text alerts.

## If you are starting seeds

It's a great time to start seeds for this summer's garden, but did you know that certain types of indoor grow systems can use a ton of energy? Check out this advice from a Master Gardener (and energy efficiency expert) from Efficiency Vermont: <https://efficiencyvermont.com/news-blog/blog/ask-the-experts-how-to-save-energy-when-you-are-starting-seeds>

## Start with upgrades to your home's design features

(Family Features) The spring season is typically a time when people are motivated to start fresh. With reorganization often top of mind, it is also a time when many homeowners look for ways to update their homes with improvements that can increase aesthetics and functionality.

From small changes to large-scale projects, these home design ideas from the experts at Dutch Boy paints are all about adding fresh appeal to your living space.

### Reorganize and reimagine

Sometimes a space doesn't require much investment at all, you just need a change of perspective. Reorganizing a room for better flow and eliminating unnecessary clutter can give it a brand-new, updated feel. Consider how adjusting the furniture placement might improve the space, whether it opens up a better walkway or lets in more light. Upgrades are often about adding, but don't be afraid to take away unnecessary furniture that crowds the space. Also give attention to organization and stash away items that make the room appear untidy or uninviting.

### Artwork overhaul

Furniture and architectural elements may factor heavily into a room's ambiance, but it's often the decorative details that tell a space's true story. If you like the major features of a room but have grown bored with its overall look and feel, swapping out the artwork may be just the solution. One notable benefit of this approach is that artwork is available at virtually every price point, making it easy to stay within your budget. From DIY pieces to gallery-quality hangings, there are nearly countless ways to achieve the look you desire.

### Color correction and odor protection

Changing the wall color is often a style-driven decision. However, when it comes to eliminating stains and odors, paint can also be a functional solution that saves on heavy-duty renovating. For example, Dutch Boy Forever Paint and Primer, available exclusively at Menards, covers old stains, prevents new ones and helps knock back the odors that are particularly pungent during the winter months when everyone is cooped up indoors. The paint features Arm & Hammer

Odor Eliminating technology, making it ideal for high-traffic areas and homeowners with pets and kids. Sold in easy-to-use plastic twist-and-pour containers, it offers an easy-to-use alternative to traditional metal cans. Learn more at [DutchBoy.com](http://DutchBoy.com).

### Abstract accents

Visually interesting pieces can help breathe new life into a ho-hum space, and making this kind of improvement can be as quick and low-budget as a trip to

the garage or attic. Repurposing items in unexpected ways can bring vibrant character to a room. For example, a beloved but discarded old drum makes for a whimsical occasional table filled with memories and nostalgia. Ladders make for attractive bookshelves, or you can use brackets to mount old hardcover books on the wall as quirky, floating shelving. You can even take an obscure item like a bike wheel and convert it into a wall clock.

### Open spaces

Although it should never be done without careful consideration of the impact on your home's value, knocking out a wall can substantially improve your home's function and appeal. For example, if you have a home with separate dining and kitchen areas, removing the separating wall can create a welcoming space the whole family can enjoy. Opening up a high-use area like the kitchen is a popular renovation choice for all types of homeowners, from those who need to supervise homework while making dinner to others who regularly entertain at home. If knocking out an entire wall isn't an option, try simply making your home "feel" like it flows better from room to room with complementary color palettes that help visually open the space.

### Tone-on-tone stenciling

Stencils can be a simply way to create a visually rich pattern on an accent wall. Try using a downloadable stencil and two soft shades or two sheens of the same color for a subtle statement.

### Supplies:

- Clean, damp cloth
- Drop cloth
- Painter's tape
- Dutch Boy paint (three colors)
- Paint tray
- Liners
- Angled paintbrush
- Woven roller covers
- Roller frame
- Tape measure
- Pencil level
- Stencil (visit [DutchBoy.com](http://DutchBoy.com) to download and print)
- Mini foam roller cover and roller frame

Wipe wall with clean, damp cloth to prepare painting surface. Lay down drop cloth to protect floors; use painter's tape to cover trim, molding, ceiling and any adjacent walls. Prepare paint by adding base color to lined paint tray.

Using angled brush, apply base color just inside taped areas then paint remaining area with woven roller; remove painter's tape while paint is still damp; allow paint to dry 24 hours.

Use tape measure to find center of wall and lightly mark with pencil; center stencil over pencil mark; use level to ensure stencil is straight; secure stencil in place with painter's tape.

Using clean liner, add second color to paint tray. Using mini foam roller, apply second color over stencil; carefully lift stencil after paint application; wipe down stencil after each use.

Line up stencil with previously painted design; repeat until

## How you can help protect wild birds in your yard

(StatePoint) You may not think about it often, but wild birds use your lawn as a rest stop and place to call home. As you spruce up your lawn and garden for the season, there are simple steps you can take to protect them and help them thrive.

According to Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert, makers of bird-friendly products for homes, the following changes are easy to implement in order to create a safe harbor for wild birds:

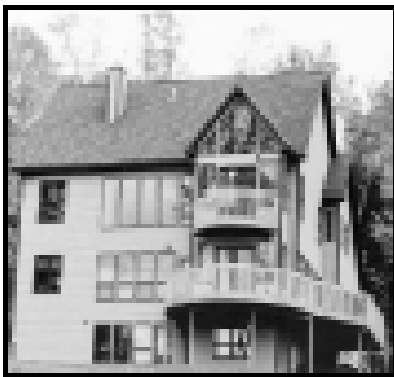
- Plant native species: Planting native species on your property is one of the most impactful ways you can improve your local environment, as well as make your lawn and garden a healthy habitat for wild birds and other fauna. Native plant species provide birds with food and places to rest and nest. Birds in turn, spread pollen and seeds, while acting as a natural pesticide. Speaking of which, gardening organically will also go a long way to protecting the health and safety of feeding birds.

- Make windows visible: Up to 1,000,000,000 (one billion!) birds die annually from striking windows in U.S., according to the American Bird Conservancy. The good news is that it's relatively easy and affordable to prevent your home from being part of the problem. Special window decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight, a wavelength of light noticeable to birds, have been proven to substantially reduce the likelihood of bird strikes. Giving the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass but glowing like a stoplight for birds, those from WindowAlert feature a range of decorative patterns. To boost protection for birds, you can also apply a high-tech liquid called WindowAlert UV Liquid in between decals. More information, as well as useful application tips, can be found by visiting [windowalert.com](http://windowalert.com).

- Monitor cats: Monitor your cat's time outdoors to ensure they are not terrorizing or hunting birds. An enclosed play area for your cat is the most effective way to keep birds in your yard safe from your furry companion's natural instincts.

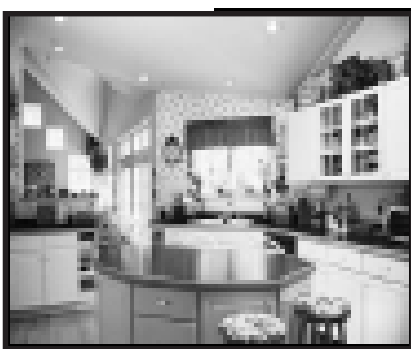
Good deeds start at home. This season, do your part to help migrating bird populations reach their destinations safely.

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# Home & Garden 2020

## How families and communities can prepare for natural disasters

(StatePoint) Natural disasters are increasing in severity and frequency. However, studies show that advance planning can keep individuals healthier and safer and support faster recovery for communities.

Building Safety Month, an international campaign to raise awareness about building safety celebrated every May, is a great reminder that one of the most effective ways to prepare is by enforcing up-to-date building codes.

Studies show that adopting the International Residential and Building Codes generates a national benefit of \$11 for every \$1 invested, while proper code enforcement decreases losses following disasters by up to 25%. When states and local jurisdictions apply the latest codes and they're diligently enforced, they're also more likely to qualify for federal pre-disaster mitigation funding and additional post-disaster recovery assistance.

However, only 31% of hazard-prone jurisdictions in the U.S. have adopted the latest two editions of hazard-resistant building codes. Fortunately, newly expanded Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development grants will fund code adoption, administration, and enforcement pre- and post-disaster, providing new resources for American communities.

Contact your elected officials, building department, or permitting office to learn how you can support adoption and enforcement of modern building codes and standards in your community. Additionally, you can help protect your family with these disaster safety and mitigation tips from the International Code Council, a nonprofit association that provides a wide range of solutions in support of safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures, especially as hurricane season is fast approaching:

- Install tested and code-approved shutters for protection from windborne debris if you live in a high wind or hurricane prone area. If this isn't possible, consider temporarily protecting doors and windows by mounting exterior grade, 7/16-inch minimum thickness plywood and fastening it into place.

- Consider building or retrofitting a storm safe room in your home. During the planning stages with the contractor, be sure to confirm they are building to the most recent codes and standards, such as the ICC/NSSA 500 Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters, to provide the highest level of protection for your family.

- In flood-prone areas, consider raising your home up to ten feet above the

base flood elevation. According to the National Institute of Building Sciences, an elevation retrofit yields a benefit of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

- In wildfire-prone areas, remove dead grass, leaves, twigs, and branches within 30 feet of a building. Be sure to remove dry leaf and pine litter from roofs, rain gutters, decks, and walkways. See the Code Council's International Wildland-Urban Interface Code for detailed requirements.

- When designing, remodeling, or constructing a home, keep dangers posed by natural disasters local to your region top-of-mind. For instance, those in hurricane or flooding-prone areas can construct break-away walls and flood openings to prevent pressure buildup. Those in wildfire-prone areas should be sure to use fire-resistant materials for landscaping and construction.

- Purchase property insurance customized to cover threats specific to your region, including flooding. Just one inch of water can cause \$25,000 of damage to your home and standard homeowners and renters insurance policies don't typically cover flood damage.

More tips as well as information about the Code Council's work to assist devastated communities with post-disaster building plan reviews, inspections, and permit operations can be found at [BuildingSafetyMonth.org](http://BuildingSafetyMonth.org).

While natural disasters are beyond our control, building to modern codes can mitigate their impact, supporting safer, more resilient communities.

## How to find the right mower for you

(Family Features) Whether you're a first-time homeowner or looking for an upgrade, deciding what lawn mower to purchase deserves careful consideration. Similar to day-to-day life, new technology over the last five years, specifically in the gas mower industry, is making it easier to maintain your lawn.

If you're in the market for a new mower, consider these tips to find the perfect tool to match your needs.

### Yard size

Looking at the size of your yard is the first step in determining the best mower for your needs. Walk-behind mowers work well for yards that are half-acre or less, but for yards one to three acres or larger, a zero-turn rider (ZTR) or riding mower may be appropriate.

### Terrain

A small, flat yard may only require a walk-behind mower. If your yard is sloped or hilly, you may prefer a self-propelled mower rather than one you have to push. A walk-behind mower with big back wheels is easier to maneuver across rough terrain. Riding mowers and ZTRs can handle varied terrain, although some handle better on slopes than others.

### Engine

Engines are one of the most important factors affecting a mower's performance, so purchasing one with a quality engine is essential. For example, Briggs & Stratton engines can be found on several brands of lawn mowers, including eight of the top ten walk-behind brands. As a global leader in gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment, these engines power mowers ranging from small walk-behinds to large ZTRs and riding mowers.

### Special features

While certain features may add to the cost of lawn mowers, many provide functions worth considering. One popular option is a mulching blade, which returns finely cut grass pieces to the lawn as a natural fertilizer. Another common choice is a bagging attachment, which is a grass-catching bag that can be affixed to the side or back of the mower to collect grass clippings.

### Technology to get the job done

Explore high-tech features that make mowing more manageable with these insights from professional home improvement contractor Jason Cameron, host of DIY Network's *Desperate Landscapes*.

Avoid disturbing the neighbors. If finding time to mow means you might be inconveniencing your neighbors, a mower designed to operate quietly may be what you need. To take advantage of weekend mornings without

bothering others, look into modern models, some of which even feature technology to make the mower quieter than the average gas mower.

Skip oil changes. Seasonal maintenance can help keep your mower in top condition, and new innovations allow you to skip the messiest part: oil changes. Some mowers, specifically those with Briggs & Stratton's No Oil Changes technology, are built with the intent that you never have to change the oil; you can simply check the level at the beginning of the season and add what you need.

Get an assist starting the engine. You can forget the days when starting a mower was a hassle; many of today's gas-powered mowers feature the starting reliability of lithium-ion battery technology, so you can unleash the power of gas with the push of a button.

Save space in the garage. If storage is a challenge in your garage, look for a compact model with Briggs & Stratton's Mow N' Stow technology, which makes storage easy. This patented design allows owners to fold the mower and store it upright without fuel or oil leaks, saving you up to 70% of the storage space in your garage or shed.

Explore more ways to put technology to work in your yard at [briggsandstratton.com](http://briggsandstratton.com).

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## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

## Wilhelmina Lucas, “the Hummer,” and Eureka Supply Co.

By Douglas Boardman  
Special to the Mountain Gazette

As in earlier columns, I am writing about my life and the many hats I had to wear to survive and to take care of my family. I was a cost accountant at Central Hudson Gas and Electric Co for six years and became the go-to guy if another department needed help. I was not the type of person that could make work last, so I volunteered to sub for anyone while they were out sick for an extended period of time. I worked in payroll, auditing, etc. but I still had a desk in the cost accounting department.

There was an opening in the engineering department for a supervisor, so I applied for the job and got it. I didn't like the job, but it paid more, and even then, I still did bookkeeping at a restaurant and a furniture store, did personal taxes, and worked for a C.P.A. in Poughkeepsie during tax season on the side. I really didn't like any of my jobs over the years, but I had to do extra work to make more money to take care of my growing family. I couldn't wait until I got promoted to make more money, so I worked 20 additional hours per week above working full-time at Central Hudson.

I have always told my children and friends that hopefully

they will be able to find a job that they like and make enough money to flourish. I didn't have that luxury. I had to go for the money, but at least I felt like the luckiest guy in the world to have a beautiful wife and five great children. I have always said that I would be happy standing in a pile of “doo-doo” as long as my wife was with me. No matter how hard a day I had, I knew Sandy was waiting for me at home. Unfortunately, I had to stop bookkeeping for the restaurant because the owner wanted me to “cook” his books, and I don't play that game. This where Wilhelmina Lucas came into my life.

Wilhelmina's elderly husband had recently died, and she was overwhelmed with their business, Eureka Supply Co., a plumbing and heating business. My C.P.A. friend told her that she might be able to get me to help her with her bookkeeping. Her nephew was a builder and had purchased a few lots in a neighborhood, so I bought the biggest lot that he had: three-quarters of an acre. I spent Saturdays helping her with bookkeeping and actually waited on customers at the counter. Then made me an offer that I couldn't refuse: she wanted me to manage her business. So, I finally left Central Hudson and started working at Eureka Supply.

Wilhelmina was her real first name, but it was hard to pronounce or spell, so everyone called her Mrs. Lucas. She was a devout Lutheran and would sing hymns, or I should say, “make a joyful noise,” only it wasn't that joyful. She would also try preaching to customers who were not religious. She was known to carry a hymnal around with her and

even got stopped by the police for reading and singing from the hymnal while driving.

Mrs. Lucas tried for years to join the choir at the Lutheran church. She finally got her chance when a large number of choir members quit after a disagreement with the choir director. Short on numbers, they accepted anyone who wanted to sing. When they found out what a bad singer she was, they tried to figure out how to tell her without hurting her feelings. The choir director told her that if she wanted to stay in the choir, she would have to sing silently or hum softly. That is how she came to be known as Mrs. Lucas, the hummer.

Now that she was in the choir, she still practiced singing at every chance she could from her hymnal, so we tried to keep her busy in the office and not at the counter. Around noon-time, she would drive downtown to get her mail and run errands. She was always tired, and would fall asleep around 3:00 PM, and we didn't wake her up. It made my job harder because she made so many mistakes doing the books that I had to go over every entry to keep the checking and account books balanced.

After working full-time with her for a couple of years, I found an investor partner who had inherited big money from his father. Mrs. Lucas was in her late 70s so she was happy to sell the business. We purchased Eureka Supply Co. in the late sixties and became 50/50 partners.

Next column: Fire, cheating, scamming, and stealing partners.

## Child stress during the pandemic

By Lewis First, MD.

Last week, I shared tips for parents on how to relieve the stress of spending so much time with your children at home and feeling isolated from the rest of the world. This week, I'll focus on helping children reduce their fears and anxieties during this coronavirus pandemic.

### How children show stress

Be aware that young children may show stress by being clingy, angry, agitated, or even withdrawing from wanting to engage with you. When this happens, remember it is not you causing this behavior, it is your child trying to deal with something that is making them fearful and anxious.

### Helping your child cope

- To help children cope with stress and anxiety, listen to their concerns and respond to them with extra love and attention.

- Build separate one-on-one time with each child every day to answer their questions or simply to validate and help them overcome their fears.

- Ask them what they know or heard about coronavirus that may be concerning them and answer honestly at a level your child can understand.

- If you can't answer the question, work together to find the answer or speak with your child's health care professional who can help.

### Be reassuring

Share all that is being done to eliminate this virus and all that your family is doing to prevent the virus from spreading, including good handwashing and coughing into their elbows rather than their hands. Tell your children all the positive things they do each and every day, rather than emphasizing the negatives to bring stress levels down for the entire family.

### Keep regular routines

Regular routines or schedules are critical stress-reducers that can give children the predictability they need as to how to best spend their time. Uncertainty as to what comes next only fosters anxiety and fear of the unknown. Be creative and flexible with that schedule. Assign time for schoolwork and learning, as well as for relaxing together, getting some fresh air (while respecting social distancing) and doing some physical exercise together. Reducing exposure to news in the media can also help older children lower their stress.

Allowing children video-chat time is essential in helping reduce the stress of not being able to visit friends and family in person. Parents, do all you can to manage your own anxiety and stress, using tips I shared last week — especially focusing on the positives and staying calm.

Hopefully, tips like these will allow both you and your child to breathe more easily when it comes to recognizing and knowing what to do if you suspect your child is becoming too anxious or stressed, while we are all working together to get rid of the coronavirus.

## Moments inside a pandemic

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

I have made a new friend. Imagine, at 88, getting to know another family tree, her likes and dislikes and such basics as her favorite recipe for gingersnap cookies. But her most precious possession, that she shares freely, is her laugh. It starts as a chuckle and advances quickly through a chortle, then builds up quickly and vigorously into a deep, full-blown joyous finale... to whatever we found joyous and amusing in our reaching out “just to chat.”

My daughter walked in the woods into places where I can't go with my limping leg and a cane. She brought back a few sprays of Erythronium or Trout Lily, Yellow Snowdrop, Adder's Tongue, Dog's Tooth Violet... all names that it has acquired through location, season, and markings... and is one of the first blooms of spring. They are now sitting on my counter, and I learn that they need light to open, a new phenomenon to add to their characteristics. And for me, they give the joy that I can still be surprised by nature.

When I have finished with TV and radio and reading and cross-word puzzling, I just sit and look out the window. It has been difficult to “allow” myself such laziness. But now so many activities have been curtailed because of the need for an accomplice: for a haircut, a massage, the dentist, a companion for a cup of tea or an afternoon glass of wine. It makes me realize what social animals we are! Conversation or proximity to others is considered ancillary to the main purpose of an appointment... almost an intrusion. How wonderful it will be to give ample credit to just being with others!

I remember when volunteers were solicited for babies who were born to HIV mothers and needed extra care, in the form of holding, rocking, talking, cuddling, and in my case, singing. How important is the need for touch, for a tactile connection, a non-verbal simplistic caring and love. We reach for friends with a virtual hug and in so doing, realize how we yearn for old patterns. There is, with the embrace of someone's distant outstretched arms, a rush of loneliness we didn't expect to be so painful. “Someday,” says my daughter, “we'll be able to,” as she drops off some groceries. I pray that we can still show how much love is left in our hearts.

*You could say that was one of those  
times of crossing over,  
the way the world telescoped  
down into a finely focused  
moment of nothing happening at all,  
the peace in that, the beauty.*

Bruce Weigl, poet

## Academy connects teens with the natural world

Teens will have the opportunity to explore Vermont's forests, water ecosystems, and wildlife at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Natural Resources Management Academy, Friday-Sunday, July 17-19.

The weekend, which takes place at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp at Buck Lake in Woodbury, provides a fun, hands-on learning environment for students entering grades 7-10 in the fall. It is sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is open to youths in Vermont and neighboring states with an interest in learning more about natural resources and careers in this field. Enrollment in 4-H is not required.

The \$125 fee covers two nights' lodging in rustic cabins, and all meals, workshops, and activities. Registrations are due by Monday, June 1 with space limited to the first 30 registrants. Details and a registration form can be found at [www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements).

If you have questions contact Lauren Traister, UVM Extension 4-H Teen and Leadership Program coordinator, 866-260-5603, ext. 402 (toll-free in Vermont) or 802-888-4972, ext. 402. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, please call by Monday, June 1.

## UVM Extension expands online youth programming

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H recently added programming for grade K-2 students to its ever-expanding lineup of free virtual learning experiences for youths.

Its newest online offering is the Cloverbud Connects Challenges, issued each Friday and geared to ages 5-7. After reading about or watching a video that demonstrates an activity, participants are encouraged to try that activity and have a parent record a video to share on the password-protected website.

Each week's theme relates to one of the four H's in 4-H: head, heart, hands, and health. Challenges include making homemade smoothies, adopting a favorite tree, creating a May Day basket, making ice cream in a bag, painting rocks to bring cheer to others, and a LEGO challenge, among other activities.

Email UVM Extension 4-H educator Kimberly Griffin at [kimberly.griffin@uvm.edu](mailto:kimberly.griffin@uvm.edu) to sign up and receive an access code and to request a disability-related accommodation to participate if needed.

UVM Extension 4-H also is providing free online programs for older kids. For details or to register, go to [www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements). Future offerings will be announced on this website, so check back often.

## MMUUSD update

By John R. Alberghini, Superintendent

Thank you all for your efforts to follow the Governor's Stay Home/Stay Safe order. Recommended social distancing practices, hand washing, and other preventative measures are paying off. Modeling data indicates new cases of COVID-19 have slowed in Vermont and Governor Scott has begun a phased and evidence-based approach to restarting the economy. This is promising news and a result of the sacrifices and thoughtful behavior of Vermonters. By following the guidance of the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) and Governor's Office, we can help prevent further outbreaks and limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition, these instructions are the best way to avoid future business, employment,

social and educational disruption.

Continuity of Learning Plan and Progress Monitoring  
As I mentioned in a previous community update, the District's Continuity of Learning (COL) Plan was approved by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) on Monday, April 13. The components of the COL Plan require school districts to make modifications in how they assess students and report on progress. Our school teams have been working on this task. Mount Mansfield Union High School sent its revised grading and reporting guidelines to families on Friday, April 17. To view this information, go online to [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vKThRcH7iuEyRK-91fKj-ttB0wocxeYftSdsGbZpm\\_s/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vKThRcH7iuEyRK-91fKj-ttB0wocxeYftSdsGbZpm_s/edit). Third trimester PreK-8 report cards are being designed to provide summaries of strengths, next steps based on observable progress, and cur-

riculum abstracts. Our PreK-8 schools will be providing details to families regarding adjustments to assessment and report cards next week. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school administrator.

Central Office administrators and principals have been working collaboratively with area colleagues around common educational programming and assessment exceptions. The interim assessment alterations we are making align with many of our neighboring districts. The cooperation and sharing of information across districts has been unprecedented during the state of emergency. This is something we can build on as we all strive to meet the needs of students and families.

Check Out this collection of Distance Learning Moments: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3LysCaE0&feature=youtu.be>.

## VT Youth Orchestra auditions

The VT Youth Orchestra Association is welcoming students entering grades 3-12 to audition for its exciting 2020-2021 season. This year, the VYOA is holding virtual auditions only — taking the nerves out of the audition process.

Audition requirements include a solo, scale with arpeggio, and an orchestral excerpt (listed on website, see below), which should be recorded and submitted by 12:00 PM on Monday, May 18. Auditions are free of charge. Tuition financial aid is available.

More info can be found at [vyo.org/auditions](http://vyo.org/auditions). Come join something incredible!

## Our teens say...

By Chuck Lacy, Jericho

94.4% (HS), 97.9% (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) MMUUSD students report that it is rather easy or very easy to receive caring and warmth from parents and/or caregivers – Chittenden East Vermont Youth Project

Last fall the Town of Richmond, in partnership with Vermont Afterschool, established the Chittenden East Vermont Youth Project (CEVYP) coalition, a collaborative designed to embrace positive youth development by identifying community assets and concerns. With support from the MMUUSD, 86% of students completed a survey on the perspectives of

their home environment, school, community, neighborhood, and peers. The CEVYP coalition has created a Facebook page (Vermont Youth Project- Chittenden East Community), in lieu of community meetings, to provide key data findings, inspire discussion, and support cross collaboration on youth development and resilience.

To access more data and participate in virtual discussions with your community, please join our Facebook group, or email Tim Monty, CEVYP Community Lead, to get involved in the local coalition, at [timothymonty@gmail.com](mailto:timothymonty@gmail.com).





## ART / MUSIC / THEATER

## VT Arts Council, VT Community Foundation create Arts Recovery Fund

Today, the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Community Foundation announce the creation of an Arts Recovery Fund to respond to the devastating and rapidly evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Vermont's arts and culture sector.

The Arts Recovery Fund has two goals: to deliver fast-tracked support to Vermont's struggling arts and culture sector, and to provide a central place to coordinate philanthropic giving. Direct grants will be available to support both individual artists and cultural organizations that are experiencing financial distress due to the spread of the novel coronavirus across Vermont. For donors, the Arts Recovery Fund is an opportunity to join a coordinated effort to facilitate the recovery of Vermont's creative sector. Donations are now being accepted on the Community Foundation's website at [vermontcf.org/ArtsRecovery](http://vermontcf.org/ArtsRecovery).

Arts and culture are vital anchors for many of Vermont's communities, providing more than 40,000 creative-sector jobs and sustaining vibrant downtowns that are critical to the state's economy and shared community life.

Vermont's museums, galleries, and performing arts venues are already reporting staggering losses from canceled concerts, festivals, theatrical performances, and other events due to the pandemic. We know Vermont communities will be feeling the effects for many months to come. The Arts Recovery Fund will strengthen the capacity of Vermont's arts and culture sector to survive the immediate economic impact and to respond creatively and strategically in the months ahead.

Grants are designed to be flexible and will allow the Arts Council and the Community Foundation to direct resources where the needs are greatest. For now, funds will be focused on meeting immediate needs, as follows:

For individual artists: The Fund offers grants to cover income losses due to lost jobs, canceled gigs, exhibits, or workshops.

For nonprofit arts and culture organizations: The Fund provides unrestricted operating support to mitigate the economic impact of workplace closures, event cancellations, and other disruptions of critical revenue.

Future rounds of funding may also support creative responses to the pandemic, such as online arts experiences, virtual gallery tours, concerts, etc.; planning and implementation of re-opening and re-scheduling canceled events; and arts events and initiatives that facilitate community recovery.

The Arts Recovery Fund launches a new partnership between the Arts Council and the Community Foundation. In support of this new endeavor, the Community Foundation is making a grant of up to \$50,000 from the Vermont Arts Endowment to the Arts Council. In addition to supporting the Council's general grantmaking, these funds will be prioritized to support artists and arts organizations in their creative strategies to keep the arts alive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details about the application process will be available in May. Artists and organizations interested in applying should contact Amy Cunningham, [acunningham@vermontartscouncil.org](mailto:acunningham@vermontartscouncil.org).

## Upcoming virtual arts experiences

For more listings of events to help you stay connected while social distancing, go online to <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/covid-19/virtual-arts-experiences>.

The Social Distance Reading Series, a collaboration between The Vermont School poets and Green Mountains Review (GMR, [greenmountainsreview.com](http://greenmountainsreview.com)), is a pop-up series designed to offer poets a platform for launching new collections of poems. At this point, it is focusing on collections by poets whose book events have been cancelled between January-May 2020. Readings are posted each Wednesday and Sunday, and are close-captioned for the hearing impaired. <https://greenmountainsreview.com/the-social-distance-reading-series/>

Spruce Peak Arts presents a live, c.30-minute virtual concert on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, featuring a talented member of the Spruce Peak Arts community. Note that a live online concert, streamed from an artist's home, means it doesn't matter if you are in California or rural Vermont, and with COVID rocking the internet, bandwidth issues may arise. Your patience is appreciated while you enjoy these concerts. These are live events on YouTube; to register for this free concert, see the link at <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/wednesday-night-music-series/>. Upcoming concerts include: May 6, Dwight & Nicole. May 13, Michael Mwenso.

Good clean fun for kids with a VT Comedy Club comedy livestream for kids! Saturdays and Wednesdays, 1:00 – 1:45 PM. Find tickets at [www.vermontcomedyclub.com/](http://www.vermontcomedyclub.com/).

## VT Arts Council, VT Humanities aid to arts and humanities

Arts and humanities organizations in Vermont facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for emergency relief funding through a new partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities.

The new COVID-19 Cultural Relief Grant Program is seeded with more than \$700,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

Grant awards are based on organization size:

- Annual operating budgets of up to \$200,000: \$5000.
- Annual operating budgets between \$200,000 and \$750,000: \$7500

- Annual operating budget larger than \$750,000: \$10,000

Awards may be made by the VT Arts Council, VT Humanities, or both. The grants do not require a match. Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated need rather than on a polished application. We seek to fund a diverse range of organizations of different disciplines, geographic locations, and backgrounds.

The CARES Act funding to the NEA and NEH was secured through the leadership efforts of Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman Peter Welch.

Vermont's arts and culture sector provides more than 40,000 jobs annually and comprises 9.3% of all employment in Vermont, higher than the national average.

Though applications will far exceed available funds, the VT Arts Council and VT Humanities are committed to continuing to work with Vermont's Congressional delegation to advocate for more funding.

Applications will be accepted until Sunday, May 31 or until all available funds have been distributed. The application takes about 30 minutes to complete.

For full details and to apply for the grant, applicants can visit either the VT Arts Council application page at [www.vermontartscouncil.org/culturalrelief](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org/culturalrelief) or the VT Humanities application page at [www.vermonthumanities.org/c19-grants](http://www.vermonthumanities.org/c19-grants). For more information, email [vtcovidculturalrelief@gmail.com](mailto:vtcovidculturalrelief@gmail.com).

## COVID-19 emergency relief funding for artists

Direct grants of up to \$500 are available to artists who have lost income due to the effects of COVID-19. Applications opened April 22. Visit the Vermont Arts Council's Rapid Response Artist Relief Fund page, <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/rapid-response-artist-relief> for more information.

## Library news continued from page 9

*n a K D Q A d Q U A U s f k 2 L H g h A S U f m - ZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc*). Everyone from James Dean ([Pete the Cat](#)), Oprah Winfrey reads Thelma Godin's [Hula Hoopin' Queen](#), Grace Lin shows how to draw Chinese Dragons, Mo Willems shares [Piggie & Elephant](#) activities. There are also many links to authors of young adult books. Vermont's Children's Literacy Foundation has also provided an extensive collection of Literacy Resources for Learning (<https://wordpress.com/read/feeds/45713222/posts/2638693961>). You can't check out a book from the library right now, but do check out all of these great resources. We'll continue to add materials for entertainment, education and enrichment!

Are you or someone in the family home from school and needing help with various subjects or certification programs? LearningExpress is a highly acclaimed eLearning platform that provides support to students and professionals for academic skill-building, tutorials, occupational exploration, standardized test prep, career certification test prep and more. Patrons will create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored. Brush up on your math, science or writing skills, study for the GED, SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, a variety of Allied Health Certifications, Firefighting, Plumbing and more. Explore the possibilities at Learning Express (<https://www.learningexpress.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/learningexpresslibrary/libraryhome?AuthToken=838C46F8-8709-4FFB-B5CC-EF4FA995C5C6>).

Open Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; closed Sunday.

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 434-3036; fax 434-3223; [www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org](http://www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org).

### DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY WILLISTON

The physical library is closed until further notice to keep our patrons and staff safe, but the virtual library is open! We have discontinued curbside pick-up until further notice.

Watch on Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDAML/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDAML/videos/?ref=page_internal)) or YouTube as Miss Jess opens the new Dorothy's List 2020-21 nominees that just arrived! Thursday, April 2, 10:30 AM.

Looking for something to do with the kids? Check out our Kidspace page (<https://williston.lib.vt.us/index.php/kids-page>) for some fun programs with music and story times with our very own Miss Jess and her lovable pug, Petunia.

If you have any items out right now, don't worry. Please hold on to them, if you can.

In the meantime, please visit [www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org](http://www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org) and explore various offerings on the website.

All patrons may set up an account with GMLC Overdrive (<https://gmlc.overdrive.com>) and download ebooks and audiobooks with a valid card. If your card expired, please send us an email with your current contact information (name, address, phone, email) and we can get it renewed. Overdrive comes with a very helpful app called Libby. We recommend downloading to whatever device you're using. (It's not yet

available on Kindles.) If you need some help navigating with Libby, this booklet should help: <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/libby-booklet.pdf>. Let us know if you need more help.

Are you missing storytimes at the library? While no digital display can replace the incomparable Wendy, Jennifer, and LJ, in the meantime please visit the Library's Youth Services page, <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/youth-services/>. We have provided links to Tumblebooks, a read-aloud platform for all ages and to Scholastic's Learn at Home packages (<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>) from grades pre-K to high school. We've also created a link to the Big List of Children's Authors ([https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm\\_content=1584565321&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&fbclid=IwARIMyIAADzO8OVmaKDQAdQAU5fj2LHghASUJm-ZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc](https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm_content=1584565321&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwARIMyIAADzO8OVmaKDQAdQAU5fj2LHghASUJm-ZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc)). There are also many links to authors of young adult books. Vermont's Children's Literacy Foundation has also provided an extensive collection of Literacy Resources for Learning (<https://wordpress.com/read/feeds/45713222/posts/2638693961>). You can't check out a book from the library right now, but do check out all of these great resources. We'll continue to add materials for entertainment, education and enrichment!

Are you or someone in the family home from school and needing help with various subjects or certification programs? LearningExpress is a highly acclaimed eLearning platform that provides support to students and professionals for academic skill-building, tutorials, occupational exploration, standardized test prep, career certification test prep and more. Patrons will create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored. Brush up on your math, science or writing skills, study for the GED, SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, a variety of Allied Health Certifications, Firefighting, Plumbing and more. Explore the possibilities at Learning Express (<https://www.learningexpress.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/learningexpresslibrary/libraryhome?AuthToken=838C46F8-8709-4FFB-B5CC-EF4FA995C5C6>).

### FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Fairfax Community Library is currently closed but has started some virtual programs and will be posting videos, hosting video chats, and sharing resources. If you have an idea for a virtual program — a skill you'd like to share, a craft you'd like to teach — let the library know!

Story Time Tuesdays — a virtual story hour recorded and posted to YouTube and the library's Facebook page.

PJ Story Hour — a read-aloud and activities posted to the library Facebook page on the second Thursday of each month.

Knitwits Online, Tuesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: join the knitting circle on Zoom to chat and create with others. Send the library an email telling of your interest, and receive back a link to the Zoom chat.

Virtual Book Club, Thursday, May 7, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. A few in our book club are reading [Redhead by the Side of the Road](#) by Anne Tyler. Feel free to read it if you like, or bring another book you have read.

If you have books checked out, they will not need to be renewed and we will not send overdue notices during this time. We hope that this will be short term and that we will soon be back to normal operating hours and services. In the meantime, we are available to assist patrons by phone, email, Facebook messaging and through information on our website, [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org).

WiFi information: We invite everyone to use the FCL WiFi connection at the library. You will see these networks: *FCL\_Public-2.4* or *FCL\_Public-5* (either one is fine to use). The password is *F2P39AB4* and is posted on the doors near the sidewalk.

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org), 802-849-2420. Call or email [libraryprograms@fwsu.org](mailto:libraryprograms@fwsu.org). For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org), where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

### BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

After the urging from the Governor to "Stay Safe and Stay Home," Brownell has stopped all library operations. This means we will no longer be offering holds/check outs in the rear vestibule. The book drop will also be closed, so please keep your items (books, DVDs, etc.) at home. There are no overdues being sent out at this time, and we never charge fines for late items.

If you are still in need of reading materials please check out Libby or Overdrive for downloadable books: <https://gmlc.overdrive.com/>.

For Village residents, we can even offer a temporary virtual card, which will provide access to these services for the duration of our closure.

You can also still catch our digital programming on our website program calendar, just select the event for details and the meeting link to log on: <https://brownelllibrary.org/events/calendar>.

If you need help using any of these services, email us at [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org). We will also be checking voicemail periodically, and you can leave us a message at 878-6955.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Contact Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org).

### ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

As a public healthy precaution, the Essex Free Library is closed, but our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. Our website [www.essexfreelibrary.com](http://www.essexfreelibrary.com) has details.

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. 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. 802-879-0313; [essexfreelibrary.com](http://essexfreelibrary.com).

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

College honors

**Ana Kusserow-Lair** of Underhill, VT has earned the fall 2019 Dean's Award for Academic Excellence at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. Kusserow-Lair, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2022, is a graduate of the Vermont Commons School.

Susanne Parent to lead OCCC

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) Board is very pleased to announce that Susanne Parent has accepted the position of Executive Director, starting April 27, 2020. During this time of uncertainty and change, it is wonderful to have a long term, committed, and skilled member of OCCC take this leadership role and prepare the Camp to meet its mission to create a caring, nourishing community for Mount Mansfield Unified Union children, where every child can find success. Please join us in welcoming Susanne to this critical role and support her as she helps us all move forward together.

To find out more about Susanne and/or OCCC's programs that provide healthy meals, connections, and fun to kids in the summer, visit [www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org](http://www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org). If you are able, please make a tax deductible donation of any amount to support this work. Help us to continue our investment in our local youth.

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Vermont State College and Johnson

By Rich Westman, State Senator, Lamoille District

Whoever thought anything could top COVID-19 as a news story? Here in Vermont the Chancellor's recent announcement that he was going to recommend closing three Vermont State College campuses did just that over the last couple of weeks. It was a crazy couple of weeks but what I can say is I've never been prouder of our community. The community immediately rose up to support the excellent work of the State Colleges and the Johnson campus of Northern Vermont University...

As a grad of Johnson State College myself I have deep feelings about the campus and the VSC. I went to my first Johnson Alumni dinner with my Grandmother. She graduated from Johnson in 1932. She was an elementary teacher for many years in Cambridge and Essex. My first alumni dinner was my first and her 50<sup>th</sup>. The dinner was in front of the old fireplace in Sterns Hall. Stearns was full that night and my Grandmother and I had a great time together.

What we shared that evening was a grateful respect for our alma mater. It had given us both a chance at life. Her mother had passed away when she was 14. She was the oldest of four siblings and grew up on a very small Greensboro hill farm. Her teaching certificate gave her a way to support her family and helped her have a life. Fifty years later Johnson gave me an education. Growing up on a small family dairy farm in Cambridge, opportunities were limited but Johnson gave me a chance to work on the farm and go to school. My life and the opportunities I've had since then were, in large part, made possible because I was able to go on to college. I owe a lot to Johnson and my Grandmother was the same. It gave us both opportunities that we never would have had otherwise.

I was thrilled when the Chancellor last week pulled his recommendation to close the three campuses. I believe even today there are many local students in the same position my Grandmother was in 1932 and I was in 1982. I believe we need to preserve that opportunity for today's students. Preserving that future for Vermont's next generation has benefits for all of us.

The gut wrenching experience we just went through is a wake up call. Yes, the State and the Legislature need to do a better job of funding the College system. That goes with out saying. The competition for students is greater than it has ever been for our colleges. With declining numbers of students and with the push toward more online classes it makes it a daunting effort to keep the VSC system vibrant. All you have to do is hear the ads from Southern New Hampshire University and their push to more online classes to know the competition is like nothing our schools have faced before. Doing the same isn't going to compete with the resources these online giant degree mills can muster.

The VSC and Johnson specifically are something special and we need to work together to give students opportunity. Yes, we need to fund them better but we are a small state and money alone won't keep these schools vibrant. The VSC needs to be nimble and able to meet the needs of today's students. We need to work together to keep educational opportunities alive and make sure they are relevant in a changing world.

I keep hearing people refer to the immediate funding problems of the VSC and the potential funding from the Legislature to deal with these stresses as "Bridge Funding." Let me say to future students: This community is committed to these schools. I see this, if we work together, as a commitment to a sustainable future for the state colleges and Johnson. It is also a commitment to Vermont's own future. I see this as a path to sustainability — not a bridge.

Feeding Vermonters in need; forecasting COVID-19 in VT

By Tim Ashe, State Senator, Chittenden District

On Monday, April 27 for my live daily COVID-19 video I had a discussion with Rob Meehan, director of Feeding Chittenden (formerly the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf).

Legislative updates continued on page 12



**Mrs. Margit Kotorman**, 82, of Westford, VT passed away peacefully after fighting a valiant battle with cancer, on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Her three children were by her bedside holding her hand. Margit was born in Hungary on March 14, 1938 to Daniel and Margit Meszaros. She came to America alone, as a refugee, escaping the Hungarian Revolution in her teenage years. She was lovingly fostered by Henry and Ethel Swartz of Oak Park, IL. She attended Coe College in Iowa when she met her husband, Louis Kotorman. She moved to Vermont and worked as a histology technician at the hospital. She then focused on raising her three children while enjoying gardening, playing tennis, and hiking. She became a private pilot and an Adirondack 46'er, climbing all 46 peaks twice. She loved nature, the mountains, and spending time with her large family. Her loving spirit and strong faith were qualities evident to everyone she met. She is survived by her daughter Erika and husband, Rick Rothwell, her sons Mark Kotorman and wife Laurie, and Daniel Kotorman and wife Holly, four grandsons and four granddaughters, as well as four great-granddaughters, her sister, Krisztina Hucker of Hungary, and a nephew. She was loved by many friends and family and will be deeply missed by all. A celebration of life will be held in Westford, VT at a time TBD due to current pandemic. In lieu of flowers/gifts, the family asks that a contribution be made to the Green Mountain Club of VT. The family also invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting [www.awrfh.com](http://www.awrfh.com).

Kotorman. She moved to Vermont and worked as a histology technician at the hospital. She then focused on raising her three children while enjoying gardening, playing tennis, and hiking. She became a private pilot and an Adirondack 46'er, climbing all 46 peaks twice. She loved nature, the mountains, and spending time with her large family. Her loving spirit and strong faith were qualities evident to everyone she met. She is survived by her daughter Erika and husband, Rick Rothwell, her sons Mark Kotorman and wife Laurie, and Daniel Kotorman and wife Holly, four grandsons and four granddaughters, as well as four great-granddaughters, her sister, Krisztina Hucker of Hungary, and a nephew. She was loved by many friends and family and will be deeply missed by all. A celebration of life will be held in Westford, VT at a time TBD due to current pandemic. In lieu of flowers/gifts, the family asks that a contribution be made to the Green Mountain Club of VT. The family also invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting [www.awrfh.com](http://www.awrfh.com).



**Gisele Dora Caron**, 83, of Westford, VT died peacefully on Monday, April 13, 2020 at the Ar-bors at Shelburne, VT. Gisele was born on June 10, 1936 in Paquetville, Québec, the daughter of William and Albina (Bellville) Breault. She immigrated to Westford at a young age. On November 29, 1958, she married Gerard Caron at St. Luke Catholic Church in Fairfax, VT. She and Gerard were married for 41 years before Gerard died in 2000. Gisele is survived by her sons Denis Caron and his wife Donna of Westford, Louis Caron of Virginia Beach, VA, and Roger Caron and his wife Lori of Johnson, VT, and by her grandchildren Whitney, Taylor, Matt, Angela, and Joshua. She is also survived by her brother Germain Breault and his wife Cecile, and her sister Gracia Boutin and her husband Emery, and by several nieces and nephews. In addition to Gerard and Claude, she was predeceased by her brothers and sisters Lucien, Gertrude, Alcide, Roland, Romeo, Albert, Carmen, and Clement. There will be no services at this time due to COVID-19. A Mass for Gisele will be celebrated at St. Luke Catholic Church at a later date. A graveside service will be held at St. Luke's Cemetery in Fairfax at the convenience of the family. Online condolences may be made to [www.minorfh.com](http://www.minorfh.com).

Gerard died in 2000. Gisele is survived by her sons Denis Caron and his wife Donna of Westford, Louis Caron of Virginia Beach, VA, and Roger Caron and his wife Lori of Johnson, VT, and by her grandchildren Whitney, Taylor, Matt, Angela, and Joshua. She is also survived by her brother Germain Breault and his wife Cecile, and her sister Gracia Boutin and her husband Emery, and by several nieces and nephews. In addition to Gerard and Claude, she was predeceased by her brothers and sisters Lucien, Gertrude, Alcide, Roland, Romeo, Albert, Carmen, and Clement. There will be no services at this time due to COVID-19. A Mass for Gisele will be celebrated at St. Luke Catholic Church at a later date. A graveside service will be held at St. Luke's Cemetery in Fairfax at the convenience of the family. Online condolences may be made to [www.minorfh.com](http://www.minorfh.com).



**Bernard Charles Juskiewicz Jr.** — born April 6, 1943; died Wednesday, April 8, 2020 — of Northampton, MA and Cambridge, VT. Bernie was an only child, brought up on the wrong side of the tracks by loving parents who worked diligently and tirelessly to improve their position in life. Going to the YMCA and home alone after school beginning in the second grade gave Bernie his perspective on the world that people need help even though you might not see it. Working in the tobacco fields and on produce farms around Hadley, MA at a young age instilled in Bernie a strong work ethic and the idea that no one is above any occupation and everyone should be treated with equity and respect. Bernie worked tirelessly his whole life to help others without ever taking credit for his efforts, he instilled in his family "Life is not about you, but others" He had a passion and love of the Red Sox, the horses at Saratoga, the coast of Maine, UVM basketball, family, friends, and community, that was unwavering and incomparable. He never thought of himself. "Be good" was Bernie's personal mantra that not only did he believe in, but lived by. Spending countless evenings hours and weekends to improve the community and state he loved and lived in. Bernie was

need help even though you might not see it. Working in the tobacco fields and on produce farms around Hadley, MA at a young age instilled in Bernie a strong work ethic and the idea that no one is above any occupation and everyone should be treated with equity and respect. Bernie worked tirelessly his whole life to help others without ever taking credit for his efforts, he instilled in his family "Life is not about you, but others" He had a passion and love of the Red Sox, the horses at Saratoga, the coast of Maine, UVM basketball, family, friends, and community, that was unwavering and incomparable. He never thought of himself. "Be good" was Bernie's personal mantra that not only did he believe in, but lived by. Spending countless evenings hours and weekends to improve the community and state he loved and lived in. Bernie was

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Vermont State Colleges update

Lucy Rogers, State Representative, Lamoille-3

The Vermont State Colleges Chancellor, Jeb Spaulding, (has resigned) from his position. I will be providing more updates on the State Colleges situation as I have them, but in the meantime I am committed to two main goals:

- to advocate within the legislature for adequate funding for the Vermont State Colleges; and
- to ensure that all decisions going forward include input from, and collaboration with, members of the communities that will be most affected by those decisions.

If you missed the "Pitch Session" that Reps. Noyes, Hill, and I, and Senator Westman hosted last weekend to hear ideas from our community, you can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ouapr1LXSEw>. In addition, if you haven't done so already, please send me your ideas for the future of Vermont's state colleges system. I am encouraging all legislators to send me their constituents' ideas, which I will combine into a single document to be posted publicly on the website for the Speaker of the House. More info to come!

proud not of himself but of his family, friends, and colleagues. When he became a member of a board he was most proud to serve on, Bernie said, "Can you believe it, a nobody like me made it here and I'm surrounded by all these important people." Yes, Bernie we believe it, we always believed in you and so did all those important people. The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to United Way of Lamoille County, 20 Morrisville Plaza-Suite B, TD Bank Building, Morrisville, VT 05661, the University of Vermont basketball programs, UVM Men's and Women's Basketball Excellence Funds, c/o UVM Foundation, 411 Main St., Burlington, VT 05401, [www.uvmfoundation.org](http://www.uvmfoundation.org) or Jenna's Promise, 1159 Foote Brook Rd., Johnson, VT 05656, <https://jennaspromise.org/donation-options/>. A Catholic Mass and celebration of Bernie's life will take place as time permits.

**William "Mike" Mallow**, 88, of Burlington, VT passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

Mike was born in Bolton, VT to parents William "Bill" Mallow and Gladys (Lawrence) Mallow, and Mike had a sister, Vineta Cloy Pecor, who have all predeceased him. Mike would often tell the story of the first time he laid his eyes on his beloved Ina Mae. He would tell us that it was love at first sight. He'd reflect back to the day he was painting a barn with a friend and saw Ina Mae (Besaw) walk by. He told his friend "I'm going to marry that girl one day," and on July 24, 1953 he and Ina were married and began their life together! They shared 65 years together. Their first journey together was a move to Oklahoma, where he was stationed after joining the U.S. Air Force. After his discharge, they moved back home along with their first child to help with the family business, Mallow's Market, in south Hinesburg, VT. He later bought the Market from his father and ran it with his family for another 21 years. The Mallow's Market buck pool was known by hunters near and far. Mike looked forward with pride to the yearly event. The buck pool was known as one of the largest in the state. Many were lucky enough to get their Polaroid picture posted on the board with their catch, and get reported daily on the radio. After 21 years as a store owner working seven days a week, Mike sold the market and started new careers: a salesman for Leisure World Pools, and a truck driver for Ryder Rental up to his retirement. Mike's life revolved around family, friends, and the outdoors. He loved hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and late in life, golfing. Mike and Ina entertained many friends and family at their home. They were amazing dancers and it was always a treat to watch them dancing the jitterbug at party or wedding. A skilled hunter, many hunting trips, and stories to go with them. Mike recorded a "hole in one" at the West Bolton CC and said he was lucky not a lot of golfers were out that day so he didn't have to buy many beers! During his Mallow's Market days Mike would always be there for friends in need and many looked up to Mike as an honest and decent man. Mike's devoted, loving, and beautiful wife Ina Mae predeceased him in 2019. He leaves his three children, William Michael Mallow and wife Denise of Saratoga Springs, NY, Annette Palmer and husband Tony of Williston, VT, and Stacey Peet and husband Fred Peet of Gastonia, NC; eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He also leaves two special nieces, Janet Russell and husband David, and Carolyn Bourgeois and husband Marcel. He can rest now, dancing with Ina Mae to big band music in the sky. Dad... thank you for passing on your life's meanings onto us as we continue forward in our life's journeys. Peace at last, you will always be in our hearts! We would like to thank the staff at Birchwood Terrace, and Bayada who in Dad's final days were courageous, so professional, and made him very comfortable. There will be no visiting hours. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers please give to the Alzheimer's Association of VT: [www.act.alz.org/donate](http://www.act.alz.org/donate). The arrangements are in the care of Ready Funeral & Cremation Service. To send online condolences to his family please visit [www.readyfuneral.com](http://www.readyfuneral.com).



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VERMONT HUMANITES COUNCIL

**WOLF PEACHES, POISONED PEAS, AND MADAME POMPADOUR'S UNDERWEAR: THE SURPRISING HISTORY OF COMMON GARDEN VEGETABLES**

WITH AUTHOR REBECCA RUPP



THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 AT 6:30 PM ON ZOOM

Please email fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com for the Zoom link!

**Legislative updates** continued from page 11

Rob talked about the enormous increase in need for meals throughout the county and how his staff and volunteers have adapted to meet then need. Pretty inspirational stuff.

You can see the discussion here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIqtGoAboEY>

Wednesday, April 29 I was joined by Mike Piecak, who is in charge of COVID-19 modeling and forecasting for the State. Mike provided behind-the-scenes insights into how his number crunching has helped inform the state's public health measures, and how it will be used moving forward as restrictions are eased. You can see my discussion with Mike at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woF8QOCxfQ&t=73s>

**Report on remote legislative session work**

**Theresa Wood** *State Representative, Washington-Chittenden*

Last week was an historic week for the House of Representatives — we voted to conduct business remotely during the pandemic using a

variety of methods, and held our first live remote session. It is also possible to watch and listen to the proceedings on YouTube. It was a significant undertaking to have 150 people trying to do something at the same time using technology. We persevered and passed a number of bills relating to Vermont's response to the pandemic.

S.316: this is an act regarding the execution of wills. Ordinarily, wills need to be executed in person, in front of witnesses. This bill enables the remote execution of wills in accordance with the Secretary of State's emergency rules during the pandemic.

H.741: this is an act enabling the Department of Buildings and General Services to have access to the background check records of individuals who will be working in state buildings, but who are employed by contractors or sub-contractors.

S.340: this bill enables the State Treasurer to borrow from funds created by the Legislature for a period of up to 90 days. In essence this is state government borrowing from itself rather than incurring the additional expense of outside borrowing. The Treasurer is already allowed to do this for a 60-day period, and this extends it to 90 days (45 days before and after the end of the fiscal year).

S.341: this bill enables the Tax Department to share confidential information on earnings with the Department of La-

bor specifically for the purposes of determining unemployment compensation for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program for independent contractors and individuals who are self-employed.

S.114: this bill is related to a number of issues including: allowing judicial discretion for rent hearings; allowing remote execution of a power of attorney; emergency rules for recording of deeds; the ability of a defendant to appear by video or audio appearance; extension of the statutes of limitations for 60 days after the Governor terminates the state of emergency; and, an alternative method to having a document notarized during the state of emergency.

In addition to these bills, we continue to help constituents navigate the unemployment system. Independent contractors and self-employed individuals are now eligible to file and can do so at <https://labor.vermont.gov/PUA>. We continue to work on unemployment issues and are seeing some progress, but there are still too many Vermonters waiting for their benefits.

I have also heard from many of you regarding the proposal by Chancellor Jeb Spaulding to close three Vermont State College campuses. At the current time, that proposal has been withdrawn, but the work to identify a sustainable solution to the issue continues.

I can continue to be reached at [twood@leg.state.VT.us](mailto:twood@leg.state.VT.us).

**Help with Unemployment**

**Robert Bancroft,**  
*State Representative, Chittenden-8-3*

If you are a resident of the Chittenden 8-3 District and are having difficulties registering for Unemployment Insurance (UI) or the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, send me an email at [rbancroft@leg.state.VT.us](mailto:rbancroft@leg.state.VT.us). I may be able to assist you in registering and receiving payments. I will need the following information: your name; last four digits of your Social Security number; email address; phone number; is your problem with UI or PUA; have you opened an initial claim (if so, the date); have you received a check (if opened a claim).

**Chittenden County Soccer School 2020**

We are all hopeful and looking forward to some time on the pitch together this summer! As of now, soccer camp is still "on" for Monday-Friday, July 13-17 at Mills Riverside Park.

Until we get a directive from the State of Vermont and Governor Scott, we will still remain hopeful that soccer camp will be good to go in July. We know there may be more changes ahead during these challenging times.

We have reserved MRP for a backup week August 3-7. We will keep all registrants updated as we move through the spring.

Vermont is doing very well at meeting benchmarks for the gradual reopening of social restrictions. We are lucky that camp is located at MRP with wide open field space for us to stretch out. One potential change for 2020 is capping our registrations so camp can still operate under new social gathering rules.

Thank you to all who have registered, keep the hope alive! For more info please visit [www.chittendencountysoccerschool.org](http://www.chittendencountysoccerschool.org).

**COVID-19 update from Underhill-Jericho Reps Squirrel, Till**

The Vermont House of Representatives has been hard at work since the COVID-19 crisis began. While we closed the State House building on March 13, our meetings shifted to remote committee hearings. We've been hard at work in House Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife (Trevor Squirrel) and House Ways and Means (George Till). Our focus has been to support emerging community and state needs to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On Thursday, the House of Representatives met using a secure, remote voting system to amend our rules so the House can conduct its business using online sessions until the COVID-19 emergency passes. This was a first for the Vermont House, and we immediately took action to pass a package of COVID-19 relief bills to enable the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, permit the execution of a will without having to be in direct contact with other people, and provide our State Treasurer with tools to proactively manage state and local cash flow needs.

The COVID-19 crisis requires all hands on deck. We will hold more remote floor sessions in the near future. You can watch recordings of House meetings, and live floor sessions, by following our legislative page on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1w34IyglvB\\_HT6dt\\_4eMA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1w34IyglvB_HT6dt_4eMA).

This is a tough time for many in our community. Please be in touch if you have any questions or feedback. We can be reached at [tsquirrel@leg.state.VT.us](mailto:tsquirrel@leg.state.VT.us) (Trevor Squirrel) and [gill@leg.state.VT.us](mailto:gill@leg.state.VT.us) (George Till).

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Mother's Day is just around the corner! A gift to tell her she is special and appreciated with flowers is always a good way to say Thank You Mom! We have hanging baskets in the latest colors and combinations, annuals to brighten up a flower bed, perennials that make a memorable gift year after year, vegetables and herbs to keep her healthy. If you don't know what to pick we are happy to help you or make it a day and bring Mom by to let her pick. See you soon!

**What's Hot At Oakwood Farms?**  
Quality, Value & Friendly Staff!



- Perennials
- Organic Vegetables & Herbs
- Bedding Plants
- Stunning Potted Plants
- 10" Baskets
- 12" Baskets
- In Full Bloom

**Premium Pack Annuals & Veggies**  
Jumbo Rootballs at our everyday low prices!

**Weekend Special Select 10" Baskets**  
Sat. May 9 & Sun. May 10  
**\$28.99**

**Our Greenhouses**  
Will Be Fully Stocked for Mother's Day Weekend

**Down To Earth Prices On Organic Veggie/Herbs**

Drive a little save a lot at

**Oakwood Farms**

Pioneering Organic Gardening Since 1930  
6 Weed Road & Rt. 128 North  
Essex, Vermont  
764-5822



**Sunday, May 10**

Remember Mom with a lovely bouquet, beautiful roses, or flowering plant.



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