



## In Bolton: Notch Road, Boys Club Road closures

By Brian Roberge, Bolton Town Administrator

Notch Road  
Bolton residents who use Notch Road from the bus turnaround down to U.S. Rt. 2: this route of travel will be closed from 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Monday, November 18 for necessary construction work. ECI will be conducting work that requires both lanes of travel to be shut down. The road will be open for regular travel again after 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 24.

Residents on Notch Road who live below the bus turnaround can coordinate onsite with ECI to ensure they can exit their homes.

Any questions or concerns in this regard can be directed to the Town Office at 802-434-5075 ext. 224.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while these repairs are being undertaken.

Boys Club Road  
The paving work on Boys Club Road has been shifted from Monday to Wednesday, November 20, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Residents on Boys Club Road will be able to depart down the road before 7:00 AM and will be able to return after 5:00 PM. Please contact the Town Administrator with additional questions.

## Cambridge Town Meeting Modernization Select Board review

By Sam Lotto, Jeffersonville

On Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, the Cambridge Select board has called a special meeting at the Cambridge Vermont Town Offices, Church St., Jeffersonville to review and discuss the work and recommendations from the Annual Town Meeting Advisory Committee.

Here is a link to the Agenda, which includes how to connect remotely: <https://bit.ly/40WcjmW> (short for <https://cambridge-townvt.documents-on-demand.com/?l=c61afde095ebee11a3f7000c29a59557&d=52205043f207ef11a400a94248984ada>). The meeting will start with a presentation on the Committee's research and recommendations, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The Annual Town Meeting Modernization recommendations will include ones that do not require statute changes and ones that will require statute change.

We hope to see you there!

## Equestrian, mountain bike activity closure at Mobbs Farm

By Pete Davis, Mobbs Farm Committee Chair, Jericho

Please be advised that equestrian and mountain biking activity will be CLOSED at Mobbs Farm during the two-week Vermont deer hunting rifle season, from Saturday, November 16-Sunday, December 1.

During this two-week period, all visitors and their pets should be aware that hunters may be on the property. Accordingly, please exercise caution and wear BLAZE ORANGE.

## Cambridge town wide reappraisal

By Dale Copping, Cambridge Lister

Beginning Monday, December 2, Jordan Matte of Vermont Appraisal Company will start assessing residential properties located in Jeffersonville Village and Jeff Heights. Jordan will be in the area from 9:00 AM to approximately 2:00 PM daily until complete. We will try to schedule times with property owners.

If you have not provided contact information it would be helpful if you call the Listers at 802-644-2251 ext. # 3. Our office hours are Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

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

## Westford Wastewater Alternatives Committee update

By Holly Delisle, Westford Town Administrator

The work of the Wastewater Alternatives Committee (WAC) has been paused.

The WAC has met three times since it was reinstated by the Selectboard following the summer hiatus. During those three meetings the WAC reviewed and revised its Mission Statement, considered properties to reach out to for further investigation, and discussed whether establishing a geographic perimeter around the Village Center could result in a potential investigation list.

The WAC began to wonder how the potential purchase of the 1705 VT Rt. 128 property may impact their objectives, and the WAC asked the Selectboard for guidance. During the Thursday November 7 Selectboard meeting, the Selectboard determined that they would need to have further conversations before they could give WAC the guidance it was looking for. The Selectboard moved to pause WAC's work for now.



Santa visiting, from a recent Christmas past.

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

## Bolton's Wheeler Field update

From the FoWF Board: Jane Agran, Tina Bucklin, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Ryan Farrell, and Rob Ricketson

Greetings again from the corner of Nashville Road and Stage Road in West Bolton! Your neighbors on the Friends of Wheeler Field (FoWF) Board want you to know what's been going on over in this little slice of public land heaven.

On Sunday October 13, the field was a scenic gathering spot for the celebration of life for Mark Andrews. Several dozen friends, neighbors, and family came out to share memories, stories, and hugs. Having a place to gather a large group is one of the reasons we are lucky to have this public land.

On Sunday, October 20 a nice group of volunteers helped get some fall cleaning done. They cleared and dug out a bunch of honeysuckle from among the trees in the historic apple orchard. Another group worked on remediating the invasive Japanese knotweed. We also planted daffodils around the flagpole, which will be a special treat in the Spring.

Thanks to all our volunteers! Rob Ricketson, Ryan and Cade Farrell, Tina Bucklin, Amy Ludwin, Joanne Rosenblum, Michael Webber, Anne Clegg, Duncan Murdoch, Brandon and Jenn Cadorette, and Jen Dudley-Gaillard. Thanks also to our local experts Luke Ingram, Ali Kosiba, and Duncan Murdoch for expert consultation and advice. In just a few short hours, a lot was accomplished. It is true what they say about many hands making for light work.

In other news relating to Wheeler Field:

Monday, November 25: Management Plan released for Public Review. The official management plan is the guiding document of how the field operates. A small committee has worked for almost a year to draft this important document. Now the public will have an opportunity to review it and provide feedback. The proposed plan can be found at the town website, [www.boltonvt.com](http://www.boltonvt.com).

Tuesday, December 3: Giving Tuesday Donation Opportunity. As a registered non-profit organization, Friends of Wheeler Field accepts your tax-deductible donation via check, PayPal, or Venmo. Any and all donations accepted and appreciated! Giving Tuesday provides us all with a reminder that our local non-profit organizations need your help and support at this time of year. Might Friends of Wheeler Field fit into your end of year giving plans? For details, contact [friendsofwheelerfield@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwheelerfield@gmail.com).

Monday, December 9: Public Input Meeting. The public is invited to a meeting at the Bolton Town Office at 6:00 PM to provide valuable input on the proposed management plan. Come let your voice be heard!

## Election Day snapshots, voices

By Angelike A. Contis

Mount Mansfield Community Television

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) made these two short videos, capturing what went on locally on election day:

Election Snapshot (Jericho/Underhill/Richmond): <https://youtu.be/Dgkc-6iIA0k>

Richmond Election Voices: <https://youtu.be/GqYKAsb1G9w>

A third video is on the way soon, as we were fortunate enough to trail Richmond Town Clerk Linda Parent and the voting volunteers/officials the entire election day.

## Hogback Road culverts replacement complete

By Eric Boozan, Cambridge Town Administrator

Hogback Road was opened around 12:30 PM on Friday, November 8.

During the week of November 11-15, crews worked to install guardrails and complete site finishes. One-lane traffic was maintained, but with expected delays.

Contact Eric Boozan, [eric@cambridgevt.org](mailto:eric@cambridgevt.org), with any questions

## Underhill's Natural World video available to view

For those who were unable to attend the October 29 presentation on Underhill's Natural World, it is available to watch on video online at:

Underhill Natural Resources Inventory Mapping Special Presentation 10-29-2024: <https://youtu.be/KWpRV3KywaE>.

## Jericho community news

This month we feature Jericho Town Planner Chris Shaheen. To read more go online to <https://jerichovt.org/Celebrating-Each-Other>.

Town Meeting Reimagined: As budget discussions began, the Selectboard (SB) published a calendar covering tentative dates for budget items over the next few months. Some discussions will happen at the regular SB meetings and others will be warned as public hearings. Mark your calendar for January 23 which will be the second community-wide budget meeting. Please reach out to Paula Carrier ([pcarrier@jerichovt.gov](mailto:pcarrier@jerichovt.gov)) or any of the Selectboard members if you have comments regarding budget topics. View the budget timeline online at [https://jerichovt.org/jericho-town-meeting-2-0/news\\_feed/fy26-budget-discussion-timeline-draft-dates](https://jerichovt.org/jericho-town-meeting-2-0/news_feed/fy26-budget-discussion-timeline-draft-dates) [https://jerichovt.org/jericho-town-meeting-2-0/news\\_feed/fy26-budget-discussion-timeline-draft-dates](https://jerichovt.org/jericho-town-meeting-2-0/news_feed/fy26-budget-discussion-timeline-draft-dates)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Jericho's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is currently unable to meet due to a shortage of members (as per VT Open Meeting Law). If you are interested in joining the committee and helping to create a more diverse, welcoming, and equitable community please fill out the Volunteer Committee Interest Form [online at https://jerichovt.org/boards-committees/surveys/town-board-application](https://jerichovt.org/boards-committees/surveys/town-board-application). To read more about the work of the committee go online to <https://jerichovt.org/diversity-equity-inclusion>.

Mobbs Farm Committee: Thank you to the Mobbs Farm Committee for the work they do to maintain one of Jericho's well-loved parks. Read what they've been up to on behalf of the town, online at [https://jerichovt.org/Mobbs-Committee/news\\_feed/mobbs-farm-updates-fall-2024](https://jerichovt.org/Mobbs-Committee/news_feed/mobbs-farm-updates-fall-2024).

Please consider helping at any upcoming volunteer work dates. Many hands make light work! And remember that Mobbs trails will be closed for mountain bike and equestrian use during the upcoming rifle hunting season (November 16-December 1) and any visitors and their pets should wear blaze orange during that time.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission (PC), guided by Chris Shaheen and our planning consultant, David White, continues their work on updating zoning for the Village Centers. The Bylaw Modernization Grant (<https://jerichovt.org/2024-village-center-zoning-updates>) project scope (as defined in the grant agreement with VT Department of Housing and Community Development) focuses on Jericho's three designated Village Centers. Our deliberations consider the following points:

- develop amendments to simplify the Character Based Zoning overlay in Riverside;
- update Village Center zones using Enabling Better Places ([https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/ACCD/ACCD\\_Web\\_Docs/CD/CPR/Planning-Your-Towns-Future/CPR-Z4GN-Guide-Final-web.pdf](https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/ACCD/ACCD_Web_Docs/CD/CPR/Planning-Your-Towns-Future/CPR-Z4GN-Guide-Final-web.pdf)) as a guide;
- create vibrant, walkable, mixed-use village centers;
- align with our Town Plan ([https://jerichovt.org/town-plan-2024/news\\_feed/2024-town-plan](https://jerichovt.org/town-plan-2024/news_feed/2024-town-plan)) and anticipated future wastewater infrastructure.

The PC will continue its review/edits of the zoning through the remainder of 2024 and we plan to begin public review and public hearings regarding our proposed changes in early 2025. The Selectboard would then hold two warned public hearings prior to adopting the proposed amended zoning bylaws. For additional information, check out <https://jerichovt.org/2024-village-center-zoning-updates>.

Send the Mountain Gazette your holiday news.

Email [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



*A bread from another time of year can still work at Thanksgiving dinner.*  
PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Children laughing, running, throwing leaves up over their heads. Turkey odors rise with chimney smoke, settling, embracing sidewalk walkers and runners alike.

Walking by, the yard looked abandoned, old, lifeless, dying or dead, a mortuary of flora and fauna. The house looked lively enough, trim, neat, calm colored, not elaborate or large, fitting in place. Dainty white curtains screening but not isolating.

Family home. A place of gathering, resting, dreaming, recessing, grandpa reclining in repose, grandma napping, dad unwinding, children retaining and storing vibrancy, mom setting the Thanksgiving table with fixings from the summer garden. A family maintaining and caring for inter-human relations.

But the yard lacked color and movement. No visible family or neighbors or visitors. The fallen leaves, wrinkled, with brown spots, delicate, tranquil. Flower stalks, relieved of supporting flower heads, nap standing up. Chickory, now blue only in mood. Queen Anne's lace is no longer as elegant as frilly lace curtains. Black-eyed Susan's eyes closed in slumber. Only rose hips retain a blush of reddish pink in response to the yard's naked exposure.

Movement in the house. None in the yard. No bustling bumblebees at rose and tomato flowers. No grasshoppers tilting grass stems. No green sweat bees delighting on purple asters. No orange Monarchs, or rainbow colored beetles; Shades of nature diluted, faded, seemingly, un festive.

Sounds erupt from inside the house — conversations, snoring, slurping drinks, munching of appetizers. In the yard chirping from crickets, melodious trill from the nearby pond — absent. Katydid and cicadas diluted from a diminuendo to silence. The "songs" of short-horned grasshoppers, mechanical sounding — buzzes, whirrs, and clicks. The song of house crickets, cheep-cheep-cheep (pause) cheep-cheep-cheep (pause). The songs of other crickets, katydids, and other long-horned grasshoppers — complex, with chirps, buzzes, and pauses. All silent.

The yard has a turkey-like presence with the brown crispy skins, but none of the house table fixings. No orange (yams/marigolds), bright greens (peas/yarrow), flaming reds (cranberries/roses), no sweet odors (turkey baking/bergamot, milkweed, roses).

And so, upon walking along the yard edge, I give thanks for the harvest of the previous spring and summer when movement, sounds, color, and aroma penetrated the walkway. I am thankful to the homeowners for leaving the flowering plant remnants and the yard residents undisturbed, asleep, in peace and comfort in their fall through early spring abode — covered under a critical blanket of leaves, some in bunk beds within standing flower stems, some cozy just under the soil surface.

I give thanks to the homeowner who retains a measure of intimacy with the natural world, with their fellow wildlife neighbors; the family who maintain intimate human-earth relations.

Looking again at the browns on the Thanksgiving table that is in the front yard, I realize this is a table of dessert. The tans and browns remind me of apple pie. The blush rose hips recall the steep strong hibiscus tea.

The yard table is a Thanksgiving table after the main meal is over. What remains is to enjoy dessert, and reminisce with or about old flower and sleeping invertebrate friends — our fauna and flora neighbors.

The front yard is not old or abandoned. On the contrary. It is adorned with sleeping quarters, a quiet, peaceful, undisturbed abode with abundant life, resting after a tremendous feast and celebration of wild lives.

The fauna and flora work hard sustaining us in life, delighting us with diversity and wonders. Unlike lawns, this yard is a Book of Nature where the pages of seasons are all connected, not folded or torn.

Now I seek to guide myself and others into an appreciation instead of exploitation of nature so that we may become a mutually beneficial presence on the Earth.

I give thanks for the many modes of earth's life forms and for those who strive to accommodate the abodes of wildlife.

Let us give thanks by preserving the natural world in its natural cycles and transformations, a yard at a time.

Happy Thanksgiving

**Pick up a free Thanksgiving Community Meal November 27, 28**

Catalyst Church on Raceway Rd., Jericho will once again be hosting a takeout community meal this Thanksgiving holiday. If you or someone you know could use a free Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings, go to <https://www.catalystvt.org/upcoming-events> and sign up.

Meals can be picked up on Wednesday November 27, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, or on Thursday, November 28, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. If you would like a meal but can't pick it up, local delivery is available. Questions? Call the church office, 802-899-2949, or email Michael Corriveau, [mpcorvo@gmail.com](mailto:mpcorvo@gmail.com).

**Happy Thanksgiving**

By Bernie Paquette, Jericho

November.

Crisp.

Cool.

Stick season.

Bare limbs of unclothed arms held reverent to the sun's life-preserving warmth. Firewood stacked, retaining life warmth.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Calvary Episcopal Church**

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho. Sunday Worship in November, 9:30 AM at Calvary. (December 15, Calvary worships at St. James at 10:00 AM). Soup/Supper will be held November 21 and December 19, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. The parish administrator can be reached at [calvary-churchjericho@gmail.com](mailto:calvary-churchjericho@gmail.com) or 802-899-0453. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it!

**Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays (November 24, December 8, 22) of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact [info@mmuuf.org](mailto:info@mmuuf.org) or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

**Jericho United Methodist Church**

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

**United Church of Underhill**

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

[ucu.church](http://ucu.church). For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>.

**Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville**

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

**Jericho Congregational Church**

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

**All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho**

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

**St. Thomas Catholic Church**

"Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass"  
On Green Street in Underhill Center  
Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 8:30 AM  
Weekday Masses: Wednesday 6:30 PM, Friday 8:00 AM  
Pastor: Rev. Domenico Pizzonia; Deacon: Peter Brooks  
Religious Ed. Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells, 802-899-4770  
Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras, 802-899-4632  
email: [office@stthomasvt.com](mailto:office@stthomasvt.com); website: [www.stthomasvt.com](http://www.stthomasvt.com)

**Waterville Union Church**

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

**COMING EVENTS**

**Ongoing Events**

**It Takes a Village Women's Circle** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (November 26), 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Waterville Town Hall, 544 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. November's theme is all about Gratitude. We will have a pot-luck, so if you can please bring something to share; if not, whatever the reason, just bring yourself! Also bring a journal and pen. Donation based; suggested donation \$5 goes to the upkeep of the Waterville Town Hall. But all are welcome, always! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1071704021631117?ref=newsfeed>

**Come help Wood4Good help the community stay warm** — Please join us weekly on Saturdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, through January 25, 2025. We process wood at the end of the Davis Farm on Cilley Hill Rd in Jericho. If you want to put it in your phone, use 151 Cilley Hill — which is the address just beyond the land we use to process the wood. Park on the opposite side of the street, off the road as far as you can and tight to the car in front of you. Wear boots, gloves, and hearing protection. Come join the fun! Also, we need help with grant writing and project management as well as community outreach — if anyone would like to help us with a non-physical job. Please contact Eric Axelrod, Wood4Good, 802-310-1949.

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

**SongFarmers** is a music jam for people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments — guitars, banjos, mandolins, fiddles, ukuleles, bass, keyboard. No electronics except for keyboard and bass. It's a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. If you plan to lead, please choose a song that you can play at a steady rhythm and bring a chord chart for your song. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Novice or advanced, you can have fun in a music circle. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just come and enjoy the gathering are welcome too. No alcohol. It's okay to come late. Free! Third Wednesdays (November 20, December 18), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Registration is appreciated; email [CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com).

**Mountainsong Community Chorus** — Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). If you love to sing, come join Mountainsong! We are a volunteer-run community singing group which harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings! Whether you sing in the shower, sing karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Whether you learn by ear or read music, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a "great" singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing. We have almost no performances, except maybe to sing a few songs for a local assisted living facility and one short event for family and friends at the end of the season. We sing most weeks, although you can come as often as you are able, and if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week for using the space. We also ask for a small contribution for purchasing music (to be announced when we have our first meeting). Questions? Contact: Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or [lar.2436@gmail.com](mailto:lar.2436@gmail.com), or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219 if you have questions, or just show up on a Thursday evening! We look forward to singing together!

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

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

Coming events continued on page 3

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Coming events continued from page 2

org/events.html.

**The Underhill Historical Society** meets at the Old Schoolhouse, 32 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill Center, but is now closed for the season. Visit our website for more information about the Underhill Historical Society: <https://underhillhistoricalsociety.org/>.

**Craft Group:** meets twice a month on Thursdays (November 21, December 5, 19), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

**Waterville Country Church hosts a Community Meal** the first Thursday of each month (December 5). Come enjoy a relaxing homemade meal with neighbors at the church, or pick up meal(s) to go. Donations accepted. All donations will be given to a local nonprofit, charity, or community service organization. For information contact Susan Schill or Kim Pitt, [watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com](mailto:watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com). Ask about delivery to shut-ins!

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

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

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

**Coming Events**

**Tuesday, November 19**

**Reconnecting the Green Mountains: a multi-pronged approach for enabling wildlife movement,** 3:00 – 4:00 PM, online. The spine of the Green Mountains is a chain of several huge forest blocks that is the backbone of the Vermont landscape. With relatively few road crossings, wildlife can move among

these forests for great distances. This is important for keeping populations healthy and allowing them to adapt to climate change. Yet the Winooski River valley — with I-89, U.S. Rt. 2, and the railroad — is a significant barrier separating the northern and central Green Mountains. Efforts are underway to ensure that habitat remains connected across these barriers. Join Conservation Planner Jens Hilke and VTrans Biologist Jesse Johnson to learn about the exciting wildlife connectivity projects emerging along the busiest stretch of road in Vermont. Oversized culverts, wildlife shelves, and a state-of-the-art highway underpass are all on the menu as conservation planners find creative solutions to reconnect the Green Mountains for wildlife between Mount Mansfield and Camel’s Hump. Register online at <https://bit.ly/40F8Rxx>.

**Wednesday, November 20**

**Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) Budget Hearing,** 7:00 – 7:30 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. Voters in the JUPD district of Jericho and Underhill are invited to meet to discuss the FY2026 JUPD budget of \$85,962.

**Thursday, November 21**

**Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper,** Calvary Episcopal Church, 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. This is an alternate date, due to this month’s holiday dates. Look forward to seeing you there!

**Saturday, November 30**

**November Bird Monitoring Walk,** 8:00 – 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. All birders (current, experienced, newbie, and would-be) are welcome! Join our monthly monitoring walk outdoors on the Museum’s trails in forest and meadow. Most fun for adults, older children. Please bring your own binoculars, and dress for the weather. Tick repellent and water bottles are recommended. Maximum 12 people; suggested donation \$10-15. Register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Thursday, December 5**

**Legislative Preview: Vermont’s Creative Sector Advocacy Priorities,** 11:00 AM. As we approach the start of the 2025 legislative session, learn more about the Vermont Creative Network’s statewide advocacy priorities and find out how you can help ensure state representatives and senators understand the importance of Vermont’s creative economy. Presenters: Susan Evans McClure, Executive Director, Vermont Arts Council; Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Executive Director, Vermont Humanities; Patricia Komline, Government Relations Manager, Downs Rachlin Martin. To register, go online to <https://bit.ly/48rQ7Dd> (short for <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6C5TA9a863S#registration?os=ipad>). The webinar will be recorded and made available on our website <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/vermont-creative-network/> after the event.

**Monday, December 9**

**Regulation Report: Changes Impacting Creative Businesses and Nonprofits,** 11:00 AM, via Zoom. Join a panel of experts to learn more about new state and federal laws,

regulations, and opportunities that may impact your creative business or nonprofit, such as the Vermont Saves retirement program, salary requirements for job listings, and changes to exempt employee status. Presenters: Heather Southwell, Of Council, Downs Rachlin Martin; Becky Wasserman, Director of Economic Empowerment, Office of the State Treasurer. To register, go online to <https://bit.ly/3NNohrr> (short for <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6C5TA9a863S#registration?os=ipad>). The webinars will be recorded and made available on our website <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/vermont-creative-network/> after the event.

**Wednesday, December 11**

**CPR class,** 6:00 – 8:30 PM, Underhill Jericho Fire Station, 420 VT Rt.15, Underhill. Offered by the UJFD for those interested in learning this lifesaving skill, or who need a refresher. Cost: \$10, which covers the card. Classes fill up fast! Please email Katie Forsberg, [kmf0508@comcast.net](mailto:kmf0508@comcast.net), to register.

**Saturday, December 14**

**Westford Rec LEGO Night,** 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Westford Elementary School, Brookside Road, Westford. Another LEGO night sponsored by Westford Recreation for youth ages 6-10. Westford Recreation is pleased to announce another Lego Night! \$20 includes LEGO set, pizza, and fun! (Scholarships available). Limited spots available; register online at <https://>

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## HEALTH NEWS

## Richmond blood drive December 4

The next Richmond blood drive will be held Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 AM – 5:15 PM at the Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond.

Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for more information and to make an appointment. Or, Dave Thomas can assist you. Email [dthomas@gmavt.net](mailto:dthomas@gmavt.net) or call 802-434-3654.

As we approach the year-end holiday season, please consider the gift of blood to help save a life.

Perhaps you know a situation where a pint of blood made all the difference for a family or friend. Blood supplies are critically low. Ask a friend or a high school senior giving for the first time to join you.

## Healthy Lamoille Valley grant offering

Prevention Sponsorships Available — Available to the Lamoille Valley community through the Region 3 Vermont Prevention Lead Organization grant, supporting prevention across the lifespan. This year we have \$5000 available to be given out in increments of \$250-500, to be used by June 30, 2025.

We also have an additional \$6000 available for LGBTQ+ support! Regional priorities include reducing underage substance use, reducing adult high risk substance use, support for LGBTQ+ youth, and creating a community where youth and adults feel valued, connected, and supported.

Learn more and apply on our website at <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/prevention-sponsorships-available> or email ~ if you have any questions.

Check out more news and our latest resources on our website. <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org>.

## CPR training from UJFD

By Katie Forsberg, Underhill

The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department is offering a CPR class on Wednesday, December 11, 6:00 – 8:30 PM at the Underhill Jericho Fire Station, 420 VT Rt.15, Underhill.

If you are interested in learning this life saving skill, or need a refresher, please come join me. The cost of this class is \$10, which covers the card.

Classes fill up fast. Please email Katie Forsberg, [kmf0508@comcast.net](mailto:kmf0508@comcast.net), if you would like to take this class. Hope to see you there.

## Community Health Survey: your input needed

By Emma Vaughn

## Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Help shape the future of health and wellbeing in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties by taking the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Survey by Friday, November 29. Conducted by the University of Vermont Medical Center every three years, this anonymous survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete: [https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV\\_0e3GMgbuWyX3Fki](https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_0e3GMgbuWyX3Fki)

As a thank you, you can enter to win one of four \$50 gift cards after you finish the survey!

*Why should you take the survey?* The CHNA survey results will help inform which priorities will be addressed for the next three years in the Community Health Improvement Plan. Learn more about this plan here: <https://www.UVMHealth.org/MedCenter/CHNA>

*How can you participate?* Set aside about 10 minutes, and click here to take the survey by November 29: [https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV\\_0e3GMgbuWyX3Fki](https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_0e3GMgbuWyX3Fki)

*Random prize drawing information:* As a thank you for your time and participation, there will be a random prize drawing for four \$50 gift cards that will be awarded at random to people who complete the survey and choose to enter. More details are available on the survey webpage.

*Please spread the word:* Share the survey with your friends, family, neighbors (ages 16+), clients, patients, networks, and everyone you work with — especially those with lived experience and voices from marginalized or underrepresented communities. Every voice matters, and your input can drive real change.

*Learn more about past efforts:* Want to see how your input has been effective in the past? Check out the 2022 CHNA report and improvement plan at <https://www.UVMHealth.org/MedCenter/CHNA>.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Thomas Moore, [thomas.moore@uvmhealth.org](mailto:thomas.moore@uvmhealth.org).

Thank you for your time and dedication to our community. Together, we can make a real difference!

## Nutrition for breastfeeding mothers

Breastfeeding mothers have been asking me lots of questions about what they should be eating to ensure they and their babies stay healthy when they breastfeed.

## Important nutritional information

Breastfeeding mothers need at least 300-500 additional calories per day to meet their own energy needs and produce enough milk to grow their babies.

## What kind of foods can generate those calories?

Ideally, fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins, and certainly dairy products rich in calcium. In fact, mothers don't have to drink milk to make milk — but they do need to stay hydrated and to take in enough calcium.

Mothers also need foods rich in iron, omega-3 fatty acids, and folate to ensure good brain growth of baby even after baby is born.

As to vitamins, if a mother is vegetarian, B12 needs to be added to their breastfeeding diet as well as vitamin D, although all babies who breastfeed can also benefit from extra vitamin D as recommended by your baby's health care professional. If a breastfeeding mother's diet is lacking in any significant nutrient, a multivitamin may be recommended by your doctor.

Mothers should check food labels to be sure their diet consists of the right nutrients when it comes to helping their baby grow.

What about a mother eating food that a baby might be allergic to? Well, it is rare for a breast-fed baby to show an allergic reaction while exclusively breastfeeding to something mother eats — so mothers should not avoid eating what they might normally eat unless they have a known food allergy. Only if allergic symptoms arise in a baby such as difficulty breathing, diarrhea, or a skin rash should food be eliminated from a mother's diet.

Sometimes mothers may find their babies are crankier after eating a food such as cabbage or something spicy; this is not an allergy but a sensitivity and by reducing the intake of this food, usually a child's disposition improves.

Caffeine can also affect a baby's ability to sleep or even their mood, so limit the coffee intake to no more than one or two cups a day, and drink it after rather than before breastfeeding.

Lewis First, MD, is Chief of Pediatrics at The University of Vermont Children's Hospital and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont's Larner College of Medicine. You can also catch "First with Kids" weekly on WOKO 98.9FM and NBC

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Thanks from Bruce Roy for VT Senate

To the Editor,

My thanks to the citizens of Chittenden County Southeast Senate District for allowing me to campaign to be your representative in the Vermont Senate. Thank you for your consideration and your votes. I am disappointed by the outcome, but I truly appreciate all the interactions I've had with the good people of Chittenden County over the last months. I hope the successful candidates have listened to you as well and will join Governor Scott in bringing Vermont to a new and bright future.

My intent in running was to offer change and a new voice for Chittenden County residents. The most respectful, honorable and powerful voice is your vote. The district has spoken and I accept and respect the results. My thanks to everyone who voted.

Special thanks to all the town clerks, the town clerk staffs, and the many election day volunteers that made voting an efficient and friendly operation.

I am proud of the campaign we ran, and I am so very grateful for my many supporters and volunteers that gave of their precious time and financial support.

I had a truly terrific team and I humbled by all their efforts on my behalf.

My congratulations to all who gave their time and energy to run for office and best of luck in Montpelier to all who won.

Thank you all.

Bruce Roy  
Bruce Roy For Vermont Senate  
[www.Roy4VT.org](http://www.Roy4VT.org)

After researching different types of E-bikes, it appears that class-1 pedal assist bikes are accepted at a lot of mixed-use trails in the area. These E-mountain-bikes don't go any faster than regular mountain bikes, except they climb hills much easier.

I'm hoping to find some fellow local E-bike enthusiasts to help lobby the park board to give us a shot at responsible E-biking in the park. Everyone who I have ran into on E-bikes in the area this summer are senior citizens. We would NOT be advocating for E-bikes that were not pedal assist. Please feel free to share your thoughts and concerns regarding this topic.

Rick Wiesel  
Jericho

## A letter to the future

To the Editor,

VT Digger reports "Montpelier delays costly PFAS solution for wastewater plant. The decision means the city still has a PFAS problem." (<https://vtdigger.org/2024/11/10/montpelier-delays-costly-pfas-solution-for-wastewater-plant/>)

We all share that problem. Who to look for a fix? Town and state government are short of funds. Federal government regulators are failing to keep up with the influx of new chemicals. Corporations are driven by short-term profits and quickly find loopholes in regulations.

The largest leverage for protecting our lives from dangerous chemicals being released into our air, soil, water, and then absorbed into the bodies of invertebrates and vertebrates, including humans, is in our pockets.

As consumers we purchase the products that are built or grown with these chemicals — PFAs, neonics... Therefore we hold the

tightest, most direct grip of influence over those who originate and distribute harmful chemicals that are pervasive in a range of consumer products.

We can address the problem at its source — our consumption decisions.

PFAS and other harmful chemicals are everywhere. No body is free from their exposure. The list of health concerns from this exposure is long, and the damaging effects expected to grow.

Yes, we need to address these slow-to-break-down chemicals that are already in our soil, water, and air. More importantly we need to address the problem at its source — a much more cost-efficient way to protect our health and longevity.

We can change each our own view of our consumptive culture. We can scrutinize the products we purchase. We can find ways to use our consumption leverage to influence corporations. (Safe Chemical certification labels?)

We know what is happening and what needs to be done. We know that we as consumers have the greatest leverage to fix the problem. Not ignoring our part and our leverage — not delaying fixing the problem at its source — is a no brainer.

## A letter to the future.

We watched our health (from birth and on) decline, we watched whole species decline and many go extinct. We watched our soil and water become poisoned many times greater than from DDT of the past. We watched as post-treatment (after chemicals entered the earth or our bodies) costs become astronomically expensive, if even feasible at all.

We know what is happening and what needs to be done.

Only you will know if we used our leverage to do it.

Bernard Paquette  
Jericho

## Current no-E-bike policy at Mills Riverside Park

To the Editor,

I have been a long supporter and user of the Mills Riverside Park trails. Living locally, I often ride my bike and walk through the beautiful countryside.

This summer, after two knee replacements, I switched my regular bike for a pedal assist E-mountain-bike. I continued to ride the park until I was notified by a lovely couple that E-bikes of any kind were not allowed in the park.

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

## Chapter 2: Sandcastle or home?

An excerpt from *Bees at the Beach*,  
*A Vermont Bee Story* by Bernie Paquette.

For the full story, go online to  
<https://vbugeyed.blogspot.com/2024/11/bees-at-beach-short-story-by-bernie.html>.

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## Matti and Luke welcome a new neighbor

Matti and Luke took a step back and waited for the bee to make the next move. She dutifully resumed digging a tunnel in which to lay eggs and deposit food in each chamber. Matti and Luke kneeled closer and watched as the bee dug and flung sand like a dog digging a hole — four to six legs kicking out sand.

"Wow," exclaimed Luke, "Look at her go!"

"But where are her helpers?" asked Matti. "You know, like all those female worker honeybees we watched at Uncle Pedro's bee hives."

Luke explained, "Hive-oriented or 'social' bees like honeybees or bumblebees are the exception in the bee world. Most bee species lead solitary lives. The adult female lives independently without any shared work duties with others of her species. She alone carries out all the duties usually delegated to different members in a hive setting."

Matti asked, "Should we be worried about getting stung by her?"

Luke replied assuredly, "Solitary females are not as defensive of their abodes [they do not have a store of honey to protect] and will instead fly off if something happens. (NWF org). We are fine as long as we don't try to handle or prod her."

"Look, Luke, she stopped digging and is flying around nearby. I wonder if she decided to build her nest in a different spot?" Matti questioned.



A Red-Tailed  
Miner Bee  
digging her  
solitary nest.

PHOTO  
COURTESY  
OF BERNIE  
PAQUETTE

Luke thought and suggested, "Maybe she is trying to lure us away from her nest. If I was a bee and two giants as big as us came by our house, I sure would try to get them away from our house."

## Two outta three ain't bad...

By Bill Schubart

Vermont's most intractable financial challenges are healthcare, education, and housing. Costs for all three have skyrocketed in the last two decades.

According to an analysis by Rees Partners, LLC, based on National Academy for State Health Policy data, Vermont could save as much as \$350M annually by simply managing operating budgets to established Medicare reimbursements, as some 70% of comparable academic medical centers do, and doing so profitably or on a breakeven basis. This simply means controlling non-clinical management and administrative expenses in a way that enables the hospital to break even annually on the amount

Community columns continued on page 5

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## LIBRARY NEWS

## DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

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

The library will be closed on Thursday-Friday, November 28-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thursday, November 21, 7:00 PM, Jericho Underhill Library District budget hearing, Program Room in the Library, to discuss the Library's proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. Those who wish to attend remotely may email Holly, [drawsonmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:drawsonmemlib@gmail.com), to receive a link.

The featured artist for November-December is Mary Hill, who grew up in Shelburne on the edge of Lake Champlain. Collecting from the natural world and beach combing inspired an ever-present practice of looking. Mary is drawn to primitive and rustic styles of arts and craft. She paints, leads workshops, and experiments with new mediums in her rural studio in the wooded hills of Underhill. A sampling of her acrylic paintings, mixed media collage, and digital collage will be on display at the Library. She will host an artist talk and demonstrate some of her techniques on Thursday, December 5, 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

Invitation for artists to display — the now has space available January through winter and spring. Artists may choose one or two months. For more information, stop by the library and check out the space.

Library fundraiser: gift basket raffle: support Deborah Rawson Memorial Library by purchasing tickets in our annual gift basket raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and can be purchased by cash or check at the front desk. Place the tickets in the container by the baskets you would like to win. The more you enter, the better your odds of winning! The last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, December 1. Winners will be notified on Tuesday, December 3.

Food Drive: We will continue our food drive for the Essex-Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf through the entire month of November. Bring your donation to the library (there is a box just inside the entryway), and we will deliver it to the food shelf. Especially needed are cereals, creamy peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, ready to eat meals, canned tuna and chicken, gluten free products.

## Adults

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in person or on Zoom: Seated Tai Chi for Health and Balance [registration required] This starter-level course is for older adults and people with chronic health conditions. There is no charge for classes, but donations to sustain the program are welcome and can be made directly to Age Well. For information and to register, email instructor Jo Osborne [joannosborne2@gmail.com](mailto:joannosborne2@gmail.com).

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: The Life and Times of Lt. Col. Udney Hay. Hay, one of the first settlers of Poker Hill, served as a Deputy Quartermaster General during the Revolutionary War and later as a politician in Vermont. He was personally acquainted with many of the prominent figures of the Revolution, and his correspondence with General George Washington is preserved in the National Archives. Washington personally recommended to the Continental Congress in 1778 that Hay be appointed Quartermaster General of the entire Continental Army. After the war, Hay became a prominent Democratic-Republican politician in Vermont, serving as Underhill representative to the state legislature from 1798-1804. Hay is buried in North Underhill Cemetery, and a state roadside historic site marker honoring him is scheduled to be installed

at the site of his residence on Poker Hill Road. Speaker Eli Dandurand has conducted extensive research on Udney Hay and will talk about his life and times. Sponsored by the Underhill Historical Society.

Thursday, November 21, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters' Group. Bring a craft you're working on and join the camaraderie and conversation. For more information, please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com) or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or [juliehehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehehir@comcast.net).

Tuesday, November 26, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. This month's read is *The Marlowe Murder Club* by Robert Thorogood. Call or visit the library to reserve your copy. If you'd like to attend the book discussion via Zoom, email Holly at [drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com](mailto:drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com) for the link.

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 – 3:45 PM: Sunday Afternoon Music Series with Tracie and Paul Cassarino. Free. A heartfelt afternoon of music, including songs from Bonnie Raitt, Joni Mitchell, Crosby Stills Nash, Fleetwood Mac, and Tedeschi Trucks. We will also perform a few holiday songs, including *A Night in Bethlehem*, which the performers released in 2023.

Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: French Conversation Chez Henry. All levels of French speakers, as well as the French curious, are welcome to this informal conversation group, named in honor of its founder.

## Youth

For events that require registration, please visit, or contact 802-899-4962 or [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org).

Tuesdays (except November 29), 10:30 AM: Baby-Toddler Story Time [birth to Pre-K] Stories and Songs with Beth and David London.

Friday, November 22, 11:00 AM: LEGO Club [birth to age 5] LEGO Club. When faced with an entire tub full of LEGO bricks, what will you build?

Thursdays, November 21, December 5, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [registration required; ages 8+] Whether you're new to the scene or have animated before, the library has everything you need to create short stop-motion movies.

Tuesday, November 26, 2:30 – 3:30 PM: Nintendo Switch. [ages 8+] Drop by to play *Smash Bros*, *Mario Kart*, *Overcooked*, and other great Nintendo Switch games. The library has it all, so there's no need to bring your own.

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

## JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

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

## Weekly events

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

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

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Embodied Wisdom Women's Group. Please join Project All Together Now (ATN) and Deanna Bartlett for a weekly multi-generational Women's Yoga Circle! This group grew out of ATN youth intern work and ideas, and is meant to serve women of all ages in building connection with themselves and each other. Gather up your friends, moms, aunts, grandmothers, mentors, and any female-identifying people in your life that could use some more spaciousness in



State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries Catherine Delneo, Assistant State Librarian for Library Advancement Janette Shaffer, and Vermont Department of Libraries Consultant for Library Operations Kevin Unrath visited Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (DRML) as part of their Chittenden County tour on Thursday, October 24. University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners Susan Adams, Sheila McKay, and Susan Cromwell welcomed the group, along with DRML youth services librarian Abbey Heimlich and Master Gardener and DRML trustee Nancy Karlson. Pictured above, from left, are: Susan Adams, Sheila McKay, Susan Cromwell, Abbey Heimlich, Janette Shaffer, Kevin Unrath, Nancy Karlson, Catherine Delneo.

PHOTO BY DRML PROGRAM ASSISTANT SUSAN LARSON

their weeks and explore how restorative yoga can support you in rest and connection. Second floor.

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

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

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

## Monthly or twice-a-month

First and third Wednesdays (November 20, December 4, 18), 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Comic Capers, an after-school club for graphic novel enthusiasts in grades 2 and up. First floor.

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

Third Thursday (November 21), 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Speculative Fiction Book Club. Email [catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) for more information.

Fourth Saturday (November 23), 2:30 – 3:30 PM: Beginning Spanish Conversation Group for adults.

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

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@[jerichotownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/jerichotownlibrary)) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections.

Library news continued on page 6

## Community columns continued from page 4

Medicare reimburses for the procedures they perform.

On the education front, a school construction task force was created in 2023, mandated by Act 72, to envision a new, more-affordable network of Vermont schools, *one that would look at alternatives to spending the projected \$300M annually over the next 20 years on deferred maintenance and updating outdated school facilities.*

Housing is a simple issue of supply and demand, and demand vastly outpaces supply. *Meanwhile, cost increases have outpaced the national average.* A house and land I bought in 1976 for \$42,000 — but no longer own — just sold for over \$800,000.

But let's focus on healthcare and education, where solutions that are projected to save some \$650M are at least on the horizon.

By the way, can we also set our sights on leaders who lead rather than simply repeat the term "affordability" without addressing its underlying causes? Is it too much to ask for leaders to address what drives unaffordability?

Over my long lifetime, we Vermonters have been obsessed with local control, even though it flies in the face of our regional economies, landscapes, and weather patterns.

*Meanwhile, populations in three of our rural counties diminished between 2010 and 2022, while Chittenden County led growth at 8% in the same time. Vermont's overall population grew by just 17 people in 2022 and 354 people in 2023 to 647,464. We're smaller than many urban suburbs.*

Given our HO-gauge status among states, it's only practical to begin to think statewide, especially for critical infrastructure like healthcare and education.

In spite of the fierce media and public relations blowback ginned up by hospitals in response to the recent *Oliver Wyman Report to the Green Mountain Care Board* and to Vermonters, the report laid out a clear and credible path to sustainability, better access, affordability, and quality — all captured in the definition of "population health."

If we accept Vermont as it is rather than how we would like it to be, we can see a path that keeps appropriate services in our communities while concentrating larger facilities in our regional centers.

Instead of "healthcare" and "education" think "acuity" and "age." Acuity is how sick you are. Age is how old you are. Now apply those to a hypothetical line beginning in our small towns continuing to regional centers, then to urban centers and finally to the greater world.

The concept of universal home visits, primary-care clinics with trauma-informed counseling, solo and small practices, parent-child centers, mental health first aid, and disability, aging, and chronic care support groups, all belong in our small communities as they are appropriate to the scale of each.

Local home visitors would check in periodically on rural folks to see how they're doing and to assess their physical and mental well-being. They might be specially trained home-health workers, volunteers, mail carriers, fire, or policing staff.

Growing up in Morrisville, Drs. Goddard, Calcagni, and Pease all had small practices. They knew their patients personally. They knew who could afford to pay and who needed free care.

Morrisville was the hub of Lamoille County and so had a small four-story wood-frame hospital with one of Vermont's first elevators. It was there, at age six, that I had my appendix and tonsils removed. The following year I had a broken arm set after a skiing accident in Mr. Farr's gravel pit behind our house. But later when I was diagnosed with a slipped upper femoral epiphysis, which I couldn't pronounce, I was sent to the Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital — now the "One Prospect" campus of UVM Medical Center (UVMCC) — to have a metal pin inserted in my hip. This tiered model based on acuity and complexity can and must work again today, sustaining both our communities and our urban tertiary care hospitals.

Those seeking care will be able to do so in their community at the primary-care level. If a diagnosis shows higher acuity or requires more sophisticated treatment than can be handled locally, it's escalated to a more sophisticated regional critical-access hospital, or, in extremis, to a tertiary-care hospital such as Burlington, Dartmouth, Albany, or Boston. State boundaries are irrelevant; proximity, acuity, and complexity are what matter.

As the Wyman report, conventional wisdom, and experience all indicate, each community health center or hospital trying to be all things to all patients contravenes the basic metric for healthcare quality. The facility that routinely does the largest number of specific procedures is understood to do them better than the facility that does them only on an as-needed basis. It's also less expensive and yields better outcomes when a high acuity-patient needing sophisticated care is transported by ambulance to a regional center that routinely does these procedures rather than maintaining the technology and specialty staff at all our healthcare facilities just so they can say "we do it all."

As to schooling, I believe the key metric is age. Parents rightfully want their youngest near home. "Public education" should begin at six months after an initial period of "family bonding leave" to allow for the critical bonding of a newborn with their parents or parent. All the levels we now call crèche, nursery school, kindergarten, pre-school, childcare, and primary grades would be in our community schools close to home.

In such a system, professional early educators with specialized pediatric knowledge and family-support services would replace "daycare workers." Early educators are also trained to identify early *adverse childhood experiences* (ACEs) and, if needed,

enlist *trauma-informed therapists* to work with children and families to address and remediate problems that, if undetected and unaddressed, can accelerate into special ed, criminal justice involvement, and often corrections in later life. *The economic impact of untreated ACEs in Vermont alone is determined to be over a \$1B a year (slide 10).*

Middle school, junior high, and high schools would be regional where greater resources and economies of scale would apply to larger classrooms. The early school "science teacher" would be replaced by anatomy, physics, chemistry, and biology teachers. Bus rides would be longer, but in time our system of school-bussing and our rural transit system must be integrated to, again, provide economies of scale. Why couldn't the rural shopper going to Rutland ride on the same bus as the teenager going to school? We must begin to think more broadly and less locally.

As to college and post-graduate studies, the farther away from home the better. This is the time when the child becomes the adult and our job as parents is to raise independent, resilient, resourceful young adults, not dependents cautious about exploring a larger world.

If we can get out of our outdated local control mindset, while still applying local value where it lies and understand ourselves and our small communities as part of larger systems that don't recognize our historical boundaries, we can make social and economic progress.

Using acuity and age as our determinants, we can base diagnosis, prevention, primary care, and early education in our communities where they belong, and then escalate each consistent with acuity, procedural complexity, and age.

This will go far toward solving two of our three persistent small-state problems.

Two outta three ain't so bad...

## Biodiversity report

By Bernie Paquette, Jericho

View the October biodiversity report, which also shows the increase in number of observers, observations, and species (posted on *iNaturalist*) from May-October by town (Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, and Bolton):

<https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2024/11/biodiversity-observations-october-2024.html>

The reports also include links to October photos by town.

A recent report indicated that Vermont could lose more than 350 of its species by 2100 due to the confluence of habitat loss and climate change. — Jon Leibowitz president and CEO of Northeast Wilderness Trust.

Library news continued from page 5

802-899-4686, [library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org), [www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org](http://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org).

### VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Hours: Sunday-Monday, closed; Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Home Card at the Varnum — The Varnum is poised to re-join the Home Card system. This cooperative system serves Chittenden County and some surrounding town library users; Varnum account holders who reside in Cambridge, Jeffersonville, and Fletcher are eligible to apply for this service. Users must currently hold an account with the Varnum Library, and have been in good standing for at least six months, to apply. This service is outlined in policy and library users are able to complete the application by coming in-person to the Varnum. When applying, we will give you a copy of all the requirements and responsibilities and help answer any questions you may have.

The Varnum will be hosting the Vermont Humanities Reading and Discussion Group! As in the past, we want community members to select the book series we will read for the winter session. If you would like to join the group on the second Saturday of the each month beginning on December 14, 2:00 – 4:00PM (except February, when we will meet on the first or third Saturday), please VOTE on which of the following series you would like us to offer by responding to [cplante802@gmail.com](mailto:cplante802@gmail.com) — one vote per person please. The series with the most votes wins! The four series are:

*Forces of Nature*: Pulitzer-winning nonfiction writers have at times looked beyond the world's current era. Instead, the titles in this series explore humanity's relationship to forces beyond its control, such as evolution, disease, and the planet's fragile ecosystems. Books in this series:

- Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*;
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*;
- Siddhartha Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*;
- Edward O. Wilson, *On Human Nature*.

*Booker Prize Winners*: Established in 1968, England's Booker Prize is awarded annually to a citizen of the U.K., the Commonwealth, Ireland, Pakistan, or South Africa who has written the year's best novel according to a panel of critics, writers, and academics. In a short 35 years, the Booker has achieved an air of dignity and respect that rivals even the 86-year-old Pulitzer Prize. Graham Swift, who won the Booker in 1996, singled it out as the finest accolade a writer can receive. "It's the one which, if we're completely honest, we most covet." Books in this series:

- Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*;
- J. M. Coetzee, *The Life and Times of Michael K.*;
- Margaret Atwood, *The Blind Assassin*;
- Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*.

*Exploring Graphic Novels*: The genre of graphic novels has flourished in recent years. The four highly acclaimed works in this series three memoirs and one work of historical fiction Berlin highlight the literary value and artistic merit in this growing medium. Books in this series:

- Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*;
- Jason Lutes, *Berlin, City of Stone*;
- Roz Chast, *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*;
- Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*.

*Canadian Cultural Diversity*: Travel through Canada with four critically acclaimed books that make manifest Canada's cultural diversity. Books in this series:

- Alistair MacLeod, *Island*;
- Antonine Maillet, *Pelagie-La-Charrette*;
- Emily Carr, *Klee Wyck*;
- Roy McGregor, *Canoe Lake*.

Rachael Cohen will be our Scholar leading the discussion. Rachael has been a freelance editor specializing in environmental and regional studies, a teacher of writing, literature, and natural history, a caller of contra dances, and a farm hand. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Environmental Education from the Audubon Expedition Institute/Lesley University. When she's not teaching for the University of Michigan's New England Literature Program, held each spring at a camp in New Hampshire, she's a caretaker in southern Vermont. Looking forward to great books, tasty snacks, and stimulating discussion!

Please check our website for details regarding our other programs: [www.varnumlibrary.org](http://www.varnumlibrary.org).

We're always happy to see you at the library! [www.varnumlibrary.org](http://www.varnumlibrary.org), 802-644-2117.

### WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. The Library will be closed on Thursday-Friday, November 28-29 for Thanksgiving.

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

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (December 4), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (November 16, December 21), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Northern Vermont Artist Association art comes down on Saturday, November 23. NVAA is a non-profit that is dedicated to the promotion of professional and amateur artists from all over northern VT.

Puzzle Swap is back! Collecting: Tuesday, November 19-Saturday, December 7, during open hours. Swapping: Tuesday-Saturday, December 10-14 during regular library hours. Do you need some new puzzles to get you through the winter? Drop off complete (must have all pieces) puzzles; bins will be available to sort at drop off. Then come back for the swap; come early for best selection. This is completely free — take what you will do. Kids and adult puzzles accepted. You do not have to drop off a puzzle to take a new one.

Tuesdays, November 19, 26, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Meet up with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards - a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Tuesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Bracelet Club; signup required. Grades 4 and up; sign up required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. More information on bussing to those who sign up. Snack and all supplies included. Each week we will make a different kind of bracelet: November 19 — Kumihimo yarn bracelets or Magic Loom rubber band bracelets. Sign up is for all three weeks; make sure you can come to all three sessions. Perfect for kids who are focused on crafts. Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early.

Thursday, November 21, 11:25 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. (Note the new time, to accommodate WES Preschool schedule.) We sing songs, read stories, move, and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. November 7: Fire Safety Storytime (partially outside with the firetruck, so dress accordingly). November 14: Turkeys. November 21: Food. November 28: no storytime (closed for Thanksgiving).

Thursday, November 21, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: LEGO Club for grades 1-4; sign up required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. More information on bussing to those who sign up. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun! Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early.

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Writer's Group. Meets on second Tuesdays, facilitated by J Bruscini, who describes himself and the group as follows: "I'm an avid poet and personal nonfiction essayist, and have been writing and creating as long as I've known how to. I have my BA in English and Creative Writing and have experience in running workshops, organizing lit mags, and both performing and hosting readings. My best intention for the group would open itself to writers in the area of any genre, style, and level of experience. I have been part of writing groups and workshops fairly frequently since college and have more than a handful of strategies and exercises to offer as a facilitator when needed. I would like to encourage experimenting with style and open time for feedback for anyone wanting it. In any case I am a library lover till the end, as I think the library as a community center bridges gaps between us, especially on the turn of our stories and lives running as different minded as they do on the page. It's one of the best things about being alive, that you have a story of your own. Every way it interacts outside you beckons possibility."

Wednesday, November 20, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group, reading *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. *Our Missing Hearts* is an old story made new, of the ways supposedly civilized communities can ignore the most searing injustice. It's about the lessons and legacies we pass on to our children and the power of art to create change. Print copies at library, ebook and audiobook available on Libby.

The Westford Public Library, 1717 VT Rt. 128, Westford, 802-878-5639; [www.westfordpubliclibrary.org](http://www.westfordpubliclibrary.org); [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com), Bree Drapa, Librarian. Find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/WestfordVT\\_pl](http://www.twitter.com/WestfordVT_pl)).

### FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We're moving into our last full month in the temporary location! As of right now, we're expecting to close up for the move back sometime during December. The Fairfax Community Library's new location, 1151 Ethan Allen Hwy. Until then, we're still operating as usual and we encourage everyone to stop by the library, or sign up for one of our programs! Our hours are now 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Friday, and 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Saturday. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the library — Elizabeth LaRosa, Public Library Assistant

Please sign up at least one week before the program date — all events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; contact 802-582-3071 or [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com).

#### Youth events

Wednesdays, November 20, 27, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home. This event takes place at The Fairfax Community Library's new location, 1151 Ethan Allen Hwy.

Wednesday, November 20, 3:00 PM: No-Sew Pillows. Learn how to make soft, squishy pillows without using a needle and thread! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or 802-582-3071 to register! This event takes place at BFA Fairfax, in room 260.

#### Adult events

Thursday, November 21, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey. Book club will meet in the library. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or call 802-582-3071. All are welcome!

Saturday, November 16, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Needle Felting with Nicole. Learn the basics of needle felting with Nicole Bachand, and make a cute succulent that never needs to be watered! This program is open to anyone 8 and older, so feel free to come as a family! Space is limited, so please contact 802-582-3071 or [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) to register. This event takes place at The Fairfax Community Library's new location, 1151 Ethan Allen Hwy.

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.

Library hours are now 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Friday, and 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Saturday.

### RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

Weekly/Monthly Children's Programs at the library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

The library will be closed Thursday-Friday, November 28-29 for Thanksgiving.

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

life, so check before you throw any away.

#### Children

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

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

Saturday, December 21, 10:30 AM: Hora de Cuento (Spanish Storytime) in the Community Room. Join native Spanish speakers Chichi and Eva for a time of stories, songs, and learning activities — all in the Spanish language. This program is a great opportunity for students in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language out in the community and for parents to learn alongside their student. Younger children and their caregivers are also encouraged to attend. It is never too early to be exposed to a new language. Join the fun on the third Saturday of the month.

#### Adults

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

Friday-Saturday, December 6-7: Friends of the Library Book Sale. The Friends of Richmond Free Library's annual book sale. Bring your clean, undamaged book, audiobook, CD and DVD donations to the circulation desk between Monday, October 28-Friday, November 22.

Thursday, November 21, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge for discussion of *Murder as a Fine Art* by David Morrell. Contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or [mspparent@gmavt.net](mailto:mspparent@gmavt.net), with any questions.

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

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

### BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

The library is closed on Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day

#### Ongoing drop-in programs

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

Community Loom: collaborate on our community loom!

Pattern Swap, Puzzle Swap, Magazine Swap, Coupon Swap

Age recommendations for youth programs are a rough estimate of skill and maturity levels appropriate for the task, but parents and guardians know what's best for their children. Please reach out with any questions about age appropriateness or accommodations. You can reach us at [youth@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:youth@brownelllibrary.org).

#### Throughout November

Gratitude leaves: write something you're grateful for on one of our colorful leaves in the YA Room. We'll add it to our community garland, assembled by the Teen Advisory Group.

Recipe Scavenger Hunt: search the Youth Department for ingredients in a classic autumn recipe! Fill in the blanks with hidden ingredients hidden to get a recipe filled with festive fall flavors.

KCR Display: Champlain Valley Quilt Guild exhibit

November 1-26: Smokey Bear Challenge. Celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday. Pick up a challenge sheet and join Smokey in learning about wildfire prevention and the environment. Read books, take action, earn stickers and stamps, and have fun! Remember... only you can prevent wildfires.

#### Programs

Thursday, November 21, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Story Time. Picture books, songs, rhymes, and crafts. Come read and play with us. In the picture book area. Best for ages 2-5.

Fridays, through December 20 (no class on November 29), 1:00 – 2:30 PM: Learn to Play Mah Jongg. A six-week series to learn Mah Jongg in partnership with the Essex Area Senior Center. Please try to commit to the entire six weeks. Space is limited; please sign up with Julie Shorter, Program Director for Older Adults EJRP at [JSHORTER@EJRP.ORG](mailto:JSHORTER@EJRP.ORG) or 802-878-1375 x1553.

Tuesday, November 19, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Current Events Discussion Group, in-person and online. This discussion group will attempt to look at, reflect on, and analyze daily events and try to discern trends and understand the national picture and the larger world, basing the discussion on factual information in a non-judgmental framework. Please fill out the online form to receive information on joining this program via GoToMeeting.

Wednesday, November 20, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Play Time. Read one story together and play! We have giant blocks and other creative play materials. Best for ages 0-5.

Through November 30: Art Lab — Quirky Animal Portraits. This year's Vermont Reads, *Gather* by Kenneth Cadow, is all about a boy and his dog; pick up a copy to read at the youth desk, and celebrate a special pet in your life by making a quirky animal portrait in the November Art Lab. You will need a picture of your pet for this project, bring a copy with you or print one in the library. This program is available in Youth Non-Fiction and made possible with support from the Winnie Bell Learned Fund. Open to all ages.

Tuesday, November 19, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Red Clover Award Book Group. Each month, students in grades K-4 will read two titles from this year's Red Clover book list and complete an activity. Voting takes place in March. Please register online. This program is supported by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Tuesday, November 19, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Golden Dome Award Book Group. Each month, registered students in grades 4-8 will gather in the library to discuss a book from this year's Vermont Golden Dome Book List. Voting takes place in March. Please register online. This program is supported by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Tuesday, November 19, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: GMBA Group. Each month, registered students in grades 9-12 will gather in the library to discuss a book from this year's Green Mountain Book

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

## Tri-County Winter Bird Count December 21

Over a hundred years ago, people around the U.S. started counting birds in mid-winter. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) — or in some circles known as Winter Bird Count (WBC) or other inclusive titles — now covers most of North American and has expanded to over a dozen other countries, and the yearly data has provided scientists with invaluable information about bird populations and locations.

This year, on the 125<sup>th</sup> Audubon CBC, Vermonters of all ages will be counting birds as they drive, snowshoe, hike, walk, and watch backyard feeders.

On Saturday, December 21, 12:00 AM – 11:59 PM, you may see slow-moving cars and/or folks with binoculars inside a designated 15-mile circle including parts of Cambridge, Westford, Milton, Fairfax, Fletcher, Underhill, Jericho, and Jeffersonville. Feel free to flag us down and tell us about interesting birds you've seen in your towns or fields or forests or backyards! The local organizer and compiler of information for this area is Jason Crooks of Westford — if you're interested in participating, contact him at [mwongera@hotmail.com](mailto:mwongera@hotmail.com).

Check it out and learn more at <https://vt.audubon.org/audubon-christmas-bird-count-0>.

## Color and beauty for the New Year

By Julia Blake, Jericho

Support the Jericho Center Store, Jeri-Hill Hardware, and the Old Red Mill because, out of community spirit, they are graciously selling the Community Center in Jericho's 2025 calendar, a fund-raiser.

Buy one of these awesome wall calendars for a holiday gift, or yourself. Support our local stores and our Community Center. The lovely photos, taken in Jericho and Underhill by your neighbors, will not disappoint. The Emile Gruppe Gallery also sells these calendars, plus other beautiful gifts and artwork.

Do your holiday shopping early. Calendar supplies are limited!

## CSWD winter webinars

From the CSWD Board

All Drop-Off Centers will also be closed on Thursday, November 21 for our first annual Drop-Off Center Operator

Training. All other Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) facilities will be open regular hours.

View our full schedule online at <https://cswd.net/about-cswd/calendar/>.

CSWD's Winter Webinar Series has started — tune in on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM to learn about different waste-related topics from recycling and reuse, to food waste prevention and composting. Register online at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4sVCzqVeSj-6bbJHkOhCnw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4sVCzqVeSj-6bbJHkOhCnw#/registration):

- December 12: Local Heroes of Sustainability;
- January 9: Vermonters Going Zero-Waste;
- February 13: Reducing Wasted Food;
- March 13: Methods to Manage Food Waste;
- April 19: Composting.

## Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast Series announced

By Pat Ripley, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

With the 2025 legislative session right around the corner,

Miscellaneous news continued on page 8

Library news continued from page 6

Award list. Please register online. This program is supported by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Brownell library Trustees Meeting.

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

### ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

We still have free COVID tests and gun locks!

All library programs are free and open to the public.

All ages

Through Thursday, January 11, 2025 — The Giving Season Collection for Aunt Dot's. The Library is collecting larger diaper sizes (4, 5, 6), diaper wipes, and feminine incontinence pads. If you can, please support this important community resource and the people who depend upon it!

For children and teens

Mondays: Musical Storytime: 11:00 AM. Rock'n'read with Miss Noreen!

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, November 23, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons. For grades 9-12. Do you yearn for adventure? And free food?

Tuesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:45 PM: Read to Chewy the Therapy Dog! Kids and families can sign up for a 15-minute slot and choose a book to read to Chewy and his human. Sign up on the website.

Thursday, November 21, 4:30 – 6:30 PM: Perler Bead Open Studio. Come and hang out in the community room to make a perler bead creation! No registration needed, ages 7 and up.

Saturdays, November 23 December 7, 21, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons. For grades 9-12. Do you yearn for adventure? And free food? The Essex Free Library wants you to join our new program! Every other Saturday.

Saturday, November 30, 10:00 – 11:45 AM: Read to Chewy the Therapy Dog! Kids and families can sign up for a 15-minute slot and choose a book to read to Chewy and his human. Sign up on the website.

For adults

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

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

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

Thursday, November 21, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Trivia Night. For adults and teens. Join us at the library for some fun and friendly trivia competition. Light refreshments provided.

Saturday, November 23, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Jackson Ellis Author Talk. Visit and reading by local author Jackson Ellis of her new book [Black Days](#), released October 2024.

Tuesday, November 26, 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Board Games for Ages 18+. Bring your friends and enjoy the library's growing board game collection (or bring your own to share with the group). Light refreshments provided.

Thursday, December 5, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group — [West with Giraffes](#) by Lynda Rutledge. An emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America.

Social media: check us out on Facebook and Instagram for updates on events! Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879- 0313; [@essexfreelibrary](https://www.essexfreelibrary.org); website <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org>.

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\*Subject to availability and eligibility.



Learn More

Miscellaneous news continued from page 7

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce our 2025 Legislative Breakfast Series coming on Monday, January 6, 8:00 – 9:30 AM at the Green Mountain Tech & Career, VT Rt. 15, Hyde Park.

To learn more and register, go online to <https://lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast/>.

The Hyde Park breakfast is the first of four events offering you an opportunity to hear from our Lamoille County representatives and learn about what they are working on at the Statehouse. Attendees will also be allowed a chance to ask questions about the topics on their minds.

These breakfasts have proven to be popular with Lamoille County residents and we expect good interest again this year. Be sure to register early!

The breakfast series continues Monday, February 3 in Stowe; Monday, March 3 in Johnson; and in April (date and location TBA). Each event begins with a light breakfast and coffee from local restaurants, followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A.

“With continued support, we expect to be able to offer these longtime community staples to Lamoille County residents well into the future,” LEDC and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Patrick Ripley said. “We hope to continue creating a space for engaging, respectful community dialogue. Public participation is the key to ensuring these events can continue to take place for years to come!”

Register online at <http://www.lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast>.

## United Way Volunteer Connection

GET CONNECTED TO VOLUNTEERING — United Way’s Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

RESPIRE CARE — McClure Respite House needs volunteers to support House staff, residents, and their families by preparing and serving meals, helping with light office work, answering phones, and assisting at special events. Help with weekend breakfast and lunch shifts are particularly needed. Contact Megan Carmichael, 902-860-4411.

PHONATHON – COTS annual phonathon will be held this year Monday-Thursday, December 2-5. For almost 40 years, dedicated volunteers have spent time the week after Thanksgiving calling donors to ask if they will once again make a gift to help support COTS’ vital programs. All aspects of this year’s phonathon can be done virtually, but on Monday, volunteers are invited to join others in person where there will be food and drinks and the chance to meet other volunteers. For those who don’t enjoy talking on the phone, there are texting, email, and Facebook options. To sign up for shift, go online to <https://cotsonline.org/phonathon/>.

MAKE THE CALL – HomeShare Vermont is looking for volunteers to make phone calls from their South Burlington office to take personal reference information for their applicants. This is a vital part of HomeShare’s screening process, learning more about the character of applicants to ensure safety, security, and compatibility in home sharing matches. Flexible Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon shifts. Background check required. Contact Amy Jelen, 802-863-5625 or [amy@homesharevermont.org](mailto:amy@homesharevermont.org).

## Construction update:

### Cambridge-Johnson VT Rt. 15

By Eric Boozan, Cambridge Town Administrator  
Cambridge-Johnson VT 15 Resurfacing Project STP 2925(1)  
Friday, November 1

Traffic impact and duration:

Monday-Friday, November 4-8, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM, up to three traffic control packages will facilitate alternating one-way traffic on VT-15, from Park Street in Johnson west to the VT-15/VT-108 roundabout in Cambridge.

Motorists are advised to plan for extra travel time, slow down, and exercise caution while traveling through the project area.

Construction activities:

Early in the week, crews will perform work on driveway aprons along VT-15 in Johnson and Cambridge.

Throughout the week, crews will continue with guardrail installation, berm removal, ditching, and general cleanup along VT-15 in Johnson and Cambridge. Crews are not anticipated to perform work along VT-15 within the Village of Johnson limits.

Friday, November 8

Traffic impact: Monday-Friday, November 11-15, 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM, traffic control packages will facilitate alternating one-

way traffic on VT-15, from just east of VT-100C in the Village of Johnson to the VT-15/VT-108 roundabout in Cambridge. Motorists are advised to plan for extra travel time, slow down, and exercise caution while traveling through the project area.

Construction activities: crews will continue with berm removal and ditching on VT-15 in Johnson, near the eastern end of the project area. They will also continue with guardrail installation and general cleanup in preparation for the winter shutdown on VT-15 in Cambridge and Johnson throughout the project limits.

Location: VT-15 from the VT-15/VT-108 junction in Cambridge, continuing 9.1 miles to a point east of the VT-100C intersection in the Village of Johnson.

Friday, November 15

Traffic impact: From Monday-Friday, November 18-22, 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM, two traffic control packages will facilitate alternating one-way traffic on VT-15, from just east of VT-100C in the Village of Johnson to the VT-15/VT-108 roundabout in Cambridge. Motorists are advised to slow down and exercise caution while traveling through the project area.

Construction activities: crews will continue to install guardrail runs along VT-15 in Cambridge and Johnson throughout the project limits.

For more information contact Public Information Consultant Elaine Ezerins, 603-782-2460 or [elaine.ezerins@wsp.com](mailto:elaine.ezerins@wsp.com).

## VTrans project updates: Richmond, Williston

**Williston: VT Rt. 2A culvert replacement**

Project description: This project is to replace a deteriorating 48” culvert pipe under VT Rt. 2A between the I-89 Exit 12 interchange and VT Rt. 2/Marshall Avenue/Maple Tree Place intersection, 30’ north of the old State Police barracks.

Completion date: October 25, 2024

November 7

Project update: completed the installation of the new drainage structure; began project site restoration.

Traffic impact: one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction until 10:00 PM. At 10:00 PM lanes may be restricted to alternate one-way traffic until 6:00 AM. Traffic control will be present. Daytime operations will have no impact on the traveling public.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began November 11:

Monday-Friday overnight, 7:30 PM – 6:00 AM, and Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM: restore the shared use path; project cleanup work.

November 14

Project update: project clean-up and demobilization from the project site.

Traffic impact: one lane of traffic Wednesday or Thursday (weather dependent), 3:00 – 6:30 AM with traffic control present. Daytime operations will have no impact on the traveling public.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began November 18:

Monday-Friday overnight, 7:30 PM – 6:00 AM, and Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM: paving of the Shared Use Path; temporary paving of the patch across VT Rt. 2A Wednesday or Thursday night.

Please use caution and follow the speed limit when traveling in the construction area!

Please email [sbarrett@coibsinc.com](mailto:sbarrett@coibsinc.com), reference VT-2A Culvert, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

**Richmond: U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 replacement**

Project description: total bridge replacement.

Completion date: September 2025

November 7

Project update: continued demolition of the old bridge; continued with project site restoration.

Traffic impact:

U.S. Rt. 2: Tuesday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM: traffic control present with intermittent one-lane of alternating travel.

I-89, traffic in the Town of Richmond, south of Exit 11: northbound passing lane is closed between Mile Markers 75.45-76.79. Southbound traffic will use the crossover into the northbound passing lane between Mile Markers 77.29-75.71. These lane configurations will be in effect for the next several weeks.

Motorists shall follow the posted speed limit within the construction zone; Speed enforcement will be present, and fines will be doubled.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began November 4, 2024: Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM: continue demolition of the

old bridge on the west end of the project; continue with project site restoration and clean-up work.

November 14

Project update: continued demolition of the old bridge; continued with project site restoration.

Traffic impact:

U.S. Rt. 2, Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 5:30 PM, traffic control present with intermittent one-lane of alternating travel.

I-89, traffic in the Town of Richmond, south of Exit 11: northbound passing lane is closed between Mile Markers 75.45-76.79. Southbound traffic will use the crossover into the northbound passing lane between Mile Markers 77.29-75.71.

Motorists shall follow the posted speed limit within the construction zone; speed enforcement will be present, and fines will be doubled.

Construction activities: the following was the anticipated work schedule for the week that began November 18: Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 5:30 PM: continue demolition of the old bridge; restore traffic to both I-89 northbound and southbound lanes by late week; continued project site restoration and cleanup work.

Please email [sbarrett@coibsinc.com](mailto:sbarrett@coibsinc.com), reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

## November is National Adoption Month

By Children’s Bureau Commissioner Rebecca Jones Gaston

National Adoption Month (NAM) is a time to raise awareness about adoption and to bring attention to the 109,000 children with legal permanency goals of adoption who are at risk of aging out of foster care without permanent family connections.

This year’s theme — *Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds* — highlights the importance of child welfare professionals helping young people build and sustain lifelong networks of support. It underscores the need for community that provides a sense of belonging and relational permanency. This theme reflects one of the Children’s Bureau’s highest priorities: ensuring youth benefit from lasting relationships and have holistic supports and opportunities.

Young people deserve a strong support network that meets their needs, embraces and affirms their identity, and promotes family, community, and cultural connections. Supportive relationships act as a protective factor that can contribute to improved well-being outcomes. Child welfare professionals and others work to help young people find and nurture these connections as soon as they become involved with the child welfare system, and then promote these bonds over time. This includes:

- helping youth maintain existing relationships with family and friends;
- developing new connections with peers, mentors, and others; and
- building trusting bonds with adoptive family members before and after adoption.

By honoring every youth and their family and community connections, professionals can work toward an adoption journey that is meaningful and purposeful, paving the way for healing, well-being, and long-term stability.

National Adoption Month was formed in 1995 and has been celebrated ever since. More than 80 children and youth here in Vermont are at risk of aging out of foster care without permanency. Here are additional national statistics about this population, according to *the Annie E. Casey Foundation*:

- more than one in five children waiting for adoption were ages 13–17;
- the average age of all children waiting to be adopted was 7.6 years old;
- the average time in care for all children waiting to be adopted was 34.9 months;
- the average time in care for children waiting to be adopted after termination of parental rights was 19.1 months;
- the three racial and ethnic groups with the largest percentages of children waiting for adoption were: White (43 percent), Hispanic (23 percent), and Black or African American (21 percent).

Visit the NAM website (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/adoptionmonth/>) and explore the resources and tools available to support your work with young people on the path to permanency. Join us in recognizing NAM by celebrating adoptive families, adopted youth, youth in foster care awaiting permanency, and the professionals who support them. Together we can raise awareness about the importance of enhancing engagement with youth; preserving their racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage; and strengthening pathways for sustained lifelong connections for young people.



# November is National ADOPTION MONTH

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for more  
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## OBITUARIES

**Michael Lee Audet, Sr.** of Underhill, VT, 84, passed away Sunday, October 27, 2024 at the UVM Medical Center, Burlington, VT after a brief hospitalization. He was born September 18, 1940 in Stanstead, Québec to Lee and Olga (Martin) Audet. Mike was a proud Vietnam era Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division paratrooper and went on some years later to become a U.S. citizen. He loved jumping from planes and had many military and civilian jumps. He attended the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, graduated from Burlington College, then went on to earn an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Antioch University New England. He was a Certified Master Tutor and founded and operated the Back to Basics Reading Clinic. It was his passion to help youngsters and adults alike learn to read. He was active in the Underhill-Jericho Boy Scout Troop 627 for many years. He was a proud homesteader on his property in Underhill for 54 years where he grew much of his own food, raised chickens, and chopped wood to heat the home. You could often find him tending the property, tinkering with his chainsaws, or reading in his sheepskin-covered chair with his dogs by his feet. He is survived by former wife Kathleen Audet Provost of Barre, VT; son Patrick of East Johnson, VT and his sons Alex and Parker; son Travis and his wife Angela of Hooksett, NH and their son Alden; former wife Elizabeth of Williston, VT; son Mike of Greenfield, MA and his children Oliver, Quincy, and Esme; daughter Susan and her husband Shashwat Lal of Marietta, GA and their daughters Amayra and Annika Lal; Autumn of Williston, VT; Jeremy of Ossining, NY; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Lee and Olga; brother David of British Columbia; and sisters Joyce Dickie of Newport, VT; and Dorothy "Dot" Poutre of Burlington, VT. He had many special pets over the years and leaves behind his beloved dogs Riley and Uba. The family would like to offer thanks to the incredible staff at the UVM Medical Center for their compassionate care, and to Mike's friend Matt Morse for his vigilance and concern. A memorial service took place at the United Church of Underhill on Saturday, November 30, 2024. A private interment will take place at a later date at the Underhill Cemetery.



**Delilah Anne Davis Siple**, a cherished lifelong resident of Jericho, VT, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 11, 2024 at the age of 90. Born on August 6, 1934, and affectionately

known as "Lila," she grew up on her family's farm along Skunk Hollow Road, where she developed a lifelong love for nature, animals, and her family. In her youth, Lila embraced the simple joys of farm life, from horseback riding to tending animals, and she carried this appreciation into everything she did. Her garden was a testament to her care and patience, blooming each year with abundance. Lila also had a passion for baking, and her cinnamon rolls were legendary among those lucky enough to savor them. Lila had a remarkable ability to find contentment in life's quiet moments and simple pleasures, a legacy that inspires all who knew her. She leaves behind her beloved nieces, nephew, and friends who will remember her warmth, generosity, and enduring kindness. Lila's life serves as a beautiful reminder to slow down, savor each day, and treasure the simple joys found in family, friendship, and nature around us. Visiting hours were held on Friday November 22, 2024 at A W Rich Funeral Home Essex Chapel. Inurnment will be private and at the convenience of the family. Please visit <https://www.awrichfuneralhomes.com/> to share your memories and condolences.



**Allen Eugene Willeford** of Jericho, VT went to be with his Lord and Savior in Heaven on Saturday, October 12, 2024, re-joining his dear wife Marlys, who passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2024. He was born on September 19, 1938 in Sterling, CO, the son of Glen and Flohra (Reed) Willeford. Allen grew up in Peetz, CO, together with his sisters Dorothy, Marian, and Carolyn. He played football and basketball, participated in drama, and raised champion sheep for the 4H. Allen graduated from Peetz High School, received his Associate's from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO, and his Bachelor's in Agricultural Business from the University of Minnesota. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1960-1963, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion in West Germany. He bought a brand-new Volkswagen Beetle when he was getting out of the military, drove through Europe to Gibraltar and back to Germany, and shipped it to the U.S. when his service was over. Then he moved to Minnesota and married Marlys June Lehman on June 6, 1964 at First Baptist Church in Alexandria, MN. His sons Brent and Tim were born in Marshall, MN, and then the family moved to Vermont, where

he lived for 51 years. He worked as a senior loan officer at Farm Credit Service for 35 years, also known as Yankee Farm Credit, Production Credit Association, and Agrifax. He was deeply proud of his children and grandchildren; he diligently kept score at all of Tim's baseball and basketball games, and he was especially pleased with his grandson Parker's many visits to Vermont over the last few years. Allen loved spending time outside and in his workshop with his boys, hiking, biking, camping, and driving across country many times to Willeford family reunions and to visit many other relatives. He was a volunteer for decades at church in Vermont, first at Essex Alliance Church and then for more than 40 years at North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington, at times as an elder, deacon, trustee, treasurer, governing board member, teaching Sunday school, and head usher and a greeter. He visited all 48 continental United States by car together with his wife. Upon retirement, he also travelled to Ecuador and the Galapagos, and went to a Holy Land tour in Israel. He traveled again through Europe with Marlys three times later in his life, including the Martin Luther tour of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, the Christmas markets in Germany, and visiting Prague, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest. His largest hobby was genealogy, and he proudly traced his mother's family history back to Germany in 1708, and 18 generations of the Willefords back to England in the 1400s, before they arrived in the colonies in 1645. He was predeceased by his mother Flohra (Reed) Willeford in 1972, by his father Glen Willeford in 1996, tragically by his son Brent in 2009, and by his sisters Marian (Knott) Brown in 1991, Carolyn Selee in 2017, and Dorothy Williams in 2018. He is survived by his son Tim, five grandchildren, 10 nieces and nephews, many cousins, and their families. Allen was a patriarch, not just of the Glen Willeford family, but also of the Ira Willeford family, as of his grandfather Ira's 31 grandchildren, Allen was the oldest surviving grandson with the Willeford name, until his death. Visitation hours were held on Friday, November 29 at the Ready Funeral Home Mountain View Chapel, Essex, VT. A memorial service, including military honors, was held on Saturday, November 30, 2024 at the North Avenue Alliance Church campus in Burlington, VT, with a small reception following. Due to winter cemetery closures in Vermont, the interment at Jericho Center cemetery was already held in a small ceremony on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Arrangements are in the care of the Ready Funeral and Cremation Services. To send online condolences, please visit [www.readyfuneral.com](http://www.readyfuneral.com).

## ART / MUSIC / THEATER

**Westford's Red Brick Coffee House postponed to February** — Due to building work at the Red Brick Meeting House and out of town scheduling for me the next coffee house will be in February, at which time I would like to have an "unplugged" acoustic session. So, all those musicians planning to come can spend some extra practice time getting their chops together. Meanwhile, keep warm and dry, and let's all look forward to the new refinished floor come February — Michael Kirick, Westford

**Entries are open for the 2025 Vermont Writers' Prize**, which is awarded each year in two categories: prose and poetry. This is the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the prize, which celebrates all things Vermont. The prize is open to Vermont residents and your poem, short story, essay, or play should explore Vermont — its people, places, values, or history. These prizes celebrating Vermont are awarded by Green Mountain Power and *Vermont Magazine*. Winning entries in each category are published in the summer issue of Vermont Magazine and receive \$1250. The Writers' Prize is open to all Vermont residents and students, but employees of Green Mountain Power and *Vermont Magazine* are not eligible. "Vermont is always changing, and it is so inspiring to read the entries and see how writers express the Vermont experience," said Kristin Carlson, a GMP vice president who serves as a judge for this prize. "Vermont means so many things to different people — and we invite everyone to share their story or poem." Learn more details and submit your writing for the 2025 Vermont Writers' Prize online at <https://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit/296839/vermont-writers-prize-accepting-entries-for-2025>. The deadline to enter is January 1, 2025 at 11:59 PM.

**Art in State Buildings: Call to Artists** — The Vermont Art in State Buildings program enhances the working environments of state-owned buildings and public spaces for employees,

citizens, and visitors with installations of original artwork by Vermont artists. Our current call to artists is for an installation in the Vermont Superior Court in White River Junction. Deadline to submit qualifications: Friday, November 22, by 4:00 PM. For more information, go online to <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/artists/art-in-state-buildings/>.

**The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville in their 40<sup>th</sup> season** presents the Legacy 2024 Collection (through Sunday, December 22 in the East Gallery) features the works of 17 contemporary artists and includes selected works by Mary Bryan and Alden Bryan. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or [info@bryangallery.org](mailto:info@bryangallery.org) or [www.bryangallery.org](http://www.bryangallery.org).

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

**Governor's Arts Awards** — Since 1967 the Vermont Arts Council, in association with the Governor's office, has recognized outstanding individual and organizational contributions to the arts in Vermont with a variety of awards. We are now accepting nominations for the 2025 Governor's Arts Awards. There are five categories of awards. Read through the award criteria and nominate your favorite artist or organization: <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/programs/arts-awards/>. The nomination deadline is December 20, 2024.

**Let the Fabric Speak!** Howard Center Arts Collective, in partnership with the Fleming Museum of Art at the University of Vermont, presents the exhibition *Let the Fabric Speak!* on display through May 17, 2025. One of the featured works at the Fleming Museum is *Tied*, a collaborative piece by Lydia Littwin, created from donated fabrics like baby clothing, dresses, and curtains, symbolizing shared community experiences. This exhibition showcases art made from repurposed materials that tell both personal and collective stories. "This tapestry holds pieces of fabric and fibers, from my life and from my friends," said Eryn Sheehan in an artist statement for her quilt-inspired work *Rubber and Ribbons*. Sheehan uses repurposed materials, incorporating their personal and shared histories into her work and the exhibition. Early in the project, members of the Arts Collective hosted a community fabric swap, where materials and stories were exchanged. Drawing from the varied patterns and textures, each artist transformed a variety of patterns and fabrics, such as hats, curtains, pajamas, and T-shirts, into original works. *Let the Fabric Speak!* begins with *A Symphony of Us*: a collaborative, site-specific work featuring repurposed compact discs. The exhibition continues with sixteen additional works, where artists reflect on the significance of everyday materials and the memories they hold. Howard Center Arts Collective mission is to create opportunities in the visual arts for people impacted by mental health and/or substance use challenges. "The exhibit showcases the personal and universal human desire for our stories to be heard, held, and carried on in community," said Kara Greenblott, Howard Center Arts Collective coordinator.

## SCHOOL NEWS

## Underhill Central School Student Art Show at Town Hall

Come one, come all!  
As part of efforts to exhibit community art in the Underhill Town Hall we currently have student creations from Underhill Central School. The exhibit features a piece of artwork from each student. Thanks to art teacher, Kim Aueter for her dedication and collaboration. Cheers to the artists!  
"The body of artwork was completed in Art this fall by UCS student artists in grades K-4. The work features watercolor, paper collage, and mixed media. We hope you enjoy our art!"  
The Underhill Town Hall is located on Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. So, stop in and be enlightened!

## EWSD Board Meeting November 19

**By Ben Dickie, Essex Westford School District**  
The Essex Westford School District Board will next meet on Tuesday, November 19, 6:30 – 9:00 PM at the Essex High School Library, 2 Educational Dr., Essex Junction. The full meeting will also be available to watch on Facebook Live thanks to the Media Factory, online at <https://www.facebook.com/BTVMediaFactory>. Agenda items for the meeting include: Facility Master Planning, Superintendent Search Update, Board Monitoring of Policies, Superintendent's Monitoring Report — Communication and Support of the Board, and VSBA Model Policy Review: C9. Local Wellness Policy — Second Reading.  
Board updates:  
• The Board is looking for your feedback as they prepare the FY26 budget. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey before Friday, December 6: <https://forms.gle/mmXNEbzNqAEZAK5LA>.

- For the latest information on the search for a new superintendent, please visit: [www.ewsd.org/superintendent-search](http://www.ewsd.org/superintendent-search).
- In case you missed it, the EWSD Board has a brand new newsletter: [www.ewsd.org/ewsd/page/school-board-newsletter](http://www.ewsd.org/ewsd/page/school-board-newsletter).

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

## MMU Academic Boosters lasagna takeout dinner fundraiser a success

**From the MMU Academic Boosters Lasagna Dinner Committee**  
The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MMU Academic Booster Lasagna Dinner was a great success because of all the community involvement and support. We are grateful for the volunteers who collected, cooked, and prepped food, the individuals and students who delivered meals, the staff at MMU, and all the community organizations that donated food and supplies. We also thank the folks who bought meals. Without you none of the other Academic Booster activities would be possible. Thank you!  
We especially want to thank the following companies for their support: Essex Price Chopper/Market 32, Hoagies, Jericho Café and Tavern, MMU Kitchen, Red Hen Bakery, Richmond Community Kitchen, West Meadow Farm Bakery.  
We look forward to using the monies raised to run activities for students and staff at MMU throughout the academic year. Please see our MMU Academic Booster webpage at [https://mmu.mmuusd.org/families/academic\\_boosters](https://mmu.mmuusd.org/families/academic_boosters) for further information.  
Happy fall, and thanks again!

## Cambridge Elementary Preschool screening schedule

**From Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program Preschool Developmental Screening**  
Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2025? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program invites families with eligible preschool students to call 802-521-5613, to make an appointment for a developmental screening at the Cambridge Elementary School/Preschool.  
The screenings will take place on Wednesday, March 26, 1:30 – 2:30 PM; Wednesday, April 16, 4:30 – 5:30 PM; and Wednesday, May 21, 1:30 – 2:30 PM.  
Please contact Erin Vaillancourt (802-521-5613) no later than Friday, December 20, 2024 to reserve a time for your child.  
Screenings will take approximately 60 minutes. During this time, parents will fill out a brief developmental questionnaire about their child while educators interact with the children to gain information about each child's development in the areas of speech and language, social/emotional, motor, and cognitive. This is also a time for parents to ask questions about their child's skills and about our preschool program.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."  
— Fred Rogers

SPORTS NEWS



The Smuggs 55+ Ski Club kicks off its 2024-25 season on Wednesday, December 4. The club is for those aged 55 and older who like to ski (alpine or nordic), snowboard, and/or snowshoe. We gather each Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Oak Room, adjacent to the Morse Mountain Grill, at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville. Look for the club's sandwich-board sign as you walk through Smugglers' Village. After coffee, pastries, and a brief meeting, we head out for the morning, in groups by activity and level. Your first day visiting the club is free. Annual membership is \$30 a year. Ski passes are purchased separately, from Smugglers' Notch Resort. For information about the Smuggs 55+ Ski Club, contact https://smuggs55plus.com/ or president@smuggs55plus.com

PHOTO BY SUSAN LARSON

Westford Rec youth basketball registration

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator
We now have enough youth basketball participants in grades 3-4 and 5-6 to field co-ed teams, but with a few more, we could split them. Registrations close for those ages November 20. Younger grades registration is open longer. Coaches, helpers, referees are all still needed.

Here are the registration forms for Westford Recreation's Youth Basketball programs:

- PreK-grade 2: https://forms.gle/nWFxqUZX3YLpPfhM9
Grades 3-4: https://forms.gle/Zr2e18uoUVzaY2of7
Grades 5-6: https://forms.gle/phVJD46Hktir1vW4A

If you have any questions or if you would like to help, please contact recreation@westfordvt.us.

Photos from MMU Sports

By Terry Healy, Jericho
Some photos from Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) Girls' Varsity Soccer vs. CVU in the Wednesday, October 30 playoff game: https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-varsity-girls-soccer-vs-cvu.

Fly tying classes start in January

From Eisenberg's Fly Fix, Underhill
Paula Eisenberg of Eisenberg's Fly Fix will be leading two fly tying classes this winter at Essex Parks and Recreation: Saturdays, January 11-March 1, 2:00 - 3:30 PM: for beginners. No experience necessary! Mondays, January 13-March 3, 6:30 - 8:00 PM: "Next Level" for folks with some experience fly tying. Follow this link for details, or just reach out if you have questions — https://www.ejrp.org/programs/adult-recreation-and-fitness.

Equestrian, mountain bike activity closure at Mobbs Farm

By Pete Davis, Mobbs Farm Committee Chair, Jericho
Please be advised that equestrian and mountain biking activity will be CLOSED at Mobbs Farm during the two-week Vermont deer hunting rifle season, from Saturday, November 16-Sunday, December 1.

During this two-week period, all visitors and their pets should be aware that hunters may be on the property. Accordingly, please exercise caution and wear BLAZE ORANGE.

SENIOR NEWS

Volunteers needed in our community

Please consider giving your time! Help us spread the word that Age Well is seeking new volunteers to visit with and help seniors in their homes.

Support older Vermonters by giving your time in your community for any of the following: friendly visits, grocery shopping, running errands, helping with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, giving respite to caregivers, delivering Meals on Wheels, doing minor home repairs, and more. How often you help is based on your availability — it can vary from two to three hours one day a week, or two days a month (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM).

Volunteers tell us that they get far more out of it than they give. They love seeing the difference they make for those they help.

Please contact our Volunteer Department at 802-662-5249 or volunteer@agewellvt.org for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

"All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." — Helen Keller

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A Matter of Balance

By Susan Murray-Grage, Underhill
Do any of you know someone who would benefit from the program, A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls? The program is geared towards helping people who are struggling with fear of falling and the negative consequences of their fear: isolation, anxiety, loss of mobility, reduced quality of life.

This evidence-based program, developed by the Roybal Center for Enhancement of Late-Life Function at Boston University, consists of eight two-hour sessions, in either a four-week block (twice a week) or over eight weeks (once a week). During the eight sessions, participants learn to:

- view falls as controllable,
change the environment to reduce fall factors,
set realistic goals to increase activity, and
promote exercise to increase strength and balance.

The sessions involve group discussion, problem-solving, skill building, assertiveness training, exercise training videos, and shared practical solutions. Those who can benefit from the training are people who:

- are concerned with falls,
have sustained a fall in the past,
restrict activity because of concerns about falling,
are interested in improving flexibility, balance and strength,
are age 60 or older, living independently, and able to problem-solve.

I've just completed training as a volunteer coach and am looking to start a session locally. We will need 8-12 participants to hold a class, so I'm just in the process of getting interested participants.

To view a video about the program to share with anyone interested, go online to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-Rji1bYPIw.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact me at mkrazykat@live.com.

Upcoming Age Well Grab-and-Go Meals in Richmond

Age Well Grab-and-Go Meals in Richmond are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month (December 5, January 2) and are open to anyone age 60 and over who completes a yearly registration form, and their spouse of any age, at the Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Meals must be picked up between 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Please arrive just before pick-up time to ensure meals go out quickly.

Suggested donation of \$5 per meal. Forms must be updated each fiscal year, which begins on October 1. Please contact Maggie Gordon, 802-434-3155, to register.

Catalyst Church hosts Thanksgiving luncheon November 22

Come on Friday, November 22 to Catalyst Church, 100 Raceway Dr., Jericho for a Thanksgiving lunch sponsored by Age Well. Doors at 11:30 AM, meal served at 12:00 PM.

The menu for this Thanksgiving Meal is: roast turkey and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, wheat roll, pumpkin pie with cream, and milk. \$5 donation suggested; restaurant tickets are available for distribution.

There will be entertainment by Ron Gagnon, and door prizes! Advanced registration required, please register by Wednesday, November 13 by contacting Kerry Batres, kbatres@agewellvt.org or 802-662-5283.

Cambridge Community Food Shelf open Tuesdays

The Cambridge Community Food Shelf, located at the Second Congregational Church ("white church") in Jeffersonville, is open on Tuesdays, 1:00 - 7:00 PM.

For more information contact 802-644-8911. More information on signing up to receive a Thanksgiving Basket of food for the holiday meal is available at the Food Shelf on Tuesdays.

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LEGAL NOTICE: JERICHO UNDERHILL LIBRARY DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING
The Jericho Underhill Library District will hold its official budget hearing on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Program Room of Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Road, Jericho, Vermont. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget for Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the library and on the library's website. Please visit www.drml.org or call 802-899-4962 for the most up-to-date information. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml.org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY INFORMATION



### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cambridge Christmas Coffeehouse December 1

Join the fun at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church, Church St., Jeffersonville from 4:00 – 6:30 PM on Sunday, December 1 for hot drinks and goodies to enjoy while locals of all ages entertain us with secular and non secular festive music.

A free will offering will be taken for the building fund which houses the Food Shelf, etc.

It is a warm and cozy afternoon celebrating the coming joyful season. All are welcome!!

Questions? Text Annie, 802-309-8158

### Bolton Crates of Cheer add some cheer to the world

By Leslie Pelch and Anne Clegg, Bolton

Support Bolton's annual Crates of Cheer effort!

Crates of Cheer Elves bring a feast, packed in a locally made (by Ray Streeter on Nashville Rd.) and donated crate, to seniors in our community, as well as to those having a tough year, a bit before Christmas. Every year, Smilie students contribute to this project by creating posters for the food drive and cheerful cards to include in the crates.

How can you contribute?

Donate cash — checks should be made out to the Town of Bolton with "Crates of Cheer" in the memo, and can be dropped off at the Town Office or mailed to Bolton Town Office, 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Bolton, VT 05676.

Nominate a recipient — if you know of someone living in Bolton who could use some cheer, pass their name, address, and phone number (if possible) to the Bolton Town Clerk at 802-434-3064 or the address above. You are welcome to nominate yourself!

Donate non-perishable food — Smilie School (2712 Theodore Roosevelt Hwy) will soon have a box set up in the foyer to receive donations of things like pasta, peanut butter, soup, canned veggies, etc.

Become an Elf — if you would like to help pack up or deliver crates on Saturday, December 14, send an email to Leslie Pelch, [lesliepelch@gmail.com](mailto:lesliepelch@gmail.com).

Donate crafts — we love to include useful, beautiful, or fun items in the crates! We usually deliver 40-50 crates. Send an email to Leslie if you'd like to donate something along these lines.

Thank you and let us know if you have any questions.

### Enchanted Village with Santa and Elves at CES — December 7

By Deb Nevil, Cambridge Connections After School Program

Please mark your calendars and ring in the season at our First Annual Enchanted Village on Saturday, December 7, 12:00 – 3:00 PM, at the Cambridge Elementary School cafeteria, 186 School St., Cambridge.

Visit with Santa and his elves who will be busy at work. You can take a stroll through our village, enjoy some holiday refreshments and take a photo with Santa. Our afterschool students will be putting on a classic holiday show for your enjoyment.

Admission is \$5/person, with kids two years old and under admission free.

We hope you can join in the festivities!

### Christmas Cupboard Community Craft Fair November 23

Sugar and spice and everything nice can be found at the Christmas Cupboard Community Craft Fair on Saturday, November 23, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Saxon Hill Co-op School (formerly Underhill ID) on River Rd., Jericho. Doors open to an artisan wonderland that will dazzle your senses. Fa la la la your way from display to display of the unique creations of talented local artists. The Christmas Cupboard Craft Fair, where all is merry and bright!

For more information, contact Pam Preston, 802-488-4762 or [barneymt3@aol.com](mailto:barneymt3@aol.com).



*This holiday season, gather your loved ones and experience A Charlie Brown Christmas Live in Concert at Spruce Peak, Stowe — join us throughout December 2024 for this special concert production that celebrates Charles Schulz's iconic Peanuts comic strip, the timeless 1965 animated classic, and Vince Guaraldi's unforgettable jazz score. Set in the heart of Vermont's beautiful Green Mountains, this heartwarming show captures the spirit of the holidays, making it the perfect tradition for families and friends of all ages. The Peanuts gang will delight audiences with scenes from the original holiday special, along with festive carols and holiday music. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/events/a-charlie-brown-christmas/>.*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Messiah sing-along, Charlotte Congregational Church — December 1

What's better than listening to Handel's *Messiah*? Singing along, of course! Come to the Charlotte Congregational Church, 403 Church Hill Rd., Charlotte on Sunday, December 1, 4:00 – 5:15 PM.

Four of Vermont's preeminent vocal soloists along with a professional chamber ensemble — including the Skylark Quartet — will lead the audience in bringing the magic of Handel's timeless masterpiece to life. Come join the chorus and raise a voice to celebrate the holiday season! Soloists: Helen Lyons, Nessa Rabin, Cameron Brownell, Erik Kroncke. Musicians: Anne Decker, Jane Kittredge, Ben Lively, Ana Ruesink, John Dunlop, Claire Black, Jason Whitcomb, Nic Cannizzaro.

This family-friendly event is open to all. Childcare and scores will be available. Donations encouraged (suggested \$5 children, \$20 adults; \$50 family maximum). For more information, contact [jane.kitt@gmail.com](mailto:jane.kitt@gmail.com).

### Saxon Hill School hosts Kids' Cozy Craft Fest December 14

From Allison Geyer, Saxon Hill Co-Op School

Calling all child and teen crafters, makers, and entrepreneurs! Saxon Hill School is proud to hold its first Kids' Cozy Craft Fest on Saturday, December 14, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the school on River Rd., Jericho. Crafters can have a solo table or share a table with a friend. Table fees are \$10 with proceeds from fees going directly to Saxon Hill School, a non-profit family collective preschool. This is for child and teen crafters/makers who would like to showcase their creativity by selling their goods at this winter craft market.

Crafters can have a solo table or share a table with a friend.

There is a \$10 table fee per child/family which will go to Saxon Hill School, a non-profit family collective preschool and a 501(c)3. Tables will be provided. Parents/guardians are free to be the contact person for their child/teen.

The deadline to apply is Friday, November 22 — apply using the Google form online at <https://bit.ly/40h5HPZ> (short for <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQKZVBeYgOTfanHbkdord8TUZNfD45U5O9aCgpnLOI47sdfA/viewform>), or email [secretary@saxonhillschool.org](mailto:secretary@saxonhillschool.org) for more information.

### Studio sale at Shooting Star Designs, December 7-8

By Ann Linde, Shooting Star Designs  
Pleasant Valley Rd, Underhill

Come do a little local shopping — or just meet up with your neighbors and enjoy treats and hot cider — at Shooting Star Designs studio, Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. The Studio will be open for the sale on Saturday, December 7, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday, December 8, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

I will have a variety of original artwork including painted wooden trays, note cards, prints, ornaments, sculpture and more — lots of new material this year.

I'll be leaving the "shop" set up for a couple weeks, so if you can't make it on those days feel free to contact me (802-899-3548) to arrange a time to stop by.

### Need donkey and two sheep for live nativity December 14

Cambridge Christian Fellowship and St. Mary's are planning a live nativity for Saturday afternoon, December 14. As part of the cast, we are seeking a donkey and two sheep.

If you can provide these animals for the event or know of someone who could please contact [kenandsue@hoepner.com](mailto:kenandsue@hoepner.com).

Thank you in advance.



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