



LOOK FOR
HOME AND GARDEN
INFORMATION IN THE MAY 15 ISSUE.
Contact Brenda
at mtngazette@gmavt.net
for more information.

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Serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, VT

May 1, 2025

BREAKING NEWS

The Mountain Gazette from how we started, to Thank You and goodbye

By Brenda Boutin and Sara Riley
The Mountain Gazette's final edition will be published on Thursday, June 19. It will be Vol. 24 No. 24.

Newspapers are the life blood of many Vermont communities. Chittenden County has its share. Some have lasted for years; others have come and gone quickly. The Underhill-Jericho area had a wonderful paper, the *Mountain Villager*, before the *Mountain Gazette* came along. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Here is the origin story: I, Brenda Boutin, publisher, worked for several newspapers including *The Islander* in South Hero, the *Milton Independent* in Milton, and fifteen years at the *Essex Reporter* where I was the graphic designer and advertising representative. In 2001 there came a time at my last employment where there was a non-meeting of the minds and we parted company. "Well, what the hell am I going to do now," I expressed my concern to my landlord Peter Giese — and within a few days community members approached me asking when I was starting a paper.

I had no intention of doing so, as I didn't own a computer or any equipment to entertain the idea. I asked God one night for guidance and within a week George Fowler, owner and publisher of the *Islander*, called asking if I knew someone who had need for a complete office setup for newspaper work. He was upgrading his entire system.

Now I had equipment, but how would I publish a paper. I had no business capital. There were several presses in Vermont and New York state. Everyone I approached in Vermont looked at me as if I'd lost my mind. My last resort was Denton Publications in Elizabethtown, NY. Its owner Dan Alexander became my mentor and hero. He approved a line of credit for me and I was set to go. They have printed our paper and other publications for all of our 24 years.

My apartment at that time was in the building attached to Jacob's Market in Underhill Flats, and in my tiny apartment the *Mountain Gazette* was born. I was thankful for business courses I had taken through Burlington College and my BA degree from there in graphic design.

Let me tell you, as I look back, just how hokey the first few issues were. Several people called and expressed how critical it was for me to employ a copy editor, as spelling and punctuation and grammar were definitely not part of my skill set. This is where Sara Riley joined the effort, beginning with the third or fourth edition.

My goal was to produce a true hometown-style newspaper, free to readers, focused on our small towns and our lives and activities. Non-partisan. Local issues: town hall news, scouts and 4-H and local sports, fire departments and schools and libraries, commentators and writers and poets from the communities, letters to the editor, state legislators. For the most part we have kept within that horizon.

The paper grew and has had the opportunity to work with many talented people including Ted Tedford of Underhill, former publisher of the *Mountain Villager*; Kathy Johnson, Sue Kusserow, Shad Emerson, Mary Jane Lederman, Randy Clark, Phyl Newbeck, Bernie

Paquette, Ethan Tapper, Bill Schubart, Marion Tobin, Mary Kintner, Luke Mindel, Riichard Mindel, and many more.

I miss the Senior Profiles I wrote for a time — so many wonderful people have shaped our towns — as well as profiles of new businesses in our towns, special sections like springtime home-and-garden, and each June printing the photos of the entire graduating class at MMUHS. And for a few years we published an Animal Resources Guide and a local Underhill-Jericho phone directory, until changing technology (cell phones!) made that impracticable.

It was Sara who wrote the very few (low single digits) editorials we ever published. She misses the Candidate Forums for elections, from town-level to the state Legislature and elected offices, to our three representatives to the U.S. Congress. Each position had the same two or three questions for each aspiring candidate on the ballot, to be answered in 25 words or less. ("If you can't state your position in 25 words or less, you don't know what it is — or you don't want to say." — Editor)

We will both miss covering Harvest Market.

So, for 24 years the *Gazette* came out twice a month. For quite a few years, as well as being available online, bundles of papers were dropped at town halls and libraries, schools and businesses in Underhill, Jericho, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Bolton, and Westford, and a paper copy was mailed to all addresses in our towns — until rising postal rates made that an unworkable choice. Since then, it has been dropped much as before as well as being published online.

But as we all know and have lived, the world continues to change. In particular, inflation and economic challenges affect us all, and have affected the *Mountain Gazette*. Most recently and particularly the tariffs (potential/threatened/reality) on goods from our neighbor to the north have made it impossible for our printer to predict the cost of the newsprint (paper imported from Canada) on which to print the *Gazette*.

That uncertainty, and the fact that Sara and I are both in our mid-70s, pushed our decision to cease publishing the *Mountain Gazette*. We don't want to. We wanted to complete 25 full years. However, for ourselves, our readers, and our advertisers we would rather end in a controlled glide than abruptly without notice.

So the *Mountain Gazette's* final edition will be published on Thursday, June 19.

It is a difficult decision. Our lives and our friendship are entwined with the *Mountain Gazette*. We feel connected to the towns we cover. The *Gazette* has announced weddings and births, and has printed obituaries, memorials to those who have passed, from our towns; followed kids growing up through schools and library programs and sports and both college news and new businesses articles; covered local elections and issues; welcomed those who wrote about living in our towns. Connected. We are grateful to have had that, and that feeling will not just stop when the printing of the paper stops.

We thank all of our advertisers and readers and contributors. We thank our communities. We thank you.

NEWS BRIEFS

Community Media and The Future of Democracy

By Angeline A. Contis, MMCTV

Please join Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV) on Tuesday, May 6, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, for a special annual meeting featuring a conversation with Lauren Glenn-Davitian, Public Policy Director and Co-Founder of Burlington's Champlain Community TV (CCTV). Find out how hyperlocal media centers like CCTV and MMCTV support Vermont civic life and how we navigate tech, financial, and political challenges.

The event will be held at the Richmond Free Library, Bridge St., Richmond, with MMCTV and WRUJ-LP (fledgling radio station) updates, with refreshments to follow.

Please RSVP and find more details at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1334080664179>.

Cally Abbot a Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholar

From the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation

Flyin Ryan is proud to announce the addition of Cally Abbot of Jericho to their Adventure Scholar family! Cally learned to ski at 2 years old and has grown up skiing locally in Vermont ever since. Now a 16-year-old Sophomore at Mount Mansfield Union High School, she is also passionate about lacrosse, field hockey, baking, art, mountain biking, and hiking with her dogs. She is a member of the Smugglers' Notch Ski Club Freeski Team and will be using her award to help fund skiing in competition.

The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship Program exists to provide monetary awards to assist adventurers of all kinds, from all around the world, in pursuing their passions. Applicants must come up with their own set of Core Values and demonstrate character, passion for their goal and financial need. To date we have given out over 170 awards. Learn more and apply at www.FlyinRyanHawks.org/Adventure-Scholarship-Program/.

The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation was formed in 2011 to extend the impact of the life of Ryan Hawks who, at the age of 25, tragically died while competing on the freeride world ski tour. Before he died, Ryan composed his 14 Principles for Living. The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation has focused its mission around the concept that "core values matter." Over the last three years, the Foundation has developed a five step program called Flyin Ryan Decisions. The program was pioneered at South Burlington High School, Vermont, where over 1200 students have deliberately taken ownership of



Cally Abbott's Core Values: 1. Prioritise the joy of myself and others; 2. Always keep an open mind; 3. Be curious and adventurous; 4. Respect my body; 5. Love loudly and often; 6. Be authentic; 7. Show gratitude; 8. Give everything I have to everything I do; 9. Be bold and creative; 10. Choose kindness.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

their lives by composing and communicating the core values which reside from within, and using their core values as a basis for increased self-respect and future decision making. The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation is currently introducing this same program to other schools around the state.

Corbin Kieslich wins Vermont Historical Society's 2025 Vermont History Day competition



Jericho resident Corbin Kieslich, a student at Christ the King School in Burlington, is a winner in the Vermont Historical Society's 2025 Vermont History Day competition, which was held on Saturday, April 5 at Saint Michael's College in Colchester. More than 350 student entries from around the state

entered the contest, an annual educational competition for middle- and high school-aged students who research, write, design, and build a project about a historical topic, and gather to present their work for the chance to win prizes and compete at the National History Day contest. National History Day (<https://nhd.org/en/>) turns 50 this year, and poses an annual theme to challenge students to frame and explore some aspect of a historical topic. This year's theme was titled Rights & Responsibilities in History. Kieslich took second place in the Junior Individual Exhibit category with his project The Rights and Responsibilities of Hunting in Vermont, qualifying him to participate in the National History Day competition (<https://nhd.org/en/contest/national-contest/>), to be held Monday-Thursday, June 8-12 at the University of Maryland College Park. The full list of winners in the Vermont contest can be found at <https://vermonthistory.org/vermont-history-day-2025-winners>.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BRIEFS

Town of Bolton seeks new Town Administrator

By Brian Roberge
Bolton Town Administrator

The Town of Bolton is seeking a motivated and experienced professional to serve as its next Town Administrator. This full-time, salaried position works under the direction of the Select Board to manage and coordinate the daily operations of town government. Key responsibilities include administrative leadership, financial and personnel management, and acting as the primary liaison with state and federal agencies. The role requires attendance at evening meetings and occasional fieldwork.

To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to selectboard@boltonvt.com. A full job description is available at www.boltonvt.com.

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Cambridge Junction Covered Bridge updates

By Eric Boozan
Cambridge Town Administrator

The Cambridge Junction Bridge, located between VT Rt. 109 and VT Rt. 15 on the Cambridge Junction Road, sustained damage from the July 2023 Flooding Event, resulting in its closure since. FEMA funds assisted the Town of Cambridge with the necessary repairs, which were completed during fall 2024.

The field adjacent to the Cambridge Junction Bridge (VT Rt. 109 side) also suffered significant damage during the 2023-2025 flooding events. Combined with the erosion over the past few decades, the Cambridge Junction Road and Vermont Electric Co Op utility poles were at significant risk of being compromised. The Vermont Electric Co Op and the Town of Cambridge are working together on a slope stabilization project with contractor Bob Edwards and Sons Excavating, VT State River Engineers, and Army Corps of Engineers to prevent further erosion. This project was to be completed by Wednesday, April 30.

News briefs continued on page 2

SUMMER CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

Online VT summer camp finder — now is the time to research summer camp opportunities for kids! VT DCF has a great partnership with Vermont State Parks — go online to <https://campfindervt.com/> to learn more about camp opportunities across the state for kids! Is a Day Camp best for your kids? Sleepaway camp? Special themes? Find out more by following the link and have a GREAT summer!

Chittenden County Soccer School — registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2025, Monday-Friday, July 14-18 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the “love of the game” to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full sided and small sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan! There are half- and full-day (9:00 AM – 3:30 PM) camp options, for age groups that range from 5-16+! Please email barkereric15@gmail.com with any questions, or visit our website <http://chittendencountysoccerschool.org>.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration is open — If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife (VT F&W) Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer. The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities. Conservation Camps open June 22 and continue until August 22. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment, and financial assistance is available. Information and registration are available at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>. For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call 802-522-2925.

The Cottage at Lake Eden offers a wide-ranging multi-age program with an individual approach, with painting, sculpture, puppetry, storytelling, gardening, animal studies, nature journals, Forest School opportunities, and other meaningful outdoor adventures! Join us this summer Monday-Friday, June 30-August 1, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Breakfast and snacks are provided. Children will be invited to explore new ideas, materials, and learning environments at the Cottage School at Lake Eden. Interested in enrollment? Call or text Barbra Becraft at 954-589-6227 or contact thecottageschoolatlakeeden@gmail.com.

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All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the “love of the game” to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

Please email Eric Barker of Underhill, barkereric15@gmail.com with any questions, or visit our website at <http://chittendencountysoccerschool.org>.

Saxon Hill School summer camp — Registration is open for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho. Weekly camps at Saxon Hill provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. The camps engage children ages 3-6 with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure, counselors will aim to focus each week on children's interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open! Camps run weekly from June 16-August 22, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

Summer Fairy Camp, Underhill — Registration for Poker Hill Arts summer Fairy Camps is open. These usually fill fast — find information, pictures, videos, and dates at our website <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/magical-fairy-camp>.

Poker Hill Children's Theatre may still have openings for the week of July 28-August 1. This musical theatre camp located in Underhill is for students entering second grade through fifth grade. If your child loves singing, dancing, arts and crafts, and water time, this is the camp for them! Here is the link for more information and to register: <https://bit.ly/410wT5j>.

Canciones y Cuentos: Kids Spanish Camp — Sing songs, read stories, play games, make art, and move your body! All levels, ages 4-9 at the Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. The session will run Monday-Thursday, July 28-31, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM; \$275 for the four-day session, or sign up two kids for \$500. Contact Christie Moulton, christiemoulton@gmail.com, to register. Campers should come with a water bottle, morning snack, and lunch.

The lineup of Burlington City Arts' (BCA's) 2025 summer camps is live online at <https://bit.ly/4JZmACP>. At BCA's award-winning camps, students work closely with professional teaching artists for a full week of in-depth studio arts experience. Every camp includes high-quality art materials and a final celebration. Come for a half-day, or pair a morning and afternoon camp together at BCA Studios to make a full-day experience. Camps at the BCA Center run for the full day. Registration for all classes is open and class waitlists are active. Browse the digital guide online at https://issuu.com/btvcityarts/docs/bca_summertime_catalog_2025_mech_single-pages.

News briefs continued from page 1

The Town of Cambridge Highway Department is working on debris/tree removal on the VT Rt. 109 side of the Cambridge Junction Bridge. They also are working on reestablishing the shoulders after flood waters washed them away. These projects are scheduled to be completed by Thursday, May 1.

On Friday, May 2, the Vermont State Police have asked to utilize the area around Cambridge Junction Covered bridge as part of their monthly training. A large Vermont State Police presence will be in town that day. They will be primarily parked on the VT Rt. 109 side of the Junction Bridge. They will have the area well marked/signed and the LVRT and Junction Road parking (VT Rt. 15 side) will not be affected.

Lastly, the Cambridge Junction Road and Cambridge Junction Covered bridge will be opened to through traffic on Monday, May 5 for the summer season.

Questions? Contact Eric Boozan, eric@cambridgvt.org or 802-363-2146.

Jericho Underhill Food Hub update

By Nate Goldman, Jericho Underhill Food Hub

It has been a busy month for the Food Hub.

Our April farmer's forum was an opportunity for community members to meet and hear from local farmers, sugarmakers, fiber producers, and beekeepers. What a great way to learn more about where our food and products come from and to connect with the folks who grow and produce them! The panel featured a mix of farmers from Underhill and Jericho. Eight farms total were represented! A detailed write-up can be found on our blog at <https://www.jufoodhub.org/post/talking-farming>.

There will be more forums to come. If you have a farm or food production business and want to participate in future events like this, please let us know.

Our spring gardening and food workshop series have been a great success, with many neighbors tapping into the deep level

of experience and knowledge right here in our own community.

A few upcoming events to keep an eye out for:

- stay tuned for details on this summer's cooking classes including tips and tricks to utilize fresh produce from farmstands and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA);
- look for another free community meal in August, featuring locally made and grown foods.

For more information, go online to <https://www.jufoodhub.org/> or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/909332627617679>, or contact jufoodhub@gmail.com.

Bolton bicyclists — caution on Duxbury Road

By Sandy Lucia, Bolton Assistant Town Clerk

Bicyclists are advised to use caution on Duxbury Road, which is under construction this spring.

Please wait for a green light before proceeding — the traffic light is on a timer. Oncoming traffic can be dangerous for all involved.

Be safe — thank you!

Town of Cambridge seeking Health Officer

By Eric Boozan, Cambridge Town Administrator

After over a decade, Don Lange has decided to retire from his role as the Town of Cambridge Health Officer. As a result, The Town of Cambridge is seeking a Town Health Officer.

Town Health Officers are responsible for:

- investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town or city;
- taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards;

Retribe's 2025 Summer Camps — Registration is open for ReTribe summer camps in Underhill. We invite teens to embark on a Rite of Passage at one or both of our teen retreats:

Adventure Game Theater: Ages 12-19. July 3-12. Transform through a live action adventure. Become a hero, a rogue, a sorcerer. Face death and protect life as you fight with foam swords and magic. Does your teen love D&D, fantasy series, or improv? This retreat is for them! Sign up at www.retribe.org/adventure-game-theater.

Inner Journeys: Ages 14-19. July 20-August 3. Being a teenager can be overwhelming. During this two-week retreat we'll engage with practices to help us find our center, connect with peers, and feel at peace among the forest and streams. Discover more of yourself using transformative practices including Breathwork, a wilderness solo, shamanic journeying, and meditation. Sign up at www.retribe.org/inner-journeys.

Retribe also offers Day Camps for ages 5-12, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Choose among seven weeks. Is your kid ready to unleash their wild side venturing on quests, playing games, and practicing earth skills this Summer? Check out our youth camp options at www.retribe.org/day-camp.

Questions? Reach out to Julia Martin at ReTribeTransformation@gmail.com or 609-933-0877.

Water Wanderings offers summer camps for everyone from infant to adult with camps for youth, teens, young adults, and families. It's a great way to get outside, learn, and play. Campers sleep in tents, build fires, canoe, and learn through doing with our curriculum that explores creativity, sustainability, equity, ecology, and outdoors skills. 2025 camps are as follows:

- Youth, ages 9-12: Monday July 7-Friday, July 11 (four nights);
- Teens, ages 13-15: Monday, July 14-Monday, July 21 (seven nights);
- Young Adults, ages 16-18: Wednesday, July 23-Wednesday, July 30 (seven nights);
- Grandparents Day: July 31;
- Family Camp I: Monday, August 4-Wednesday, August 6 (two nights) For families with kids ages 1-7.

Our Family Camp II: Thursday, August 7-Saturday, August 9 (two nights) is full.

All camps happen on the Green River Reservoir in Hyde Park and have a maximum group size of 12. The youth and teen camps have three counselors and nine campers while the young adult camp and the family camps have two counselors and ten campers. For more information (including sliding scale cost), go online to <https://www.waterwanderings.org/register.html>.

Davis Meadow Rides Horse Camp is for kids ages 6-9 and 10+ who love horses and want to ride and learn about them and enjoy horse-related activities — riding, anatomy, caring for horses, horse painting, horse bathing, crafts, and other fun activities. There are three Monday-Friday camp sessions: June 23-27 (ages 6-9), July 7-11 (ages 10 and up), and July 28-August 1 (ages 6-9). The camp is located on Cilley Hill Rd., Jericho. To learn more and to register, go online to <https://davismeadowrides.com/> or contact 802-923-0369 or dvselea@gmail.com.

- taking action to lessen significant public health risks;
- enforcing health laws, rules and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders.

More about Town Health Officers can be found online at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/town-health-officers>.

If you have further questions about the position or would like to submit a letter of interest, please contact Eric Boozan, eric@cambridgvt.org or 802-363-2146.

Bolton Spring Festival May 17 at Smilie School

By Sarah Courtemanche, Bolton

The Bolton Spring Festival is on Saturday, May 17— less than a month away! There will be a plant sale 9:00 – 11:00 AM, car wash 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and everything else 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM: bake sale, flea market, craft fair, ice cream truck and more! All but the car wash will take place at the Smilie Memorial School grounds on Theodore Roosevelt Highway in Bolton; the car wash will be at the Bolton fire station.

As you clean up and plant your gardens, please consider digging up and donating extra perennials you don't need or seedlings you won't use! Come purchase vegetable, flower, herb, or perennial plants to add to your garden (Tucker Andrew's amazing tomatoes and more! Marigolds! Sungold Cherry Tomatoes! Basil!) Cash or Venmo only. Come share the bounty of your own garden — perennials that keep reproducing, or extra seedlings you planted but don't need yourself.

Enjoy local baked goods or ice cream while you peruse the plants, craft fair, flea market. Have your car washed by our fourth-grade class to support their end of year field trip — come support our local school!

We are requesting donations of plants — perennials, but also peppers, tomatoes, herbs, other vegetables, flowers, etc. We know many of you will have extra seedlings left over from your own gardens, or perennials that you are looking to pass on. Perennial offerings are completely dependent on community donations.

Donations can be dropped off Saturday, May 17 at the Smilie School playground, 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Please label what you are dropping off (name of plant, and if it is hardened off).

Questions? Email Sarah, Sarah.k.courtemanche@gmail.com.

Cambridge and Village Beautification Project

Despite the snow and cold spring flowers are appearing, reminding us that the village flowers will soon be decorating the villages. This is the twelfth year for this mainly all-volunteer project of placing pots and hanging half-baskets in our villages.

We need to match the Town's request of 50% matching donations, so we are asking for your generosity again. Donations of all sizes are helpful and can be given online at <http://www.givebutter.com/villageflowers>, or by check made out to the Town of Cambridge with Village Beautification Project in the memo area sent to Town of Cambridge, P.O. Box 127, Jeffersonville, VT 05464.

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

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FREE COFFEE 12 OZ.

PER GALLON OF GASOLINE

Cannot be combined with other offers. Ad required for discount.

COMING EVENTS

Pleasant Valley Pony Club
annual manure sale

As we emerge from a long Vermont winter, it's time to start thinking about feeding our vegetable gardens and flower beds. Pleasant Valley Pony Club will be hosting its annual roadside manure sale on Saturday May 10, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, VT Rt. 15 between the Dollar General and Kate's Food Truck in Jericho — look for signs!

Sales enable us to provide horse riding and horse management instruction to our members and make many happy memories along the way! Pleasant Valley Pony Club is the local chapter of an internationally recognized organization that teaches kids (and adults) responsible horsemanship. These lessons apply to more than just equine sports; they help lay the groundwork for becoming responsible humans.

Our annual manure sale takes beautifully composted local horse manure that the kids bag in recycled grain bags — reduce, reuse, recycle, and garden!

Prices: \$5/bag, or \$100 for 25 bags. Bags are approximately 50 pounds each. We accept cash or checks payable to "Pleasant Valley Pony Club." Questions? Email asmall83@gmail.com.

Interested in joining United States Pony Club? Check out <https://www.ponyclub.org> or contact jenniferpcrum@hotmail.com.

Ongoing Events

It Takes a Village Women's Circle meets on the last Tuesday of the month (May 27), 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Waterville Town Hall, 544 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. 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>

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 to exercise bodies and minds through square dancing. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Burlington Literature Group — a weekly virtual book group that meets weekly, Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, on Zoom. We welcome 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. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60 to 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. Our next book is Thomas Pynchon's postmodern epic Gravity's Rainbow. Here's the schedule: May 6: Chapter 3 "The Zone is in full summer" through Chapter 3 "They both start cackling insanely there, under the tree."; May 13: Chapter 3 "Slothrop comes to in episodes" through Chapter 3 "and the dogs run barking in the backstreets."; May 20: Chapter 3 "When emptied of people" through Chapter 3 "orchestra plays Tristan und Isolde."; May 27: Chapter 3 "They come out into the last of the twilight." through Chapter 3 "Safe passage through a bad night..."; June 3: Chapter 3 "The Schwarzkommando have got to Achtfaden" through end of Chapter 3; June 10: Chapter 4 through Chapter 4 "There are things to hold on to..."; June 17: Chapter 4 "You will want cause and effect." through Chapter 4 "just at the other aide of dawning, you can see a smile."; June 24: Chapter 4 "In her pack, Geli Tripping" to End.

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, a volunteer-run community singing group which harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings. 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, 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 (May 8) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

The Underhill Historical Society meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Meetings are at the Old Schoolhouse, 32 Pleasant Valley Rd, Underhill Center, spring through fall, and at the Town Hall in the winter. Visit our website for more information: <https://underhillhistoricalsociety.org>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (May 1, 15), 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 atowerimvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehehir@comcast.net.

Waterville Country Church hosts a Community Meal the first Thursday of each month (May 1). 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. Ask about delivery to shut-ins!

Tai Chi at the Cambridge Community Center (CCC), 22

Old Main St., Jeffersonville — Come join our community of friends staying fit on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Tai Chi is sometimes described as moving meditation. The art contains movements, which are so varied that they put into play every part of the body with harmonious design and graceful patterns. Each form flows with the grace of a specific aspect of nature, working with nature's energy, such as the swaying motion of willow branches being coerced by a gentle breeze or clouds slowly changing shape or form. Movements are slow and deliberate without exerting force or power. The speed of the breathing matches the speed of the movement. Wear clothing that is comfortable and easy to move around in. All ages, beginners and experienced participants welcome! Contact Instructor Wade Prescott for easy registration at 727-557-4469 or inst.wade@gmail.com, or just come on down.

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 – 10:30 AM; first Friday of the month, 9:45 – 11:15 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.

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.

Early Birder Morning Walks, Sundays, May 4-June 30, 7:00 – 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Join us for an early morning ramble in our forest and meadows. Enjoy the start of the day with us, birds, and other woodland inhabitants. Walks are led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont birds. Come to several walks to hear the changes in who calls and when! Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order. Don't forget bug spray/tick repellent! Park in the Museum parking lot. Best for adults and older children. Max 12; suggested donation: \$5-\$15. Register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum> for the walk(s) of your choice.

Coming Events

Friday, May 2

Third Annual Steps Social Kaleidoscope, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, The Barns at Lang Farm, Upper Main St., Essex Junction. Join Steps to End Domestic Violence to celebrate our organization, our community, and the arrival of spring! There will be an update on our work and vision for the future of Steps, survivor speakers, appetizers from Poorhouse Pies, live music from Vermont Cello Duet and Tessa Gordon, a photo booth, and a cash bar; a silent auction and raffle prizes from local businesses. Can't attend in person? You can still support Steps by sponsoring an event ticket for an advocate or by purchasing raffle tickets online at <https://give.stepsvt.org/event/3rd-annual-steps-social-kaleidoscope/e668971>.

Friday-Saturday, May 2-3

CANCELLED due to construction in the building — Rummage Sale/Bag Sale 2025, Friday 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Fairfax Community Center, 1210 Main St., Fairfax. Clean clothes, books, toys, and white elephant. Benefits United Church of Fairfax missions. For information, contact 802-849-6313 or ucffairfaxvt@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 3

Cornhole Tournament to benefit MMU Project Grad, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho. Competitive and Social Divisions. Registration 9:00 AM, \$50/team; tournament play 10:00 AM. For registration information, go online to <https://bit.ly/4jrD1Kj> (short for https://drive.google.com/file/d/10YWe04SHq5t99XzU7wwIPj2vZkvUEvII/view?usp=drive_link).

Spring Volunteer Work Party, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Lots to do, indoors and out, so please help us prepare the Museum for the open season. From trail maintenance to hanging art, we have opportunities for all. Come for an hour or all day, bring yourself, a friend, a family. Further trail and garden work will happen in May, when the weather is that much nicer. Pre-register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum> so we have enough sandwiches (drop-ins with their own lunch are welcome). Questions? 802-434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

Finding the Stories of Your Ancestors, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, VT Genealogy Museum, 57 River Rd., Essex and on Zoom. Do you find ancestry charts to be boring? Lynn Johnson did, so she was reluctant to get involved in genealogy — until she started to learn the stories that went with the names and dates. Lynn will use examples from French-Canadian family lines to introduce you to an array of sources that can help you uncover their stories. While the examples will be about French-Canadians, the general principles can be applied to lines of inquiry for any country or ethnicity. The cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org to register.

Saturday, May 10

Green Mountain Woodcarvers May Carve-In, 9:30 – 2:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. The Museum is delighted to host the Green Mountain Wood Carvers (GMWC), a group of carvers from Vermont with members from around New England. They meet monthly for Carve-Ins at different sites around the state, and host an annual show and class in August. At the Carve-In, members will be

working on a variety of carving projects and discussing their plans for the August Class and Show. Carvers meet in the workshop or treehouse (weather permitting). More information at <http://greenmountainwoodcarvers.org/>. Included with Museum Admission.

Mobbs Farm Spring Trail Work Day, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Mobbs Farm, Jericho. The Mobbs Farm Committee is hosting this our semi-annual trail work day. We have a long list of important projects to complete and hope that you will consider joining us on the trail network as we roll into spring! Please feel free to email any questions or comments to mobbschair@jerichovt.gov.

Thursday, May 15

Forest Sit, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Join museum staff for a quiet time outdoors in the forest. Meet outside the museum by the entrance benches. We will welcome each other, walk out to the month's sit spot, and sit quietly for 30-45 minutes. Let's rest, restore our spirits, watch birds or butterflies, do a little nature journaling, or whatever is comfortable and quiet for each. Each month (May-September) we'll visit a different nearby location on the Museum's property. This time, sit in and around the Retreat's mini meadow (0.2 mi walk; trail generally level after going down and up from creek, has roots). Locations may change if it is raining. Please bring any of these you wish: water, tick repellent, journaling materials, binoculars, camp stool, pillow, sitting mat. Hats recommended. Max: 8; suggested donation: \$5-\$15. Please register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>. You are welcome to come to one, several, or all.

Saturday, May 17

Empty Arms Vermont's 3rd annual 5K Run & Walk, check-in/bib pickup 8:30 – 9:50 AM, 10:00 AM Walk/Run, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM music and fun, Veterans Memorial Park, S. Burlington. Sponsored by Empty Arms Vermont, a nonprofit providing peer support to individuals and families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss, this is our biggest fund-raising event of the year. Race begins and ends at Veterans Memorial Park's main pavilion; the course loop follows the S. Burlington bike path (pet/stroller friendly). Water and little snacks for kids will be available along the way. After the race there will be a Ben & Jerry's truck, music by Smokey Newfield Project, and a magic show by Alyx the Magician for kids and kids-at-heart! Visit <https://www.emptyarmsvermont.org/5krun> to register for the race or to become a sponsor.

Jericho Underhill Land Trust

BIRD WALK!

Join veteran birders Evergreen Erb and Sabina Ernst for our Annual JULT Bird Walk at Mills Riverside Park!





EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Birds! The park, with its rich mix of habitats, is especially suited for an exciting bird walk. Expect to hear and see many warblers, Eastern kingbirds by the pond, Gray catbirds, vireos and many more

Experienced Guides Evergreen has led this avian excursion for 26 years and counting!

Beautiful Scenery Enjoy time outdoors and take in the spring landscapes of Mills Riverside Park.

Please bring a pair of binoculars and dress for the weather. We will meet at the parking lot. The meandering walk will take several hours but you may leave at any time. We look forward to seeing you there!

7 AM
10
MAY

MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK
338 VT-15, JERICHO, VT
05465

www.jult.org

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The Mountain Gazette

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

HEALTH NEWS



Join us Saturday, May 31, 2025 for the Jiggety Jog 5k Run and Walk!

Register by May 1st to guarantee a t-shirt for this year's event.

Register Today!

Join us for the 35th annual Jiggety Jog 5K, presented by NorthCountry Federal Credit Union.

This family-friendly event will feature prizes, raffles, music and more!

Support the Respite House

Every dollar raised ensures compassionate, high-quality care is available to our community at the McClure Miller Respite House.

Help us meet our goal of raising \$125,000, which will provide over 140 days of care at the Respite House.

Support your local Respite House — join the Jiggety Jog on May 31

Join us on Saturday, May 31 for the 35th Annual Jiggety-Jog 5K Run/Walk!

The Jiggety Jog is the single largest fundraiser for the McClure Miller Respite House, Vermont's only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The McClure Miller Respite House has served our community for over 30 years, providing medical care and compassion to those at the end of their lives. Last year, over 200 community members participated in the event and we raised over \$128,000 for the McClure Miller Respite House. We hope you will join us for a morning of camaraderie, gratitude, and community spirit.

Our community is our strength and we thank everyone that has helped us throughout the years! Every dollar raised ensures compassionate, high-quality care is available to our community at the McClure Miller Respite House. Help us meet our goal of raising \$125,000, which will provide over 140 days of care at the Respite House.

Details: the Jiggety Jog will be held at Malletts Bay School, 609 Blakely Rd., Colchester, with registration at 8:00 AM and a 9:00 AM start. Runner registration is \$25, and all ages and abilities are welcome. This family-friendly event will feature prizes, raffles, music and more!

To register and for more information, please go online to <https://bit.ly/4jjT8di> (short for <https://give.uvmhealth.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=501&language=en>).

McClure Miller Respite House Jiggety Jog was established in 1991. This name came from the nursery rhyme with the line, "To market, to market, to buy a fat hog; Home again, home again, jiggety-jog." This name captured the essence the founders wanted — a fun community event with the feeling of home. We're continuing that tradition with this year's Jiggety Jog 5K, honoring the difficulty and joy that come from end-of-life care and time spent at the McClure Miller Respite House.

(The Editor supports the Respite House, having found at the end of her father's life that those who work there are angels on the Earth.)

Community CPR Class May 28

The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department will host another community CPR/AED class on Wednesday May 28, 6:00 – 9:00 PM at the Underhill Fire, 420 VT Rt. 15, Underhill. The cost is \$12; spots are limited and fill fast. If you are interested, please contact Katie Forsberg, Kmf0508@comcast.net.

Lions Club Blood Drive May 22

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, May 22, from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., in Jericho. Please consider helping your neighbors and donate a pint of blood.

As always, enjoy a slice of pie after your donation! To schedule an appointment, go to <http://redcrossblood.org> and type in 05465 for a zip code or JULIONS in the search bar.

Springtime means ticks — protect yourself, family, and pets

Avoiding tick bites is the key to preventing tick bite illnesses. The best way to avoid tick bites is to stay away from where they live, such as wooded and brushy areas — particularly during spring, summer, and fall when ticks are most active in Vermont.

If you can't keep away from these areas, we suggest wearing EPA-registered insect repellent, pants, long-sleeved shirts, and long socks outside. Always check your body, clothing, gear, and pets for ticks, and shower as soon as you can after being outside.

If you find a tick attached to your body, remove it as soon as you can. If you develop symptoms like a fever, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, fatigue, or rash, contact your health care provider. Symptoms can develop 3-30 days after a tick bite.

Get more tick tips and find videos translated into multiple languages at <https://www.HealthVermont.gov/BeTickSmart>.

Why Copley Hospital is reviewing its Birthing Center

From Anne Bongiorno, APRN-BC PhD, Chair, Copley Hospital Board of Trustees

In 2022 regional legislators voted on behalf of their constituents to find ways to reduce health care costs. As a result, Act 167 was passed and the state hired the Oliver Wyman team to determine how to streamline healthcare in Vermont. The final Wyman report recommended Copley consider several changes to how we operate, including closing or growing our obstetrics service. Several hospitals with similar birth rates also were tasked to either "grow or shift birthing to other organizations" as part of their long-term planning.

The Trustees of Copley Hospital believe in responsible, affordable, and accessible healthcare. As a result of the Wyman report, and with great concern for our community, we decided to hire an independent consultant to gather more specific information about our birthing services and the needs of our birth family community in Lamoille County. Additionally, a small working group is supporting this effort.

A thorough and responsible review does take some time. We believe that it is important for our Board to take a careful and somber approach to this important service in our community. We anticipate a full review of our options in the summer of 2025.

The next steps will be dependent on many factors but include several options, such as a shift to a new birthing center model, currently under consideration in the Legislature, reconfiguring our current service to grow the numbers of birthing families we serve, closure of the service shifting births to another hospital.

No matter what our Board recommends, the decision will not be a rapid one, nor done in isolation. We will also want to include a well-organized plan to take care of all birthing families in our region.

We thank you for your patience as we work diligently to talk with our staff, community members, and the Legislature. We are all members of the same community and share common values — the Board takes this decision very seriously.

We will continue to share information to keep you, our community, informed with the process as it progresses.

Dementia Family Caregiver Center seeking mentors

The Dementia Family Caregiver Center at UVM Medical Center is seeking volunteer mentors to connect with mentees new to dementia caregiving in this rewarding program. Share your skills, give back, ease isolation, and offer listening, guidance and compassion.

To learn more contact UVM Medical Center Dementia Family Caregiver Center at DFCC@uvmhealth.org or go online to <https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/departments-and-programs/neurology/dementia-family-caregiver-center>.

Tattoos and piercings

Parents have been pinning me down with all sorts of questions about what to say to their teen who wants to have parts of their body pierced or tattooed. Well, let me see if I can push through with some information on this topic.

National data suggests that: 15-20% of older teens and young adults have tattoos, 25% have body piercings other than an ear lobe, and 50% who don't have a tattoo are expressing an interest in getting one. In fact, nowadays teenagers see body art such as piercing or tattooing as a way to express themselves and their identities, perhaps to fit in better with their peers, or as a sign of independence as they approach adulthood.

Please recognize that state laws vary for who can get a tattoo or body piercing under the age of 18. In Vermont, parent consent is needed for either procedure — and in New York, parent consent is needed for a piercing but tattooing a teen under 18, even with parental consent, is against the law.

Possible complications

Complications of a body piercing or tattoo can include, but are not limited to:

- bleeding and pain;
- infection, including possible transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis;
- large bumpy scars called keloids;
- an allergic reaction to the metal or ink being used;
- chipped or broken teeth from a tongue piercing.

If your teenager is contemplating having this done, start by talking with them, but not at them, about why they might want to do this and if they are aware of some of the medical risks. Make sure they think before they ink, since it is very hard and expensive to remove a tattoo once it has been placed. A henna tattoo may be a good compromise since it is not permanent and only lasts for weeks.

If you are going to consent to the procedure for your teen, make sure your teenager's immunizations are up to date. Help them find a place that is state regulated and practices good infection control — before, during, and after the piercing or tattoo is placed. New disposable gloves should be used, needles should be sterilized, and inks should be new and used only once.

Finally, remember that it is not what a person looks like on the outside but what kind of person they are on the inside. Your teen will still need your unconditional love and support — so keep those talks with your teenager ongoing and remember to focus on what your teen does well rather than just what they have done to their body.

Hopefully tips like these will stick with you the next time you are concerned that your teenager wants to get their body pierced or tattooed.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Legislative update

By Brenda Steady, State Representative
Chittenden-25 House District
BSteady@leg.state.vt.us

April 13

This week at the State House saw important discussions and legislative progress. On Wednesday, bill S.30, An Act Relating to Updating and Reorganizing the Health Insurance Statutes in 8 V.S.A. Chapter 107, passed on the floor. On Friday, S.3, An Act Relating to the Transfer of Property to a Trust, was also passed, along with H.454, An Act Relating to Transforming Vermont's Education Governance, Quality, and Finance Systems.

Many hours of discussion were dedicated to H.454 throughout the week, highlighting a wide range of perspectives on this critical piece of legislation. While the bill successfully passed, I ultimately cast a "no" vote due to concerns regarding the proposed framework. Now that the bill moves to the Senate, I remain optimistic that much-needed revisions will be made. My hope is that when it returns to the legislative body, I hope to be able to vote in favor of an improved version.

I align with the statement from Governor Phil Scott regarding the House passage of H.454: "This bill is nowhere near perfect due to the cost, timeline, and more. However, we all agree that education transformation is needed this session. To accomplish that, passage of this imperfect bill by the House so it can move to the Senate is an important procedural step toward achieving that goal. To be clear, many changes are needed to earn final support from legislators as well as my signature, and we will continue to make our case as this process moves forward. Having said that, I appreciate the productive conversations we've had so far, and I'm hopeful we can deliver education transformation to ensure all Vermont students have greater access to more opportunities and better outcomes, while Vermont taxpayers benefit from a more predictable, stable, and affordable system."

Press Release on H.454: In a statement released by Rep. Casey Toof, Assistant Minority Leader, Vermont House Republicans

expressed clear opposition to H.454 despite acknowledging the urgent need for public education reform. Concerns were raised about transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the timeline for implementation. "Vermont House Republicans were clear and voted against H.454, titled 'An Act Relating to Transforming Vermont's Education Governance, Quality, and Finance Systems.' While recognizing the pressing need for improvements in Vermont's public education system, House Republicans opposed the bill due to concerns regarding a lack of transparency, financial prudence, and the slow timeline."

As this bill moves to the Senate, the hope is that revisions will address these concerns in a meaningful way, leading to an improved final version that legislators can confidently support.

Human Services Committee: This week, my Human Services Committee heard testimony on several important bills:

- H.92 — An Act Relating to Human Services Board Fair Hearing Proceedings;
- H.293 — An Act Relating to Health Equity Data Reporting and Registry Disclosure Requirements;
- S.36 — An Act Relating to the Medicaid Payment Model for Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services;
- H.58 — An Act Relating to Medicaid Coverage for Play Therapy.

I appreciate the engagement and discussions surrounding these measures, as they play a crucial role in improving Vermont's healthcare and social services landscape.

April 24

My committee, Human Services, heard testimony and worked on the following bills:

- S.36 An act relating to the Medicaid payment model for residential substance use disorder treatment services;
- H.46 An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;
- H.496 An act relating to continuing care retirement communities;
- H.248 An act relating to supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

On Friday, bill S.28 passed on the floor. While I agree that doctors and nurses do need to be protected for care they give their patients, I voted "no" with concern that a doctor can prescribe an abortion pill over the phone without seeing the patient and not knowing the health of the woman or how far into the pregnancy the woman is.

There isn't a lot to update on H.454, An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems. It is still being discussed in the Senate.

The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education will hold a joint hearing to hear from students about their perspective about the future of education in Vermont on Friday, April 25, 1:00 – 3:00 PM in VT State House, Room 11, and online via Zoom.

Weekly legislative update

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden House District
TWood@leg.state.vt.us

April 18

The main bill that passed the House last week was H.424, the education reform bill. The House Education and Ways and Means Committees took extensive testimony from all parts of the state to inform their work on this bill. H.424 is a "strike-all" amendment — this means that the original bill number remains, but the substance of the bill has been essentially rewritten. It is, therefore, not the original bill.

Listed below is a link to the bill, which passed out of the House on a vote of 87-55. It is now in the Senate for consideration. There will, undoubtedly, be a conference committee to negotiate differences between the House and Senate version of the bills. The full bill may be viewed at <https://bit.ly/4j1wL1> (short for <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/H-0454/H-0454%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20House%20Unofficial.pdf>).

Legislative reports continued on page 5

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

GAR Roadside Historical Marker dedication May 18 in Cambridge

From Caleb Kessler
(on behalf of Liam McKone), Cambridge

After the American Civil War of 1861-65, surviving Union veterans formed various organizations. The largest and most democratic of these, with over 400,000 members of all ranks and races, was the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The 30,000 veterans in Vermont created over 100 posts around the state. The GAR was a powerful advocate for veteran benefits, and in 1868 it also established Memorial Day in May as an annual commemoration of their service. Many monuments were erected, both on battlefields and back in home states.

In the middle of the village of Cambridge, GAR Post 10 was honored with a monument put up in 1918. *Taps* had already sounded over the graves of most Civil War veterans, but a modern way of honoring their sacrifice appeared with the advent of automobiles.

In 1937, U.S. Rt. 6 was designated as the national GAR Highway, running coast to coast through 14 states. Disappointed that this path bypassed Vermont, that same year the state Legislature assigned the title of GAR Highway to VT Rt. 15, which at the time ran from Burlington to Wolcott. Signs announcing this name are today displayed on the highway from Winooski to Joe's Pond, but few people now know what the GAR was or why the highway has this title.

A new roadside historical marker will be dedicated in the center of Cambridge village on Sunday, May 18 to explain the history of the GAR and this designation of the highway. The Vermont Legislature will issue a joint resolution by the Senate and the House declaring that date to be "Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day." At 3:00 PM, the marker near the GAR monument will be unveiled by the great-grandson of the first commander of GAR Post 10 in Cambridge. Prior to the dedication, Civil War exhibits and demonstrations will be open to the public beginning 10:00 AM at the Boyden Events Barn nearby.

The event coincides with the Grand Review of the forces that paraded on May 23-24 through Washington in 1865, victorious in the long and bloody struggle to preserve our Union. On Saturday, May 24, 160 years later, the Essex Memorial Day parade will similarly proceed down the Vermont GAR Highway. Cambridge will have its own commemorations to include the flag display at the silos by the local American Legion Post.

Please support the dedication event with contributions online at the Facebook Group for the Vermont Civil War Round Tables or by going directly to <https://givebutter.com/sj9kA3>. Further details on the activity are being developed on Facebook and you can contact the organizer at GARHighwayVT@gmail.com to send donations by mail.

Brewster Uplands Trails maintenance update

By Laird MacDowell, Jeffersonville

The Vermont Land Trust (VLT), the Cambridge Trails Committee (CTC), and the Brewster River Mountain Bike Club

(BRMBC) have been working collaboratively to clear debris from the seven miles of public trails on 634 acres of the VLT-owned Brewster Uplands property located in Jeffersonville. Completed maintenance on the specific trails is described below:

Alden Bryan Brewster River Trail (ABBRT) — is now open for the summer season after being closed for the winter for deer habitat protection. The trail that runs next to the Brewster River has been cleared of fallen branches and downed trees, including the Edwards Road section that has a connection to the Smugglers' Notch Disc Golf Center.

Pond Loop Trail — the one-mile, wheelchair-accessible trail located off West Farm Road has been cleared of fallen branches and leaves and is open for the season. Use the upper parking lot on West Farm Road for the accessible trailhead and ADA-compliant parking. West Farm Road Trails — the two trails located off the West Farm Road that lead to the ABBRT — have been cleared of fallen branches and are open for the season.

Midlands Mountain Bike Trails — located off Cliff Reynolds Road have been cleared of fallen branches and downed trees and the leaves will be blown off the trails by a BRMBC member this week. The trails are open for cycling.

Loggers' Loop Trails — accessible from both Canyon Road and Junction Hill Road have been cleared of fallen branches but the trails are wet and muddy and are CLOSED until they have a chance to dry out. The specific trails are Loggers' Loop, Old Carriage Road, Junction Hill, and Canyon Road.

A reminder that VLT requires that dogs must be leashed at all times on the trails and property. Report dog complaints by email to dogalert@cambridgevt.org.

Please report any trail issues, such as downed trees blocking a trail that would require a chainsaw to remove, by email to brewster@VLT.org.

Update from the Vermont Secretary of State

By Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Vermont Secretary of State
April 14

I wanted to share some updates and resources from my office in response to recent news you may have been hearing about the Federal administration.

Elections Executive Order and SAVE Act: I'm working with our VT Attorney General's office and 19 other states to push back against a recent effort from the Trump administration to implement sweeping changes to how states manage elections. Under the executive order, every Vermonter would have to re-register to vote in person at their clerk's office with documentary proof of citizenship, like a passport or certified birth certificate. The SAVE Act, which includes many of the elements of the order, passed in the House of Representatives last week. While it is not expected to fare as well in the Senate, we intend to keep in close contact with our Congressional delegation and other Secretaries to ensure any changes in voter registration requirements do not stand as an unnecessary barrier to eligible voters.

You can read my full March 26 statement here: <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretary-s-desk/commentary/vermont-secretary-of-state-responds-to-executive-order-on-integrity-of-american-elections/>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

U.S. Postal Service policy changed April 15

To the Editor,

Some time ago, the U.S. Postal Service put out a notice seeking public input regarding their plans to move the processing of mail to Hartford, CT. At the time, public sentiment was made to be heard enough so as to make the Postal Service decide not to go through with their plan.

Recently (Tuesday, April 15) the U.S. Postal Service transferred the processing of outgoing mail to Hartford, CT. There was no notice of intent nor search for public input into the matter.

If this action has inconvenienced you in any way (namely, that your tax returns may not have been post marked on the 15th even though you were planning on them being so) you can call the United States Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

I am sure that the DOGE team would be happy to cover any late fees incurred due to the delay in date stamping...

I am not a representative of the U.S. Postal Service, and have in no way been authorized to speak for them (or even on this topic) but feel that this knowledge could be in everyone's interest, and possibly be something that everyone might like to let their representatives in government know their feelings on.

Ryan Metayer
Fletcher

The test of a civilization is the way that it cares for its helpless members.
— Pearl S. Buck

(indeed, the first inklings of human, humane culture came when, from the depths of our prehistory, archaeologists found human remains of adolescents with congenital deformities and adults with long-healed broken bones, meaning someone took care of them — Editor)

Legislative reports continued from page 4

I also want to thank the approximately 300 people who came out to the education forums that were conducted a couple of weeks ago. It was very helpful in understanding what people's concerns and desires are for an affordable and high-quality public education system.

April 22

Last week at the State House the following Senate bills were considered and voted upon by the House:

- S.27 — is an act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports;
- S.28 — is an act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services;
- S.18 — is an act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers.

There will be a public hearing concerning Veterans' Affairs on Wednesday, April 30, 4:00 PM in Room 11 of the State House. The Committees will take testimony on policy issues such

as veteran housing and family support, the Vermont Veterans Home, mental health, and access to services. Interested parties may attend the hearing in person or virtually. To testify, you must register in advance. For more information, please see the announcement section on the Legislature's website: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>.

In House Human Services (my committee), we heard testimony about Reach Ahead and its pilot program, which are extensions of Vermont's Reach Up program, funded by federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) dollars and state general funds. Very low-income families receive supplemental benefits through the Reach Ahead pilot to enhance their ability to participate in the workforce. This enhanced two-year pilot ends June 30. The committee raised concerns about the data or lack thereof used to evaluate the program and its termination despite apparently unspent funds and families who have not received the full benefits.

In short, it's not as simple as just showing your driver's license at the liquor store. It would create a barrier for a huge chunk of Vermont's eligible voters, and an unfeasible burden on our town/city clerks.

At the end of the day, here's what I'd like Vermonters to know:

- Our elections are secure right now.
- We're providing extra support to Vermont's 247 town/city clerks as we process these Federal actions, and we're standing up for your right to vote.

Government Records and Freedom of Information: Another situation we're tracking has to do with government records and information. A government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," as President Abraham Lincoln famously stated in his Gettysburg Address, means we must have access to authentic and reliable records and information about our government.

At the national level, agencies that ensure this access are being dismantled, and we're even seeing unauthorized destruction of records and information.

Here in Vermont, we're protecting the public's access to government records and information. We encourage the public to visit our reference room at our State Archives facility in Middlesex, open 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM weekdays! Our staff is here to make sure you can access the records we keep about the decisions of government and the history of the State of Vermont. You can reach them at sos.archives@vermont.gov.

While the national news continues to swirl, I wanted to remind Vermonters that here at the state level, we've got your back.

Where are our once vibrant towns?

By Bill Schubart

What are the cohesive elements in Vermont's 247 towns and cities? What sustains their human connection, commerce, and community?

Though born in New York City, I grew up in Morrisville from the age of three. It was a small bustling town. On weekends, the daytime streets were filled with shoppers and timely gossip. Our two movie theaters flourished as they projected the latest Hollywood oater (Western), romance, or comedy. We had three locally owned pharmacies, each with an ice cream fountain and a choice of counter stools or booths. We had three dry goods stores: Gillen's, Morrill's "Wrong End Store," and Ben Franklin. I will spare you a list of all the small local shops which carried everything anyone rich or poor might need or want.

My brother and I visited my sister in Morrisville yesterday for our quarterly "sibling lunch." Morrisville's downtown is a different landscape today, almost no people and hardly a trace of its former retail commerce.

On a recent trek to Québec for a cheese hunt, my wife and I drove up through the Kingdom... even gloomier: boarded-up storefronts, one gas station/convenience store selling fossil fuel, liquor, tobacco, THC vapes, candy, soda, lottery tickets, ultra-processed food (UPFs), and online sports gambling offers. Don't look for a cabbage or an acorn squash.

This dismal trek through what I remembered as vibrant small

Community columns continued on page 6

The American Revolution - 1775 From Soldiers to Settlers Connecting Cambridge to the Revolutionary War

Zebulon Buker 1751 - 1839	Walter Cady 1762 - 1836	Truman Powell 1759 - 1850
Robert Cochran, Sr. 1743 - 1807		John Wood, Sr. 1740 - 1813
John Fassett, Jr. 1743 - 1803		David Safford 1744 - 1831
Elisha Church 1739 - 1790	Amos Page, Jr. 1752 - 1837	Daniel Kinsley, Jr. 1764 - 1828



Green Mountain Boys



Fort Ticonderoga Captured



The Canadian Campaign



2nd Canadian Regiment

Cambridge Historical Society
49 School St.
Jeffersonville, VT
Wednesday, May 14th 7 p.m.

Refreshments
Handicap Accessible

We also took testimony on H.46, which would create a Rare Disease Advisory Council similar to those in over half of U.S. states. The council would advise the state on rare disease issues and work to improve support and resources for affected individuals and families. The presence of a Vermont-based council is even more important because the Trump Administration has recently disbanded the national advisory group that states rely on to provide recommendations on newborn screenings, when many rare diseases are diagnosed.

VT Representatives Graning, Squirrel at DRML

On Tuesdays, April 29 and May 27, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Vermont state representatives Edye Graning of Jericho and Trevor Squirrel of Underhill provide an update on Vermont's legislative session, and answer your questions.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



FREVO, a well-known popular crossover group from the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble, will perform at the Westford Common Hall on Sunday, May 18, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. This quartet plays eclectic music for flute, clarinet, cello, and classical guitar in exciting arrangements of jazz, Latin, and classical genres. The considerable talents of Bonnie Thurber Klimowski on cello, Steven Klimowski on clarinet, Wendy Greenwald Matthews on flute, and Peter Matthew on guitar have made FREVO a perennial favorite at the Westford Music Series. This quartet is known for their high energy and love of playing music for all groups, ages, and genres. Appropriate for the entire family, with variations of music from the Beatles and children's songs to classical jazz pieces. Double Pie Raffle for extra fun. Free will donation. For more information call 802-734-8177. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Opening day for Birds and Myth Art Show is Thursday, May 1, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Birds are some of our teachers, not only through our senses and observations, but also through our stories about them. These stories can be factual accounts, broader myths, or something in between. Legends, beliefs, representations, truth, insight, guidance, metaphors, meanings, and understandings all play a part. The Birds of Vermont Museum's 2025 art show is centered on the ideas of birds, myth, meanings, metaphors, and guides. Discover art that uses

birds and their meanings to retell an old story, weave several together, represent beliefs, or create a myth for the future. Show is open through October 31; included with Museum Admission. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington; 802-434-2167; museum@birdsofvermont.org, <https://www.birdsofvermont.org>.

Boyden Farm Community Concert, Saturday, June 28, 2025, 6:00 – 10:00 PM, The Barn at Boyden Farm, Cambridge. Join us for a fun-filled evening of live music and good vibes on Saturday, June 28 featuring the *Phil Abair Band* performing a variety of genres to entertain everyone in the community. Come together with friends and family to enjoy great music and food trucks in a beautiful outdoor setting and to support local talent and connect with your neighbors. Tickets are on sale now (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boyden-farm-community-concert-tickets-1302285594269>). Find more details and information at <https://boydenbarn.com/events/upcoming-events/>. This is a rain or shine event. Proceeds from ticket sales and event sponsors help to cover the band costs so we can keep the music going and host future events. Want to be a sponsor? Contact us at boydenevents@gmail.com. We look forward to hosting summertime music fun at Boyden Farm!

CAC Sidewalk Art Festival — Back by popular demand, the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) is pleased to announce our 16th Sidewalk Art Festival on Saturday, August 9, 2025. For the last four summers we have been having multiple, smaller shows (dubbed the Jeffersonville Art Jam). This year, in partnership with the Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries and the Bryan Memorial Gallery, we are returning to our larger format. This is a “gently” curated show that showcases fine art of all media. Our sidewalk art festival also features local food vendors, live music, and children's activities. The booth fee this year is \$40 (\$25 for students). Please join us on Main Street in Jeffersonville from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (rain date Sunday, August 10). For more information and to register for the festival, go

to <http://www.cambridgeartsvt.org/fota/>. Please feel free to contact Monica, 802-644-1418, if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you. If you are an artist who would like to sign up to have a booth at the event, please go online to <https://www.cambridgeartsvt.org/fota>.

Grants news from the VT Arts Council: Cultural Facilities Grants help Vermont nonprofit organizations and municipalities enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public. Deadline Thursday, May 15. Learn more about Cultural Facilities Grants online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/cultural-facilities/>.

Arts Project Grants support nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools in their efforts to add vibrancy to Vermont communities through projects that provide equal and abundant access to the arts. Deadline Tuesday, May 20. Learn more about Arts Project Grants online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/arts-project/>.

Arts Operating Grants provide funds to arts organizations that offer year-round, high-quality arts programs and services that support the Council's mission to “cultivate and advance the arts and creativity throughout Vermont.” Deadline Wednesday, May 14. Learn more about Arts Operating Grants at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/arts-operating/>.

Burlington City Arts, 135 Church St., Burlington, presents spring exhibitions *Bunny Harvey: Worlds Within Worlds* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/bunny-harvey-worlds-within-worlds>) and Stéphanie Morissette: *Speculative Future* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/stephanie-morissette-speculative-future>), on view through Saturday, May 24. On the first floor, *Worlds Within Worlds* features the landscape paintings of Vermont-based artist Bunny Harvey. Focusing on large-scale oil paintings and more intimately scaled works on paper, the exhibition debuts

several new paintings created by the artist over the last year. In the Roth Gallery on the second floor, artist Stéphanie Morissette explores the conflicting relationship between humans, nature, and technology in *Speculative Future*. Using insightful observation and dark humor, the artist imagines a future where biological specimens and mechanical technology have merged to create a new, hybrid species of birds and flying creatures. Morissette's speculative future is not as fantastic as it may appear.

Join BCA gallery educators for a fun tour of the BCA Center that encourages thought-provoking conversation. Participants engage in hands-on art activities that explore exhibition themes, materials, and artistic processes. We welcome public, private, and homeschool students in grades pre-K to 12 and beyond. Groups are invited to apply for a partial or full scholarship. Learn more at burlingtoncityarts.org or contact Curator/Director of Exhibitions Heather Ferrell at hferrell@burlingtoncityarts.org to reserve a visit.

Art from the Heart seeks volunteers to visit patients and family members at UVM Medical Center and Children's Hospital to help make the hospital a more comfortable and creative place through the arts. Volunteers in this program visit patient rooms and waiting areas, working one-on-one and in small groups. A visit with a patient or family members can start as simply as talking about favorite TV shows and music. If interested, please contact Art from the Heart coordinator Rebecca Schwarz, rschwarz@burlingtoncityarts.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.

Community columns continued from page 5

towns had me thinking about what makes for a connected and healthy community.

My first thought was that it's the gathering places such as churches, libraries, schools, cafés and soda fountains, town parks, and social clubs like the 4H and the Grange. Morrisville ladies had the “Uplift Club,” the name of which was a source of bawdy speculation among us kids.

In our four white churches, people came together to pray, sing, eat, and talk with one another about, among other things, who needed sympathy or material support. Religious fervor ranged from Bible-thumping theism to open doors for all seeking spiritual growth or solace, but in all cases, people came together to help one another.

I left the Catholic Church in which I was raised when I was 18, but have since had a “second coming” and occasionally accompany my wife to the wonderful United Church of Hinesburg that welcomes all comers, offers time for reflection, avoids judgment of others, and even acknowledges human religious doubts. The only two requisites are a desire to connect and to find ways to help others. Several townsfolk come simply to sing together. The spiritual power of music is evident. On Palm Sunday a guest cellist joined the church keyboardist in a performance of Arvo Part's *Spiegel im Spiegel*, which left the attendees transfixed.

Some of my other strongest memories are of events: band concerts, parades, and fall and spring dances at our volunteer fire department.

When Morrisville's annual 4th of July parade wound its way through town, we saw the full breadth of our community. Seeing 4H young people leading the animals they'd raised and cared for from birth always drew a standing ovation from those sitting on front porches and lining the parade route in lawn chairs.

I'll never forget the 10-year-old girl with her right arm outstretched, her hand holding the nose-ring of an 1800-pound ox she'd raised from birth as she beamed with pride.

The other major element that drew us together were our schools — our small kindergartens and nursery schools, the old wood-framed primary school in the center of town, the middle school up the hill, and next to it, Peoples Academy, the high school.

Having local schools brought us together. Parents living within a mile of the school whose children didn't ride on buses often walked with their kids to school. Parents were welcomed to visit and observe and often helped out in the classroom or joined the PTA. Sports events drew us all together to cheer on our children as they vied on the playing fields or in winter on the hardwood gym floor. Bleachers filled with extended families cheered on their young.

As Vermont, like other states, feels the accelerating pressures of so-called progress, we must work to protect the families and communities that nurture our very humanity.

The “social determinants of health” are the conditions grounded in the places where we are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that nurture our well-being, mental and spiritual.

It's vital that our state and community leaders stay focused on these critical elements of social and economic wellbeing but, frankly, we're not doing very well.

Per capita homelessness in Vermont is among the worst in the nation with 53 out of every 10,000.

One in nine Vermonters experience hunger and one in seven Vermont children do.

Vermont has the most expensive healthcare insurance in the United States with a silver plan costing \$1157 a month.

Vermont has some of the highest rates of substance use in the country, including higher drinking rates, higher cannabis-use rates and among the highest heroin use rates for people aged 18-25. Approximately 13.73 percent of Vermont residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8.82 percent.

18% of Vermont households live in poverty including one in eight children — and one in four Black children.

Vermonters spent \$140M placing some seven million bets in online sports betting last year and a significant number of Vermont gamblers struggle with gambling addiction.

By way of good news, Vermont has the 7th highest high school graduation rate in the country. The flip side of this is that only 31%

of Vermont graduates are proficient in reading skills.

What has happened?

We love to brag about how “progressive” we are as a state and matter on about the Vermont “quality of life.” But there has always been a cognitive dissonance between the colorful farms and pastures depicted for newcomers and tourists in *Vermont Life* magazine and how deeply it belied the struggles of actually working a small Vermont hill farm.

Life here can be good indeed for those of us who can afford it, but for many Vermonters, life is hard. Even as countless Vermonters work and volunteer their time and resources to support their neighbors, we can and must do better as a state to ensure the common good. How can we rebuild our once vibrant communities? Where are our leaders? We must all start by facing the realities of life today, which means telling the truth.

If Vermont wants a future of abundance, we must choose to build

By Miro Weinberger, Executive Chair
Let's Build Homes

If you've turned on a podcast, watched a late-night show, or scrolled social media in the past month, you've probably heard something about *Abundance*, the new book by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson. The thesis is simple yet powerful: America, especially in blue states, has over decades created systems that prioritize stopping things rather than building them. We've become experts at saying “no.”

Abundance has struck a nerve — for good reason. *Abundance* is a call to action, a challenge to break free from what the authors describe as “the politics of blocking.” It's about a country that's forgotten how to build: homes, transit, clean energy, the infrastructure of opportunity.

Sometimes Vermont can seem insulated and removed from national political conversations — it can be easy to think some of these discussions don't apply here. We pride ourselves on being a little different, a little apart.

But this one? This conversation is 100% about us.

When Klein says we've built a political system that's better at stopping things than getting them done — he could be talking about Vermont's housing shortage. Because we've created a system that makes it incredibly hard to build the homes we need. Our state faces a critical housing shortage, yet the pathways to create more homes are gauntlets of redundant state and local rules, costly government mandates, and a permit appeals systems that enables obstructionists.

As a result, the average Vermonter experiences soaring rents, impossible home

prices, and a growing number of neighbors without secure housing.

That's why we started *Let's Build Homes* — to ensure this isn't Vermont's future. We are working to transform our state from one that excels at blocking to one that prioritizes building in the right places — and we are already having an impact.

In this legislative session, we've supported a bill that will make it easier to finance and build the infrastructure — like water, sewer, and roads — that makes new housing possible. And thanks in part to our testimony and the coalition members who contacted their legislators, this bill has now passed the Senate. We are also working directly with municipalities to modernize zoning and allow more housing in the places where it's most needed.

Next, by engaging the process launched by the Legislature a year ago, we're taking on one of the biggest barriers: reforming the outdated maps and rules under Act 250 that limit where and how we can grow.

This isn't going to be easy. Already we can see new groups forming that want to continue the politics of blocking. We must push ourselves to grow in a way that respects our cherished natural landscape and is better than the development we have seen in other parts of the country. Vermont's future depends on finding this balance.

But make no mistake, if we are going to end homelessness, be a state where young families can get a start, provide all our kids a good education, enjoy high quality health care throughout the state — if we want a future of abundance, not scarcity — we are going to have to grow.

The alternative is a Vermont that becomes increasingly unaffordable, where only the wealthy or those receiving aid can live, where our schools continue to empty, where our rural communities are hollowed out, where our workforce shortage worsens, and where more Vermonters find themselves without homes. That's not the Vermont any of us want.

The politics of abundance requires courage. It means standing up to voices that reflexively say no. It means embracing change while being thoughtful about how we manage it. It means creating new systems for government decisions and action that prioritize results and speed over undue process.

Let's Build Homes is committed to leading this transition — from a state of blocking to a state of building. Join us in creating a Vermont where everyone can find a place to call home. Join the coalition at www.letsbuildhomes.org.

Miro Weinberger was the Mayor of Burlington from 2012-24. He is currently serving as the Executive Chair of Let's Build Homes and as a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Taubman Center for State and Local Government

LOOK FOR

HOME AND GARDEN

INFORMATION IN THE MAY 15 ISSUE.

Contact Brenda at mtngazette@gmavt.net
for more information.

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. Most Sundays, Calvary worships at 9:30 AM at the Jericho church. The next Soup/Supper (held the last Thursday of the month) will be May 29, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@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 (May 11, 25) of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:00 – 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; www.jccvt.org

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

St. Thomas Catholic Church

"Worshiping 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; website: 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; 32 Church St., Waterville.

LOOK FOR

HOME AND GARDEN

INFORMATION IN THE MAY 15 ISSUE.

Contact Brenda at mtngazette@gmavt.net for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is now closed on Sundays until September. Hours: Sunday closed until September; Monday closed; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

May Featured Artist: Mary Jane Lederman — Jeanne Hutchins is hosting a retrospective of the works of Underhill resident Mary Jane Lederman, who died in 2024. A passionate flower gardener and painter, Lederman was the Underhill Postmaster who also worked to promote upward mobility for women through statewide initiatives. Her works will be displayed in the library in May.

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

Adults

Tuesday, April 29, 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.

Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Legislative Update. Vermont state representatives Edye Graning of Jericho and Trevor Squirrell of Underhill provide an update on Vermont's legislative session and answer your questions.

Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Atlee Pine, an FBI agent with special skills assigned to the remote wilds of the southwestern United States, must confront a new threat and an old nightmare. Call (802-899-4962) or visit the library to reserve your copy of Long Road to Mercy by David Baldacci. For a Zoom link, email Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com.

Thursday, May 1, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Book Club of One. In this different take on a book discussion group, come prepared to introduce something your read in the last month — book, article, blog, etc. — and what inspired, challenged, or fascinated you. Connect with fellow readers in this fun, low-key environment, led by volunteer David Weaver.

Thursdays, May 1, 15, 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, or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Anxious Generation Book Discussion. Join Underhill parents Andrea Parikh and Kate Yeh for this final meeting in the four-part discussion series on the book The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Johathan Haidt, examining the impacts of smartphones and social media on kids. You do not need to have read the book to attend.

Tuesdays, May 6, 20, 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.

Wednesdays, May 7, 21, 2:00 – 4:30 PM: Sewing and Quilting Group. Volunteer Mary Stephenson welcomes you to this twice-monthly gathering of people who sew and/or quilt. Bring a project you're working on. Sewing machines are welcome. For more information contact marystephenson6@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Mah-Jongg. Come join the fun of our monthly Mah-Jongg games.

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers (DRBL) reading North Woods by Daniel Mason is "a sweeping, historical-fiction novel about a single house in the woods of New England, told through the lives of those who inhabit it across the centuries." Call (802-899-4962) or visit the library to reserve your copy.

Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 PM: DRML Building Committee Meeting. The building committee is planning for the library's future. The meeting is open to all. Those who wish to attend remotely may email Holly at drawsonmemlib@gmail.com to receive a link.

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Library Board of Trustees Meeting. The monthly meeting is open to all. Those who wish to attend remotely may email drawsonmemlib@gmail.com to receive the link.

Tuesday, May 27, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Legislative Update. Vermont state representatives Edye Graning of Jericho and Trevor Squirrell of Underhill provide an update on Vermont's legislative session and answer your questions.

Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Call (802-899-4962) or visit the library for the book title.

Youth programs

Fridays, 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London. For kids ages birth to five, with a caregiver. Join us for the last month of the Londons before they take the summer off. We will listen to stories, sing songs, and shake out the sillies!

Tuesdays (except May 6), 10:30 AM: Baby Toddler Story Time. For kids ages birth to Pre-K, with a caregiver. Join Mz. Abbey and the other story time regulars for singing, bouncing, finger games, and, of course, stories!

Thursday, May 1, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [ages 8+, registration required] It's our last day to create new projects before summer break! To register, please visit or call (802-899-4962) the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Fridays, May 2, 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Chess Club [registration required, ages 6+] Join this robust group of players for a great afternoon. All skill levels are welcome to learn and to play. To register, please visit or call (802-899-4962) the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Tuesday, May 6, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Magic, the Gathering Club [ages 8+] Parent volunteers and kids who love the game are here to get you playing, whether you know the game well or are new to it.

Fridays, May 9, 23, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [registration required, ages 6+] Whether you build a giant ship or a tiny scene, there's no wrong way to play with LEGO. To register, please visit or call (802-899-4962) the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Tuesday, May 13, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Wings of Fire Club [ages 8+] Do you love dragons and the Wings of Fire series? Come hang out, chat, draw, and more.

Wednesday, May 14, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt the Therapy Dog [all ages] Whether you want to read to him or just need a little dog time, Wyatt is here for you.

Thursday, May 15, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club Movie Day [ages 8+] Everyone who has ever participated in Animation Club is invited to join us for popcorn and an animated movie. No registration necessary.

Tuesday, May 20, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Warrior Cats Club [ages

8+] Make cat masks and paper crafts, take quizzes, play games, and hang out with other series' fans.

Thursday, May 22, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Nintendo Switch Games [ages 8+] Use the library's Switch to play Super Smash Bros., Mario Kart, Overcooked, and other multiplayer games.

Tuesday, May 27, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Minecraft Social [registration required, ages 8+] Play Minecraft with your friends! Please bring your own device or drop one off, if possible. The library has only a few to loan. To register, please visit or call (802-899-4962) the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Thursday, May 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Suncatcher Craft [kids of all ages] Using precut silhouettes, contact paper, and a rainbow of tissue paper, you can create a beautiful suncatcher for your window.

Teens: 2025-26 Green Mountain Book Award Voting: Vermont students in grades 9-12 are invited to vote for the 2024-25 Green Mountain Book Award (G MBA) title. This reader's choice award honors excellence in young adult literature. Online voting is open through 5:00 PM on Friday, May, 25. Vote online for your favorite of the 15 nominated books at <https://libraries.vermont.gov/green-mountain-book-award>.

Hours: Sunday closed until September; Monday closed; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

For complete details on these programs and all that the library offers, please visit our website at <https://www.drml.org/>.

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Please visit 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.

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.

Home Delivery Program at JTL — Patrons who are unable to physically access the library may sign up for this service on a one-time or recurring basis. Folks can request specific items or complete an interest profile on the JTL website. Contact 802-899-4686, or Catherine, catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

Help make a radio show at JTL (kids 9+) — do you have kids interested in writing, theater, sound editing, podcasts, or radio shows? Sign them up to help launch a brand-new radio show — created for kids by kids! Program participants will choose a name for the radio show, write scripts for different segments, and record the show, with help from JTL staff and the WRUJ-LP radio project. WRUJ-LP is a low-power FM community radio station that will eventually have a physical radio station in Richmond. Until the station is built, they will be hosting an internet radio station, which will feature this show. The program will run for eight weeks — from the end of April to mid-June — for an hour each week, with exact timing decided by interested participants. Please fill out this form to express your interest and help us select a time: <https://forms.gle/8WifLCJRKPBXL6gE6>. Questions? Email catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

New book/discussion group for adults: the Current Events & Societal Issues Book Club. This group is for adults interested in thinking about and discussing important issues in our local communities and in greater society. Each month, we will center our reading and discussion around a particular topic, with a suggested nonfiction book to help focus our conversation. For those who are interested in participating but cannot commit to reading an entire book, we will also share recommendations for relevant articles, podcasts, and videos. Interested? Please fill out this form to let us know what times and days work best for you, as well as what topics you might like to discuss: <https://forms.gle/eARTFMdmMHwDRiHXA>, or alternatively, reach out to catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org or call us at 802-899-4686.

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 – 10:15 AM: Cuentos en Español [Spanish Storytime]. Come join Shery Marshall, a native Spanish speaker who teaches grade 2 in the Spanish Immersion Program at Jericho Elementary School. She will read a few simple and engaging books in Spanish, followed by a fun activity. Please register for this program in advance, as we have limited space at the library. Children must be accompanied by a guardian for this event. Please register (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cuentos-en-espanol-spanish-storytime-tickets-1325901560259>) all members of your party, including adults. ¡Gracias y hasta pronto!

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 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 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

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>.

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.

Library news continued on page 8

Library news continued from page 7

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Annual Meeting and Open House. The Crescendo Club Library Association and Varnum Memorial Library invite you to our annual meeting and Open House. Meet the Library Trustees, Board Members, and volunteers, and hear about our extensive programming for all ages and interests. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Programs

Find all these program descriptions and more online at www.varnumlibrary.org. Programs are free and open to the public.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 AM: Story Time for all ages.

Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00 PM and Fridays 12:00 – 1:00 PM: American Sign Language meet-up. All levels are welcome!

Thursdays, 10:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Crafternoon.

Hours: Sunday/Monday — closed; Tuesday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

We're always happy to see you at the library! Varnum Memorial Library, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville; 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.

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) and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

The Westford Library is part of the ChildSafe program — we have FREE gunlocks to take. This program is run by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (May 7), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, and on the third Saturday (May 17), 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.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 12:00 PM, Coffee and Cards. Meetup 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.

The Westford Public Library, 1717 VT Rt. 128, Westford; 802-878-5639; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com, Bree Drapa, Librarian. Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/WestfordVT_pl).

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Library hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

You can check out more than just books! Our library of things has snowshoes, a telescope, a microscope, STEAM kits, jewelry supplies, Bloxels, and a C-Pen ReaderPen.

The library also offers passes to local museums and parks — you can view our full list of passes at <https://fairfaxvlibrary.org/passes.html>.

Please sign up at least one week before the program date!

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesdays, 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 in the library.

Wednesday, April 30, 3:00 PM: Bird Feeders. Use recycled materials to make bird feeders! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. This event takes place in the library.

Adult events

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

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.

Richmond Free Library will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

Foyer Book Sale — the Friends of Richmond Free Library's perpetual book sale in the Library foyer is open for business! Stop by to take a look. Prices range from \$1-3. Cash or check only.

May Art Show will be showing the photography of Ken Rachlis, a landscape photographer living in Richmond. He enjoys documenting the beauty of Vermont's landscapes via digital photography. His goal is to illustrate the rich beauty of our state within the limits of this two-dimensional medium. Come check out his show *All Things Local*, which focuses on Richmond and the surrounding area.

The Library has received a new shipment of COVID-19 tests, 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.

Trustee Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (May 12, June 9), 6:30 PM at the Library. All meetings are open to the public. Individuals may also join via Zoom.

Seed Library — if you're a seed saver or are looking for a home for your unused seeds, consider donating them to the

library. Seed donations must include the following information: plant type and varietal, harvest date, and location. If you are saving your own seeds, please note that we can only accept open-pollinated (non-GMO/hybrid) seeds. Email rhegg@richmondvt.gov with any questions. Stop in to "check out" some of our seeds generously donated by High Mowing, FedCo, and Seed Savers Exchange. Stop in or email rhegg@richmondvt.gov for more information.

Saturday, May 10, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM: Chess Tournament. The Library will be hosting its first chess tournament. This casual yet competitive non-rated tournament will serve as an introduction to chess tournaments and USCF tournament rules. All ages. Bring your own board and chess clock, if you are able, or use one of ours. Registration required. Call or email the library to sign up: 802-434-3036 or library@richmondvt.gov.

Adults

Wednesdays, May 28, June 25, 5:00 – 6:30 PM: Device Advice Device Advice is back! Jim Poulin will be available on the last Wednesday of each month through October to help anyone who needs to tame their electronic device, whether a smart phone, tablet, or laptop. First come, first served.

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

Saturdays, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Chess Club. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge for an all-ages chess club, which will be led by a local chess coach. BYOB (Bring Your Own Board) or use one of ours.

Saturday, May 3, 12:00 PM: Cookbook Club discussing *Cucina Siciliana* by Ursula Ferrigno. Stop by to check out a copy of the book to register, then pick a recipe to prepare and bring to the meeting. During the meeting, we'll try the dishes and talk about the reading, cooking, and eating experience! Email skrohn@richmondvt.gov with any questions. Cookbook Club will be taking a break for the summer.

Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge for discussion of *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. Contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or gwennie1972@yahoo.com, for information on joining this group.

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 PM: Climate Action Book Discussion. In collaboration with Richmond Climate Action, we invite you to read and discuss *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter* by Ben Goldfarb. Books are available at the circulation desk.

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on for discussion of *Billy Boyle* by James Benn. Contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or msparent@gmavt.net, with any questions.

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.

Library news continued on page 9

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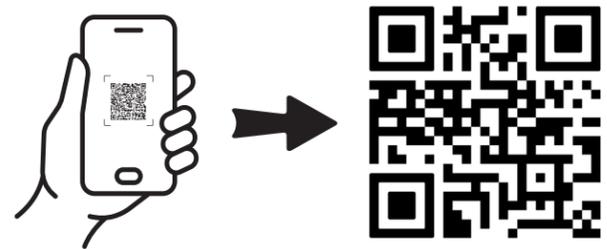
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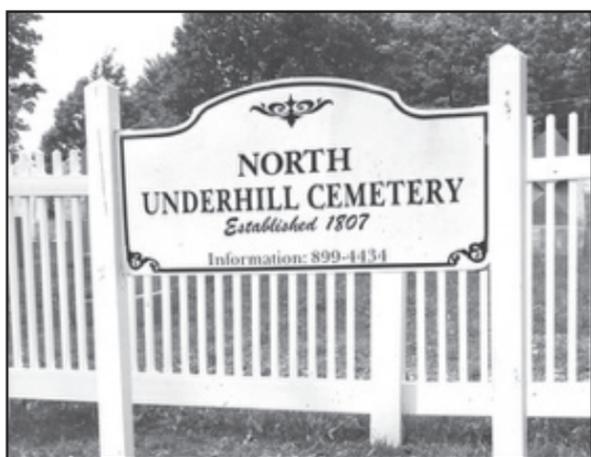
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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



North Underhill Cemetery annual meeting May 3

By Randy Clark, North Underhill Cemetery Association Treasurer,

My father Elwood Clark said to me 68 years ago, “Today (May 4, 1957) I would like you to go to the Cemetery meeting with me... up on Poker Hill is a little cemetery. Your grandparents, your great-grandparents, and your great-great-grandparents are

buried there and when I am dead and gone, someone is going to have to help look after the cemetery!” Well, I was 16 years old in 1957 and that is not what a 16-year-old boy wants to do on a sunny Saturday morning — go to a cemetery meeting and hang out with old 35- and 40-year-old people! However, my father convinced me and here I am 68 years later, and I cannot wait to go to this meeting. I have never missed one.

Members of the North Underhill Cemetery Association and others who wish to come are invited to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Association on Saturday May 3, 9:00 AM, at Allegiance Trucks (formerly Clark’s Truck Center), located at the corner of Browns Trace and VT Rt. 15 in Jericho. The hear and act on the reports of its officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, and Sexton), discuss old and new business, and elect next year’s officers.

The North Underhill Cemetery Association is a 501C-13 Tax Deductible Organization and operates without receiving tax dollars from the Town of Underhill. We appreciate donations — otherwise, we would be unable to do the work we are doing. If you can afford to make a donation please send it to: North Underhill Cemetery, P.O. Box 7, Underhill, VT 05489.

We thank the following donors for 2024-25 (March 2024-March 2025): Grant and Susan Allendorf, Zeld Bolio, Randy and Kitty Clark, Christine and Herb Downing, Richard and Gail James, Kathryn Heney, Joshua and Amy Lang, Lee Loney, Peter and Isabella Martin, Harold and Jennifer Martin, Timothy Murad, Sue Owen, Patricia Richmond, Carly Spiegel, Supersounds Entertainment, Warren and Marge Swim, and Scott and Amelia Tower. Total donations received: \$1452.50 (down 26% from last year). We appreciate your support because as you

know, your donations are what keeps us going; without you we are not sure what would happen... thank you.

Planned Giving Creates a Legacy — the North Underhill Cemetery Association has received generosity from family and friends of people buried here. People have made many types of gifts to support the cemetery and its upkeep. If you would like more information about planned gifts to the Association please contact Treasurer Randy H. Clark, 802-899-2233 or honorarychief@aol.com.

Please check out our website, <https://northunderhillcemetery.com/>, where you can look up a loved one buried in our Cemetery. We had two burials in 2024, Marilyn and Steven Weir, and sold six grave plots in 2024.

In 2024 the cemetery was excellently cared for by Big Red Outdoor Services, for a total cost of \$1712.50 including the fall clean up. This was an increase of 125% above last year.

Thanks are due to Marc Maheux who continues to do our mapping for no charge, making it possible for us to list all the people buried in the cemetery.

Travis Clark came to our 2024 Annual Meeting and said that he would like to join and help the North Underhill Cemetery Association going forward. Travis is Randy Clark’s grandson. Travis’ grandparents, great-grandparents, his great-great-grandparents, and his great-great-great-grandparents are buried in the North Underhill Cemetery. We are very proud to have Travis join our Association and help us into the future.

We look forward to having others join us and carry on this long-time tradition. Please join us at this year’s Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 3, 9:00 AM at Allegiance Trucks.

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 11

Every day as a pediatrician, I get to hear from a lot of moms (including my own) — which brings me to Mother’s Day, a time to celebrate Mom for the special person she is. I thought I would share with children and dads some of the gifts for her special day Mom really would like to get that cost next to nothing but are truly priceless.

Some ways to celebrate Mom

On Mother’s Day, why not consider doing what Mom asks the first time she asks you to do it? That goes for Dads doing what Mom asks as well, too!

Consider giving Mom a coupon good for a “day off” for time to herself on the big day. If that’s more easily said than done, at least let her sleep in, serve her breakfast in bed, and let her take over the remote control and pick the programs she really wants to watch.

Institute a whine-free zone throughout your home that should be in place for the entire 24 hours of Mother’s Day — and consider extending it beyond Mother’s Day.

Mothers also tell me they do like gifts, but the homemade ones mean the most. Consider making Mom a certificate that names her “World’s Greatest Mom” as a means of showing how much she is appreciated. Framing this so she can hang it up is even better and will last longer than any store-bought gift.

Help with any chores or clean-ups that usually fall to Mom. This could include making beds (not just yours but Mom’s as well), doing dishes, or cleaning your room. Let her marvel at the fact that these are not skills that only mothers have learned, but ones that can be done not just by the children but by Dad as well.

Take Mom out for dinner and invite the grandparents, even the in-laws. This way everyone, especially Mom’s partner along

with the children, can tell Mom they love her, hug her, and can tell her what a special person she is.

In this way, mothers will say woW (which is “Mom” upside down) when it comes to showing her the kindness, concern, care, and love she deserves so that we can celebrate Mother’s Day not just on May 11, but every day of the year.

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

Clutter Barn accepting donations May 3, 10; tag sale May 24

The United Church of Underhill’s Clutter Barn will accept donations on Saturdays, May 3 and 10 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. We are only taking spring and summer clothing — no winter clothes please. We are not taking shoes and sneakers, but we take clean boots. Also, no cookbooks. For a complete list of items we can no longer accept, please go to our website, <https://www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com/serve-together/clutter-barn>.

Our first Tag Sale is Saturday, May 24, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Visit the church website for a complete list of donation days and Tag Sales for the season.

Here’s the drill for donating:

Before you donate, you are required to sort your donations. At home, please sort and box, bag, or crate your items into the following categories to speed up the drop-off process: toys, games and puzzles; spring and summer clothing (separate bags for baby, children, and adult); small electronics and appliances; household items, glasses, dishes; linens and bedding; fabric, sewing, and

craft items; sports; books (separate bags for children and teen, and adult); boots; pictures and frames; tools; wooden items; office supplies; holiday decorations; small pieces of furniture, such as chairs and tables (no fiberboard furniture please).

Procedures for dropping off donations:

- Do not pull up in front of the Clutter Barn. No donations will be accepted at the front door. Instead, drive to Park Street. Enter church driveway on Park Street (between tan apartment building and white house).

- When you enter the church driveway from Park Street, a volunteer will greet you. The volunteer will ask if your donations are sorted into the categories listed above. If so, the volunteer will direct you to pull forward and direct where to wait in line until it is your turn to unload. The volunteer will provide a donation receipt if you desire one. And, be sure to ask for our business card which has the dates for all donation days, Tag Sales, and Harvest Market in 2025.

A final note: please, please do not drop off your gently used items on the Clutter Barn doorstep midweek. They often get ruined by the weather and end up in the landfill... something we are trying to avoid.

The regular Clutter Barn crew greatly appreciates all the help we receive from community members. If you are interested in volunteering at the Clutter Barn, contact Kathy Williamson, 802-899-3122, or Sharon Damkot, 802-899-3572.

St. Thomas Church Yard Sale donation days

The annual St. Thomas Yard Sale will be held Friday-Sunday,

Miscellaneous news continued on page 10

Library news continued from page 8

Summer will be here before we know it and with the hot days come the Summer Reading Program at the library. This year we will begin registering kids for the program and kicking off our summer activities on Friday, June 20 with a visit from Mike Randall, owner of the Big Blue Trunk. Summer at the library will feature weekly incentive charms and lots of interesting program options. Watch for details.

STEAM Kits offer children and their grownups an opportunity to explore some subject encompassed in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) fields. Each kit contains books, and hands-on games activities or experiments. We have 25 kits including three that are brand new to the collection this spring: Amazing Science (Chemistry), Butterflies, and Early Bird Math. Check them out in the Children’s Room on the second floor.

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

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Playgroup & Storytime. Join us for free play followed by stories and action songs in the Library Community Room. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant to age 5 and their grownups are invited to join the fun — we will start with Playgroup at 10:00 AM and then finish up the morning with a short storytime at 11:30 AM.

Thursdays, 3:15 PM: Dungeons and Dragons Club. Open to kids and teens ages 10 and up. Call or email the Library to register: 802-434-3036 or library@richmondvt.gov.

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

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Phone: 802-879-0313.

Closed Tuesday, May 13, 12:00 – 5:00 PM for Volunteer Lunch and Town Spring Cleaning Day. Reopening at 5:00 PM.

Closed Monday, May 19 for Vermont Library Association Conference.

Closed Monday, May 26 in Observance of Memorial Day

All programs are free and open to the public.

Accepting book donations! Two boxes accepted per household per week that are easy for us to carry. Fiction and nonfiction, juvenile and adult, hardcover and paperback, in very good condition that we may put into our collection or sell in our June book sale to benefit the Children’s Summer Reading Program. No library discards, textbooks, magazines, VHS, encyclopedias, multi-volume sets, technology or travel books over five years old, mildewed, stained, or smoky items please. Thank you!

New in the Library of Things: New Board Games in the Adult Area; Hive, Long Shot, Tsuro, Fox in the Forest Duet. More to come!

We still have free COVID tests, harm reduction packs & gun locks! Copies of the U.S. Constitution, too!

All ages

Display Case: Birds of Vermont Museum has lent us their display about bird migration. If you’re inspired to go birding, the library loans binoculars and field guides.

Cache Odyssey — Essex Free Library is proud to be Vermont’s Cache Odyssey site, a nationwide geocache adventure with a unique letterbox-hybrid cache in every state. Great for families or seasoned explorers. Each cache is fully accessible. See www.cacheodyssey.com for more information.

Saturday, June 7, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Friends of the Library’s Annual Book, Bake, and Plant Sale, in the Library. The Library will be closed for regular business to accommodate the sale.

Children’s and teens’ area

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

Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen. Come spend time rockin’ and reading!

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

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

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

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

Saturday, May 10, 24, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons. For grades 9-12. Do you yearn for adventure? And free food? Join us every other Saturday!

Thursday, May 15, 4:30 – 6:30 PM: Perler Bead Open Studio. Come and hang out in the activity room to make a perler bead creation! No registration needed, ages 7 and up.

Tuesday, May 27, 4:00 – 5:30 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, Cindy Turcotte. Sign up on the website.

Adults

Thursday, May 1, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group reading *Janes* by Percival Everett. National Book Award and Kirkus Prize Winner. A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as told from the enslaved Jim’s point of view.

Thursday, May 1, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PlanWell™ for Retirement. Learn the basics of retirement planning — strategies, sources of retirement income, and key risks to consider.

Saturday, May 3, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Zentangle with Julia Davenport. For adults. This art form welcomes slowing down, taking your time, and seeing what happens. Sign up on the website. If you register and can’t attend, please call to open the spot for someone else.

Tuesday, May 6, 2:00 – 3:30 PM and 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Noreen’s Creative Card Class. For adults. Come and learn how to make two different cards. Register on website.

Thursday, May 8, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Evening Book Group reading *Gather* by Kenneth Cadow. Vermont Humanities’ Vermont Reads 2024 Selection, and Kirkus Prize Winner. A debut novel by a Vermont writer and educator portrays a challenging coming-of-age.

Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Zentangle with Julia Davenport. For adults. This art form welcomes slowing down, taking your time, and seeing what happens. Sign up on the website. If you register and can’t attend, please call to open the spot for someone else.

Tuesday, May 27, 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Board Games for Ages 18+. Bring your friends and enjoy the library’s board game collection (or bring your own to share with the group). Light refreshments provided.

Weekly events

Ongoing: Relaxation Station. Slow down, enjoy a hot beverage and a relaxing activity at our main table.

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.

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>.

Miscellaneous news continued from page 9

June 20-22 this year. Donation Days will be at the Rectory, 8:30 – 11:00 AM on Saturdays and 4:30 – 6:00 PM on Tuesdays until our sale! Please pull right on up to the garage at 6 Green St., Underhill Center, and volunteers can help you unload.

Please make sure that everything is clean and in working order. As our late yard sale volunteer Patti Jacobs used to say, “We want your toaster, not your toast!”

What don't we want? Clothes, except for jackets; large luggage (carry-ons and backpacks okay); beds, bed frames, mattresses, box springs; baby equipment such as cribs and car seats; computers/monitors/printers etc; large appliances; wall fixtures, like sconces, ceiling fans; telephones/TVs; large exercise equipment; encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines; VHS and cassette tapes; skis, boots, poles; Christmas trees; health, beauty powders, perfumes. New this year is no particle board/MDF/composite furniture. It doesn't sell and the thrift stores won't take these things either. Please hold onto your larger furniture, i.e. dressers, sofas, etc. until the week before the sale.

Questions? Please email Mary Bibb, mvbibb@outlook.com.

Cambridge Food Shelf summer clothing needs

We have been busy restocking our shelves with spring and summer clothing and are ready to accept donations. We welcome and very much appreciate any donations of spring and summer clothing that is clean, free of animal hair and in gently used condition.

In particular the Cambridge Food Shelf needs girls' and boys' clothing sizes 6-14, and socks for adults. At this time, we have enough clothing for infants.

Please note that we do not accept donations of shoes.

The Food Shelf is located in the basement of the UCC church in Jeffersonville. We are open every Tuesday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM. Please drop off donations only during these hours.

As always, many thanks for supporting the Food Shelf! It really does take a village!

For questions, call 802-644-8911.

Spread Hope VT Project

By Kim Cleary, Jericho

Some of you may know the wooden sculptures that appear in Jericho Center. The newest rendition is part of an effort called the SPREAD HOPE VT Project. The word HOPE moves from location to location around the state and has recently moved to the next stop on its tour!

For the next few weeks, you can find HOPE at the Essex Experience right on Essex Way. It's positioned along the sidewalk next to the cinema & across from the post office. Though it's viewable from the road, we encourage you to park and take a photo with it! Be sure to tag any photos with [#spreadhopevt](https://www.gofundme.com/f/fund-vermonts-traveling-hope-sculpture?modal=donations&tab=all).

Learn more about it online at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fund-vermonts-traveling-hope-sculpture?modal=donations&tab=all>.

We've nearly reached our project goal thanks to the generosity of the community! A sincere thank you to those who have supported this endeavor, and especially to the Cleary Stone Company for transporting and installing HOPE with so much care.

Free workshop for federal workers, nonprofit staff impacted by cuts

Free Resilience Workshop for federal workers and nonprofit staff impacted by the cuts to programs — if you've lost your job, or are impacted by the cuts to federal programs, here's a resilience program that might be of interest. You'll be met with compassion, and skillful support to develop grounded resilience. The workshop teaches skills for deep, effective practices to handle stress, and empowering, relational skills to connect. Based in neuroscience and psychology, by the Center for Grounded



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR For Our Community Cares Camp Summer Food Service Program & Enrichment Camp Serving Eastern Chittenden Country, Vermont

OCCC is looking for an energetic, engaged community member to lead OCCC. OCCC supports children facing food insecurity who could benefit from a locally run, non-profit, free summer camp and food program for area residents ages 5-13, with job training for older teens. This year-round, part-time, paid position is responsible for overseeing the camp programs in addition to the administrative responsibilities including financial management, fundraising, and operations.

Please visit our website at <https://www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org/> for application instructions and job description.

Application letters and resumes accepted until position filled.

Action. Interactive, lots of practices.

Concretely, what you'll gain from the Resilience workshop: two effective inner practices to handle internal stress and reactivity, and two empowering, relational skills to manage these stressors; practice, hands-on experience, and immediate application. People can put these skills to work right away and manage difficult situations with more ease. Staffed by skilled trainers, you'll engage in lots of practices and have the space to be heard and helped. Participants described this workshop as “a ray of light and hope in a dark time,” “soul-filling, nurturing, informative and much needed training.”

For sign up, timing details, and more please see details online using one of these links:

- Constant Contact, <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/znf83r2/lp/9188394a-635b-48bf-8888-d0e4d1b5a5d0>;
- Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=615748202160>;
- Linked In, <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7310285196849827841/>.

For more information contact Jen Wofford, MSW, LICSW, www.CenterforGroundedAction.org.

Alert! safety message from VGS

From Vermont Gas Systems (VGS)

As construction season ramps up, VGS wants to remind everyone about the importance of construction site safety and the necessity of calling Dig Safe (811) before any digging project.

When driving through work zones, please slow down and follow all posted signs. Stay alert for workers and equipment. Remember, the flaggers and construction crews are part of our community — they are our friends, family, and neighbors. They deserve to go home safely to their loved ones at the end of each day. Safety is everyone's responsibility!

Additionally, if you're planning a digging project, don't forget to call Dig Safe (811) before you start — it's the law! This simple step can prevent accidents and protect you and your neighbors from potential hazards. By calling 811, you can avoid hitting underground utility lines and ensure compliance with safety regulations.

Call 811 before you dig!

Lamoille FiberNet: new install policy

From Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District Board

Fidium announced its standard 'drop' (distance from the pole/pedestal to your premises) has increased from 500-2000' — not just for Lamoille FiberNet-funded addresses, but all addresses serviceable by Fidium! Drop costs are a common barrier for many Vermonters. This new policy is a huge benefit to Lamoille residents and businesses.

Thank you to all the constituents who applied to our Long Drop Program funding. Of approximately 160 applications, more than 90% are eligible for support. We expect the vast majority to benefit directly from Fidium's new 2000' drop policy. We are partnering with Fidium to develop estimates to address some of the more unusual situations which will require additional support using our state or local grant funds.

If you have not received an email from Lamoille FiberNet regarding your drop application, please email us at drops@lamoillefiber.net and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have questions about Fidium's services and pricing, go to <https://www.fidiumfiber.com> or call Fidium at 877-760-2789.

Six vie for one local seat on VT Electric Co-op Board of Directors

Nine candidates are contending for four district seats up for election this year on the Board of Directors of Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC). Three of the districts have uncontested races, while one — West Zone-at-Large — has six candidates vying for the single seat.

The West Zone-at-Large includes these towns in our local area: Bolton, Cambridge, Essex, Fairfax, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Johnson, Richmond, Underhill, Waterville, Westford, Williston (and several other towns). The six candidates seeking the Board seat to represent these towns are Peter Ehrlich, Jerry Elliott, John Hango, Vinnie Jiwatram, Mark Larivee, and Bonnie Pratt.

VEC members can vote for candidates by mail or online through Friday, May 9. The election winners will be announced at VEC's Annual Meeting, on Saturday, May 10 at Jay Peak Resort.

VEC members attending the Annual Meeting are invited to a complimentary breakfast starting at 8:00 AM. The meeting starts at 9:30 AM and runs until about 11:00 AM. The meeting will feature a presentation, “Navigating a Clean Power Supply,” focusing on how VEC procures electricity for members today and into the future. There will be an opportunity for Q&A and a drawing for prizes, including an electric smoker courtesy of Downs Rachlin Martin, a battery-powered string trimmer donated by Efficiency Vermont, as well as gift cards, a gift certificate to the Jay Village Inn, and more.

For more information about VEC's Annual Meeting and

candidate profiles, go online to <https://vermontelectric.coop/annual-meeting>.

United Way volunteer opportunities

CONNECT TO COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING — United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Here is a link for Volunteer Connection — <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> — to learn more about these and other opportunities.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF VERMONT offers volunteers many ways to make an impact: be a mentor and spend time with a youth doing things you both like to do in the community, mentor an elementary school student during your lunch hour, share your love of sports with a young person as a spectator or participant, share your career/trade/skills with a young person at your place of business, and more. Volunteers 18 and older can make difference in the life of a child! Background checks and references are required. For information, go online to <https://bbbs.tfaforms.net//BBBSVTBIGINQUIRY>.

TAKE A WALK! — COTS annual Walk will take place on Sunday, May 4, and they are in need of volunteers to help make the event a success. Share in the fun by volunteering! For information and to volunteer, go online to <https://cotsonline.org/cots-walk>.

MENTOR! MENTOR! — King Street Center has three mentoring programs for volunteers to get involved in: Volunteers aged 21 and over can be matched with a youth to spend time together in the community sharing mutual interests. A one-year commitment is needed. Peer mentors ages 14-18 can also be matched with a grade K-5 student to spend time together each week. Book Buddies, age 16 and older, can be matched with a K-5 grader to read and play educational games each week. The commitment is through the school year or for the Summer Program from the end of June through August. You can make a difference in a child's life! Be a Mentor! Contact Gabriella, 802-862-6736, Ext. 105, or gabriella@kingstreetcenter.org.

TUTOR! TUTOR! — King Street Center also offers personalized homework help and academic enrichment. They are specifically looking for Math and English tutors during their flexible summer schedule. Training and guidance are provided. Contact Gabriella, 802-862-6726 or gabriella@kingstreetcenter.org.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT — Milton Family Community Center has many volunteer opportunities that vary with the seasons. Recurring needs include Food Shelf support, cleaning and organizing, minor building maintenance (painting, handiwork), gardening and grounds maintenance, and much more. Contact Ben, bgilbert@miltonfamilycenter.org.

HELP END THE VIOLENCE — Steps to End Domestic Violence provides 24/7 hotline direct service to those affected by intimate partner violence. Hotline volunteers offer emotional support, safety planning, and connections to services such as emergency housing, legal, and youth programs. Volunteers are needed to answer the hotline, chatline, and emails to provide information, advocacy, support, referrals, and crisis management. Training is provided, and volunteers are asked to take at least two 4.5 hour shifts a month, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. For information and to complete a volunteer application, email izzyl@stepsvt.org.

COME TO THE FAIR! — The Franklin Country Community Volunteering Fair will take place on Thursday, May 22, 3:00 – 6:00 PM at St. Albans City Hall. Come and meet your new favorite volunteer organization and learn about organizations that welcome volunteers of all ages to help serve their communities. For information email erin.creley@vermont.com.

GREEN IT UP!!! — Vermont's annual Green Up Day will take place on Saturday, May 3. Join your neighbors in picking up and cleaning up our great outdoors. Together we can help save nature and keep our beautiful state GREEN! Learn more at <https://greenupvermont.org/you-can-make-a-difference/>.

The Rover is coming for Chittenden County residents' hazardous waste

CSWD's mobile household hazardous waste collection unit, the Rover, is coming to a community near you. The Rover accepts a wide variety of household hazardous waste at no charge from Chittenden County residents (businesses must make an appointment at the Environmental Depot). This year on the Saturdays listed, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, the Rover will be in at the drop-off centers in Essex (May 17), Hinesburg (June 14), Williston (September 6), and Richmond (September 20). Go online for the complete schedule to <http://cswd.net/information-library/the-rover/>.

What goes where? How to dispose of aerosol containers: Many people often wonder how to dispose of aerosol cans the right way. First, check if it contained hazardous materials or not. Then, see if it's empty or still has contents. Here is how to tell exactly where it belongs!

If it contains hazardous material (paint, pesticides, chemicals)?

- Not empty? Bring to CSWD's Environmental Depot.
- Empty? Place in scrap metal at our drop-off locations.

If the can contains non-hazardous material (food, beauty products)?

- Not empty? Toss in the trash.
- Empty? Recycle in your blue bin.

Just a reminder: Never put aerosol cans in the blue bin if they had contained hazardous materials!

OBITUARIES



Lorna (Field) Quimby (1928-2025) The life she recently described as rich and full reached its end on Monday, April 14, 2025. There's a term for a strong emotional connection to a place: topophilia, and that's what Lorna had for her hometown, Peacham, VT. Lorna was born July 30, 1928, the fourth of Ben and Helen Field's five daughters and raised on the family farm in Peacham's “South Part,” a farm she remembered and brought to life vividly both in her columns for the *Danville North Star* and in her memoir *Growing Up Rural*, published in 2020. She attended Peacham schools, but due to World War II calling up so many men, both students and teachers, she spent her last two years of high

school living in Lyndonville, VT with her older sisters and young nephew and attending Lyndon Institute, where she made many life-long friends. Salutatorian of the class of 1946, Lorna turned down a Green and Gold Scholarship to UVM because her father couldn't afford the room and board. Instead, she went to Burlington Business School, now Champlain College. She took her skills in typing, Gregg shorthand, and bookkeeping to Keene, NH, where she worked in the secretarial pool at Peerless Insurance and helped care for her niece Jane for several years. Returning to Peacham, she worked as a secretary for Luce Manufacturing Company in Groton, VT. During this time, her sister Patty and Patty's then fiancé Buddy McLam arranged for Lorna to meet Dick Quimby, who was home on leave from the U.S. Navy. Lorna and Dick had both grown up in Peacham, but in different parts of town at a time when you walked to school;

Obituaries continued on page 11

SPORTS NEWS

First Strides Womens' Running Program

From Morgan Luce, Underhill

The First Strides Women's Running Program is now open for registration at First Strides Vermont (<https://firststridesvermont.com/2025/03/14/register-now-for-2025/>). The program meets weekly at Williston Elementary School, 5:45 – 7:00 PM, starting Wednesday, May 7.

It's a fantastic opportunity for women who are new to running — or getting back into it — to build confidence and fitness in a supportive, encouraging environment. I participated last year and was really impressed by the community and structure of the program. I'm excited to join again this year and would love to see some familiar local faces out there!

Registration closes on the first day of the program (May 7), so be sure to sign up soon.

Pump-It-Up 5 Miler on May 10

Come and join us for Pump-it-Up 5 Miler on Saturday, May 10, 9:00 – 10:30 AM! The race starts and ends on Old Pump Road in Jericho, between the Jericho Post Office and Palmer Lane Maple.

We have a lots of local raffle prizes for pre-registered runners, and Brew House coffee will have 20% off coffee and breakfast items for runners after the race. Even better — pre-registration is only \$15.

To register and for more information, go online to <https://gmaa.run/schedule/pump-it-up-5-miler/>.

CCSS registration still open

By Eric Barker, Jericho

Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2025, Monday-Friday, July 14-18 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the "love of the game" to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full sided and small sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

There are half- and full-day (9:00 AM – 3:30 PM) camp options, for age groups that range from 5-16+! Please email barkereric15@gmail.com with any questions, or visit our website <http://chittendencountysoccerschool.org>.

Support your local Respite House — join the Jiggety Jog on May 31

Join us on Saturday, May 31 for the 35th Annual Jiggety-Jog 5K Run/Walk!

The Jiggety Jog is the single largest fundraiser for the McClure Miller Respite House, Vermont's only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The McClure Miller Respite House has served our community for over 30 years, providing medical care and compassion to those at the end of their lives. Last year, over 200 community members participated in the event and we raised over \$128,000 for the McClure Miller Respite House. We hope you will join us for a morning of camaraderie, gratitude, and community spirit.

Our community is our strength and we thank everyone that has helped us throughout the years! Every dollar raised ensures compassionate, high-quality care is available to our community at the McClure Miller Respite House. Help us meet our goal of raising \$125,000, which will provide over 140 days of care at the Respite House.

Details: the Jiggety Jog will be held at Malletts Bay School, 609 Blakely Rd., Colchester, with registration at 8:00 AM and a 9:00 AM start. Runner registration is \$25, and all ages and abilities are welcome. This family-friendly event will feature prizes, raffles, music and more!

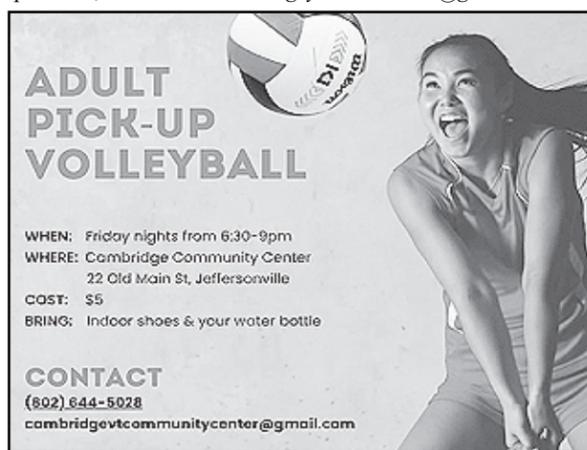
To register and for more information, please go online to <https://bit.ly/4jjT8di> (short for <https://give.uvmhealth.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=501&language=en>).

McClure Miller Respite House Jiggety Jog was established in 1991. This name came from the nursery rhyme with the line, "To market, to market, to buy a fat hog; Home again, home again, jiggety-jog." This name captured the essence the founders wanted — a fun community event with the feeling of home. We're continuing that tradition with this year's Jiggety Jog 5K, honoring the difficulty and joy that come from end-of-life care and time spent at the McClure Miller Respite House.

Lake Monsters game June 1 benefits Cambridge Little League

Come to a FUNdraiser for Cambridge Little League! Join neighbors at a Lake Monsters game at Centennial Field, University Rd., Burlington on Sunday, June 1, 5:00 PM. Cambridge Little Leaguers will be encouraged to attend and spread the word to families, friends, and neighbors. Let's fill a section with Cambridge baseball and softball supporters!

Half of the \$8 ticket price will come back into the League to help fund new equipment purchases. Help jumpstart our sales at <https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2new/GroupPortalPEC.asp?HoldID=34117&SponsorID=17597&EventID=346966>. There are handicapped accessible seats, as well. If you have questions, email us at cambridgeyouthbaseball@gmail.com.



ADULT PICK-UP VOLLEYBALL

WHEN: Friday nights from 6:30-9pm
WHERE: Cambridge Community Center
22 Old Main St, Jeffersonville
COST: \$5
BRING: Indoor shoes & your water bottle

CONTACT
(802) 644-5028
cambridgevtcommunitycenter@gmail.com

Register for adult pickup volleyball at https://cambridgeccvt.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30893. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SCHOOL NEWS

Youth Leadership Conference at VTStateU Lyndon, June 20-22

Cambridge Area Rotary will be sponsoring students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, to be held on the campus of Vermont State University, Lyndon, Friday, June 20, 8:00 AM through Sunday, June 22, 1:00 PM. This weekend conference will focus on developing leadership, communication, and team-building skills.

Join students from VT, NH, and Québec to share, evolve, and learn to be a more effective and self-confident leader in your school, on teams, and in your community. Learn by experience and action, explore personality traits and how to bring out everyone's talents, learn about your own traits and talents, and have fun!

Students currently enrolled in their high school sophomore year are eligible to apply online at <https://bit.ly/4bPbgJ3> (short for https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmYnHvd3eMYo_ahHbKiGo-KLPlaYKMKI77hQJFEzo6laLPeA/viewform).

Seeking host families for high school students

By Dylan Charter, Jericho

I'm working with a non-profit (Borderless Friends Forever) that matches high school exchange students with host families in the U.S. We have several students still looking for a host family for the 2025-26 school year, so if you think you could be interested — or know anyone in northern Vermont (or even across the lake) who could be interested — in welcoming a new member to your family for a year, please reach out to me (or have them reach out to me) for more information, including more personalized bios of the students.

I've studied abroad myself (in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan), so I can assure you it's a life-changing opportunity not just for the student, but also the host family and community. It's a great way to expand your worldview, get to know a new culture, change your perspectives, and make a difference in the student's life. I think Vermont would be a great representation of the U.S. for any incoming exchange student.

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested. Thank you!

I can be contacted at dylanvt@me.com or WhatsApp at +996 220 240 460.

UCS students win top prize in battery contest

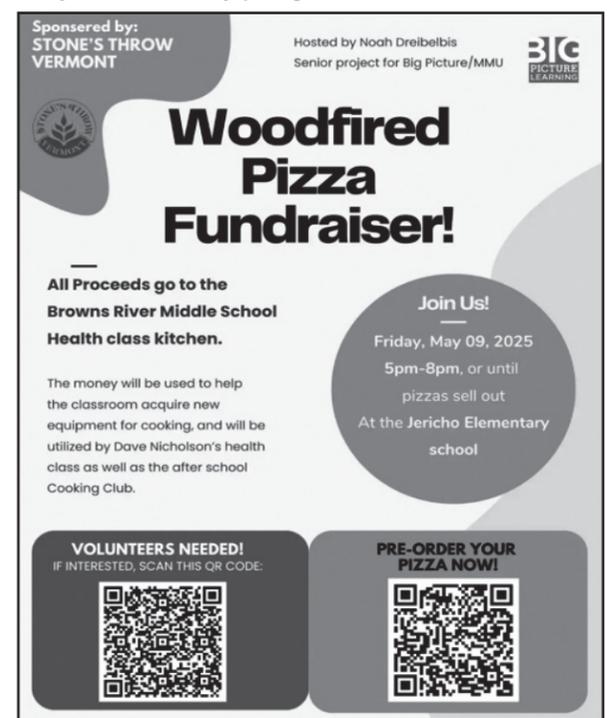
By Larry Lewack, Underhill Town Planner

This was posted by the PR staff at the Chittenden Solid Waste District on Wednesday, April 23:

School Spotlight: Battery Blitz Contest Results
Call2Recycle, the nation's largest consumer battery stewardship and collection program, in partnership with the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) and Earth Rangers, is thrilled to share results from The Battery Blitz School contest. Involving seven Vermont schools, the contest brought in more than 4000 pounds of batteries (equivalent to 15 black bears, native to VT) and spotlighted The Battery Blitz School Mission, which focuses on bringing together young students, teachers, and community members with the united act of collecting and recycling used batteries.

Underhill Central School students collected the most batteries and won the ultimate prize — a classroom pizza party and \$1000 check.

Congrats to Underhill Central School's students and their team for a job well done! Enjoy the pizza!



Sponsored by: STONE'S THROW VERMONT
Hosted by Noah Dreibeis Senior project for Big Picture/MMU
316 PICTURE EATING

Woodfired Pizza Fundraiser!

All Proceeds go to the Browns River Middle School Health class kitchen.

Join Us!
Friday, May 09, 2025
5pm-8pm, or until pizzas sell out
At the Jericho Elementary school

The money will be used to help the classroom acquire new equipment for cooking, and will be utilized by Dave Nicholson's health class as well as the after school Cooking Club.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
IF INTERESTED, SCAN THIS QR CODE:

PRE-ORDER YOUR PIZZA NOW!

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Obituaries continued from page 10

and Dick was two years ahead of her at Peacham Academy, and they both were shy, but this time, the connection was made. Dick and Lorna married on Halloween 1953 and immediately settled in the house in East Peacham, where they lived until Dick's death in 2018. Their daughter Katherine was born in 1957, followed by Laura in 1961, and Lorna devoted herself to being a mother and homemaker, sewing clothes for her daughters, canning and freezing all the vegetables Dick grew in his ever-expanding garden, picking wild blueberries and raspberries. But there was also time for fun, from walks in fields and Moore's sugarwoods, making dolly clothes and having tea parties and picnics. A woman of many talents, once Laura started school, Lorna began to work a wide variety of part-time jobs, including church secretary, secretary, seamstress, and upholsterer. She was bookkeeper for Peacham Academy and eventually handled the accounts when it closed. Indeed, Lorna served her hometown in many capacities, starting as an elementary school board director and moving on to assistant Town Clerk, Town Clerk, president of the Peacham Historical Association and author or editor of several of its books, treasurer of the Peacham Congregational Church and member of its choir for many decades. In between all that, Lorna also attended what was then Lyndon State College, earning an AB in Business and a BA in English. The life-long love Lorna had for her hometown ran deep, and it was with a pang that she left in 2020, when she could no longer live alone. After a few months with her daughter Kathy, Lorna moved into The Manor in Morrisville, VT where she received excellent care, found new community, and reconnected with the music she loved, thanks to Sergio Torres. The family is forever grateful to the staff at The Manor, doctors Tusa van Vogelpoehl and Mike Hayes, and to Morrystown EMS for their fine care, which made Lorna's last years as comfortable as possible. Lorna was predeceased by her parents Ben and Helen (Miles) Field, her older sisters June Darling, Mildred Twombly, and Sylvia Evans, niece Joyce Darling and nephew David Evans, her husband Dick and baby Margaret (at birth). She is survived by her youngest sister Patty McLam; daughters Katherine Quimby Johnson (Greg) and Laura Goodwin (Dennis); grandchildren Steven Goodwin (Samantha), Lydia Johnson (partner Jay Rivers), and Casey Goodwin; great-grandchildren Thaddeus and Sophia Goodwin; and numerous beloved nephews and nieces. Services for Lorna will be held at the Peacham Congregational Church in Peacham, VT on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Burial will follow in the Peacham Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Lorna's name to The Peacham Historical Association, P.O. Box 101, Peacham, VT 05862; The Peacham Congregational Church capital fund, P.O. Box 205, Peacham, VT 05862 or <https://www.peachamchurch.org/donations>; or the Peacham Library, P.O. Box 253, Peacham, VT 05862.

The Rev. Janet Kelly Brown, Vermont's first woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest and a clinical psychologist in private practice in Milton, VT and Burlington, VT for 29 years,

died Saturday, April 5, 2025 after a brief illness. She was 82. A service in celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, with the Right Rev. Tom Ely presiding. A reception will follow at St. James Episcopal Church in Essex Junction, VT. Janet was extraordinarily kind and an attentive listener. She found great joy in her love of God and brought an assurance of God's love to her preaching and her life. *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, sung at her ordination ceremony, was her favorite hymn, rooted in her deep fondness for her Irish heritage. She was born in Queens, NY August 1, 1942, and moved with her parents to Barre, VT at the age of 11, and subsequently to East Calais, VT. A 1960 graduate of Spaulding High School in Barre, she received a degree in British Literature from Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA in 1964. In 1965 she received a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Wesleyan College. That September, she married John R. B. Brown. John and Janet settled in Montpelier, VT and subsequently bought a house in Woodbury, VT. She taught English at Spaulding High School, where her younger brother, Brian T. Kelly, was a student. John's and Janet's first child, Michael David, was born in December 1969. They moved to Williston, VT in 1970 and had a daughter, Deborah Jean, in September 1971. In those years, Janet began graduate level studies and subsequently received a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Antioch University New England in Keene, NH. During that time too, Janet trained for the priesthood by reading for orders. Three priests supported her studies and discernment process: the Rev. George Anderson (St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Hardwick, VT), the Rev. David Brown (Christ Church, Montpelier), and the Rev. Alexander J. Smith (St. James, Essex Junction, VT). Father Smith was Rector at St. James, from which she was ordained. Janet made Vermont history on January 6, 1977, when she became the second woman nationwide to be "regularly ordained" under the national Episcopal Church's ordination canons, which were amended late in 1976 to apply equally to men and women. During her career, Janet served Vermont parishes in many different capacities for nearly 50 years — in Richford, VT, Milton, VT, and Enosburg Falls, VT; and at Grace Episcopal Church in Sheldon, VT, where she served as a priest for more than 20 years. She also was an interim priest for several churches in Vermont, and a longtime supply priest. After her retirement in 2023, she returned to St. James as a parishioner. Janet was integral to several Christian education programs, including Cursillo and the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont's Rock Point Summer Conferences in Burlington. Janet is survived by her partner of 37 years, Jean Townsend; her son Michael Brown, of Jericho, VT; daughter Deborah Brown and her husband, Colin Stryker, of Portland, OR; and a grandchild, Ell Stryker, also of Portland. She was predeceased by John Brown and her brother, Brian. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to local food banks and food shelves.

Green Up Day — Vermont's unique hometown-based spring event

JERICO — Pick up your Green Up trash bags and get out in your community on Saturday, May 3 to clean up your neighborhood roads and waterways. As a volunteer, you make a huge difference for our environment.

• Step 1: grab some green bags — Green Up Day Bags are available in advance at Jericho Town Hall and on Green Up Day at the Community Center.

• Step 2: take your filled bags to the Town Garage dumpsters — On Green Up Day, full green bags of trash can be dropped off at the Jericho Highway Department, 510 Browns Trace, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please do not leave any trash there outside of these hours. Please remember, Jericho does not provide trash pick up for the green bags. You must bring your filled bags to the Highway Department during the special hours noted above.

Jericho's Green Up Day Potluck Breakfast — Drop in to the Community Center in Jericho Center, 329 Browns Trace, 8:30 –

10:00 AM, to share breakfast with your neighbors before heading out to Green Up. Bring a dish to share. Coffee, tea, and cold drinks will be provided.

Take some photos! Then go online to https://jerichovt.org/green-up-day?tool=brainstormer#tool_tab where you can upload your Green Up photos to share them with the Town, and where you can also drop a pin on a map of Jericho to show where you worked to beautify our town.

UNDERHILL — Volunteers are welcome to get a head start on cleanup early, before Green Up Day. Spend an hour or two picking up litter around in Underhill. As a volunteer you make a huge difference to the environment, and it feels great to give back to our town.

Green Up bags are available at Wells Corner Market, Jacobs Family Market, and at the Underhill Town Hall.

On Saturday, May 3 bring your Green Up Day bags to the Underhill Town Garage, 77 New Road (left off Pleasant Valley Rd. going north past Casey's Hill), 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. All trash collected from the edges of Town Highways will be accepted. As

an additional bonus, for Underhill residents only, we will accept up to four (4) tires per household, free of charge.

Green Up Day schedule of activities:

• 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM — Town Garage Open House and tire and green bag drop off; note, the Town will NOT be collecting Green Up Day bags left by the roadsides;

• 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM — Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC) members will be on hand with educational material including information about ticks and diseases spread by tick bites, invasive species, living with black bears, the Crane Brook

Conservation District (CBCD) trails, and forests. Jumping Worm expert Penny Miller will be there to answer questions about Jumping Worms;

• 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM — Underhill Tree Warden and Entomologist Don Tobi will be on site;

• 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM — Open House and Barbecue at the Town Garage, complete with hamburgers and hot dogs and light refreshments to enjoy after a hard day's work cleaning up our roadsides. All are welcome!

Please feel free to reach out to Brad Holden, 802-899-4434 Ext 7 or bholden@underhillvt.gov if you have questions. Thank you. Please be safe out there, and take a moment to review the State of Vermont's guidance at <https://greenupvermont.org/>.

CAMBRIDGE — A group effort to tackle the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Cambridge Greenway will meet at 9:00 AM at the LVRT Trailhead in Cambridge Junction. Green bags will be available there. Please join us for hot dogs and snacks afterward at 12:00 PM; BYO plates and cutlery. This is a bike-friendly way to clean up!

Please pick up your green trash bags the week before at Hanley's, Cambridge Village Market, The Varnum Library, The Farm Between, or the Cambridge Town Offices.

This year's event sponsors are the Cambridge Conservation Commission, Cambridge Area Rotary Club, Cambridge Trails Committee, Lamoille River Paddlers, Cambridge 360, and the Lamoille County Planning Commission.

For more information: <https://greenupvermont.org>.

BOLTON — Get your Green Up Day bags anytime from the box right outside the door at the Town Office, 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway (U.S. Rt. 2), Bolton; open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM; 802-434-5075. Thank you for helping keep Vermont clean! For information: <https://greenupvermont.org>.

WESTFORD — Green Up Day at the Westford Library! Pick up your Green Up Day bags at the Library. We will be having FREE coffee (thank you VT Coffee Company) — bring your own mug to be more green! Also, the local Girl Scout troop will have a cookie booth set up outside the Library, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Green Up bags are also available at the Westford Town Clerk's Office. Bring filled bags to the town dumpster.

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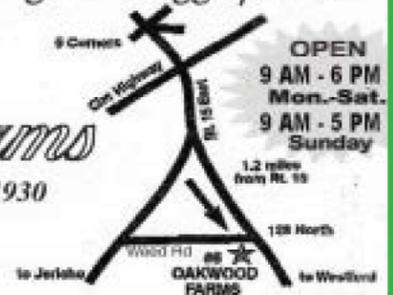
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