

Jericho Underhill Land Trust conservation projects

In over 23 years of active conservation work, Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) has never had two conservation projects that require fundraising at the same time! But opportunities present themselves and we need to be ready. JULT continues to fundraise for the Davis Farm and we are pleased to be drawing closer to our \$50,000 goal at \$36,000 right now (January 22).

We also have another challenge: Riverside Meadow — a visual gateway to Mount Mansfield.

Eastbound travelers on VT Rt. 15 are routinely greeted with a magnificent view of Mount Mansfield. Much of this scenic corridor is permanently protected with the conservation of Mills Riverside Park. However, the 11-acre meadow that precedes the park is not conserved. If houses were to be located on this active hayfield, they would intrude on this sweeping view. Houses would remove the rural expanse that we are accustomed to seeing and the agricultural use of these acres would end. Wildlife would also be displaced.

Beyond the scenic and agricultural importance of this land, there is a rare and historic reason to keep this property open and undeveloped. According to local historian Gary



Irish, the original cabin built by the Brown family in 1774 was located here. These early settlers of Jericho selected this spot for their

farm and continued to stay, even after their first cabin burnt down.

In addition to protecting this meadow,

the Jericho Underhill Park District (Mills Riverside Park) will receive an easement that will allow ambulance and maintenance vehicles to access the park via the driveway. As many of you know, the covered bridge, now under reconstruction, has a maximum load limit of only 10,000 pounds. This severely limits important vehicular entry.

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) has signed a purchase and sale agreement with the Charron (Balch) family to buy this pastoral land for \$200,000. We have until Thursday, March 31, 2022 to purchase this property. Donations to support this effort are coming in and we have raised \$135,000 already! The opportunity is now to ensure that the Riverside Meadow remains intact and continues to provide a very scenic gateway to Mount Mansfield.

JULT is offering a Challenge Grant that will match every dollar that we receive up to \$25,000. Won't you help us protect this important landscape for today and tomorrow?

Please send a donation to JULT with "Riverside Meadow" on the check memo line, or contribute via PayPal on our website at www.jult.org.

Early voting in Jericho — ballots available February 9

By Jessica Alexander
Jericho Town Clerk

It is not too early to request an early ballot for the Tuesday, March 1 Town Meeting Election. Everything is going to be voted on by ballot this year. There will be no in-person meeting, but the polls will be open at Mount Mansfield Union High School from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM if you wish to vote in person.

How to request an early/absentee ballot:

- Fill out the form: Complete the absentee ballot request form and either mail it back to Town of Jericho, P.O. Box 67, Jericho, VT 05465, or put it in the drop box outside Town Hall to the left of the steps. We will mail you an early ballot as soon as they are available (around Wednesday, February 9) You can also use additional forms to request for family members if they have authorized you to do so. The voter's information goes on the top of the form. If you are requesting for someone else, they will not be able to sign on the top of the form, but you will sign in the bottom third of the form as the requestor. The drop box is available 24/7.

- On the My Voter Page: Go to mvp.vermont.gov. You will need to sign in with your name, birth date, and Vermont driver's license number. You can complete your request and be sure that the mailing address is showing where you want the ballot mailed to you. If the address is

different than your home address, be sure to check the box so you can complete the mailing address for the ballot. If you are not able to sign into the My Voter Page it may be that you were added to the Jericho Voter Checklist before 2005. If this is the case, call the Jericho Town Hall Election Extension and let us know you are having trouble signing in. We just need your name and we can link the Voter registration record to the DMV registration so that you will be able to sign in. You can also use this website to check when your ballot was mailed to you and when it was received by the Jericho Town Clerk Office.

- Call Jericho Town Hall, Election Extension 802-899-4936 x100. Call this number 24/7. If you get the answering machine you will be prompted as to what information is needed to request a ballot. If you call during office hours, then you may get a person to process your request.

- In person at the Jericho Town Hall: From Wednesday, February 9-Monday, February 28, between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday-Thursday, Fridays between 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, you can stop by Jericho Town Hall to request your own ballot. The Town Clerk Office will be closed between 12:00 – 1:00 PM. The form will still need to be completed. The Town Hall is open to visitors currently, but please wear a mask.

How to return a ballot:

- By mail: Mail to Town of Jericho, P.O. Box 67, Jericho, VT 05465. It is recommended that if you are returning a ballot by mail that it should be mailed by Monday, February 21 to ensure enough time for delivery. Be sure the ballots are inside the certificate envelope and the certificate envelope is signed by the voter.

- At the drop box outside Town Hall: To the left of the front steps is a black drop box with a handle that pulls towards you. Ballots may be left in the drop box. The drop box is checked daily (including weekends). Once the voter has signed the certificate envelope and placed the ballots inside, then anyone can return the ballot for them. This drop box is available 24/7 and can be used on Election Day, which is Tuesday, March 1, 10:30 AM. BE SURE THAT THE VOTER HAS SIGNED THE CERTIFICATE ENVELOPE AND THE BALLOTS ARE PLACED INSIDE THE CERTIFICATE ENVELOPE. It is okay if you do not use the outside red and white mailing envelope.

- At the drop box outside the polling place: On Election Day, Tuesday, March 1, we will have an attended drop box outside the polling place. Ballots need to be inside the certificate envelope and the certificate needs to be signed by the voter. Once the ballots are inside this signed certificate envelope, anyone can return the ballots for the voter. This drop box will be attended by an election official in the vestibule

of the main entrance to Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho, from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 1.

- In person: On Tuesday, March 1 you can return your early ballot at the polls either in the attended drop box or inside the school. If you wish to put the voted ballot through the vote tabulator yourself, then come inside the school, we will check your name off at the voter check-in table and then you can go down to vote tabulator at the exit to cast your own ballot. (If you are returning a ballot for a family member, it will need to be inside a signed certificate envelope. It will go through the vote tabulator later when it is processed by two election officials.)

Westford community wastewater, 1705 Rte 128 project updates

By Melissa Manka
Westford Town Planner

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY
WASTEWATER UPDATE

Because of two important developments in December, the Planning Commission has

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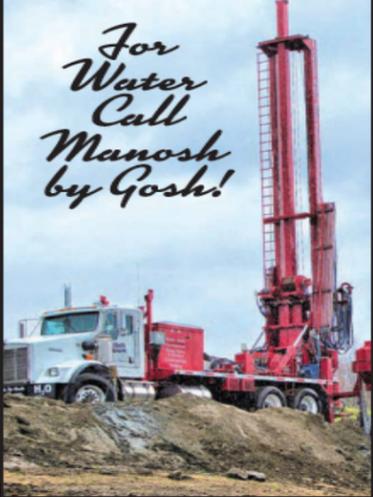


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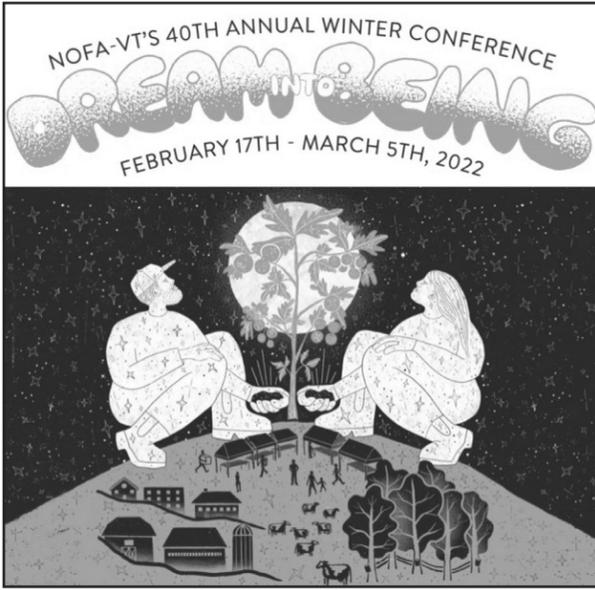
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COMING EVENTS



NOFA-VT's 40th annual Winter Conference, Dream Into Being, which runs February 17-March 5, is an invitation to pause, collectively dream the agricultural future we long for, and learn together about seeds to plant today to grow the fruits of tomorrow. The yearly conference provides a valuable opportunity for farmers, homesteaders, gardeners, land managers, educators, students, producers, policy-makers, and other food-system activists to participate in our vibrant community event by sharing ideas, resources, and skills. It is a time to celebrate, gather, and connect over the winter. This year's conference is online, featuring interactive workshops, a featured speaker series, trivia night, a film screening, and more! Looking for some outdoor, in-person connection? Join us for an on-farm social! For more information and to register, go online to <https://nofavt.org/conference>. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact winterconference@nofavt.org or call NOFA-VT at 802-434-4122.

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Saturday, February 5

Using MyHeritage Library Edition, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, on Zoom. The computers at the Vermont Genealogy Library have access to *MyHeritage Library Edition*, which our members can use from home. With over seven billion historical records and millions of family trees, it is a tremendous resource. Marcie Crocker will introduce you to the Library Edition and explain how to effectively search. She will also explain the difference between this offering and an individual subscriber's account. If you have European roots, this database is particularly valuable given their long-standing focus on Europe and the Middle East. Join us to get familiar with this powerful tool. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Saturday-Sunday, February 5-6

5th Annual Winter Renaissance Faire, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM both days, Champlain Valley Expo (indoors), 105 Pearl St. (VT Rt. 15), Essex Junction. Kid friendly, Odin approved! A family-friendly event for all ages featuring artisans and craft vendors, musicians, dancers, and medieval fight demonstrations, as well as mead, wine, and cider. Kids under 6 are free! For tickets and more information, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-vermont-winter-renaissance-faire-tickets-216433758197>

Monday, February 7

The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont 1777-1810, 7:00

PM, on Zoom. In observance of Black History Month, the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum presents a discussion of Harvey Amani Whitfield's book. Vermonters have always been proud that their state was the first to outlaw slavery in its constitution — but is that what really happened? This book “explodes this myth, demonstrating conclusively that the enslavement of people of color under various guises persisted in the state for another thirty years,” attests Joanne Pope Melish, Associate Professor of History, University of Kentucky. Whitfield forces us to squarely consider the deepest questions about what freedom actually meant for African Americans in Vermont well into the nineteenth century. Free. To register and/or to purchase the book, go online to <https://ethanallenhomestead.org/virtual-book-club>. Special thanks to a grant from Vermont Humanities for making this event possible.

Tuesday, February 8

Stump the Forester: Crowdsourced Tree ID webinar, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, on Zoom. Have you ever wished you had someone knowledgeable with you when you were out in the woods trying to figure out which softwood you were looking at, or whether the bark on that tree was red or sugar maple? This is your chance to get your most vexing tree identification questions answered! Vermont Land Trust's forestry team (foresters Caitlin Cusack, Dan Kilborn, David McMath, and Pieter Van Loon) is gathering your questions about how to identify Vermont's trees and will answer as many as possible during this webinar. Include your question when you register, and give us your best shot! To register, go online to <https://join.vlt.org/event/stump-the-forester-crowdsourced-tree-id/e386382>.

Wednesday, February 9

Straight talk from the League of Women Voters, 7:00 - 8:30 PM on Zoom. The League of Women Voters of Vermont in collaboration with Kellogg-Hubbard Library of Montpelier present a virtual panel discussion led by moderator Tom McKone, which will focus on what Vermont institutions are doing to identify and eradicate racism. Panelists Anna T. Noonan, President and CEO, Central Vermont Medical Center; Monika Ganguly-Kiefner, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Equity Specialist, VT Department of Health; and Kheya Ganguly, Director of Trauma Prevention and Resiliency Development, VT Department of Mental Health. They will consider whether the VT Legislature's declaration in May 2021 following George Floyd's murder that racism is a public health emergency has driven changes to policies, laws, and resource allocation to advance racial equity and eliminate race-based health disparities and systemic inequities. Free and open to the public, but guests must register at www.kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs. Questions must be submitted prior to the event to msinger@kellogghubbard.org. For questions about the event, please contact league@lwvofvt.org.

Saturday, February 12

Westford's First Annual Winter Festival — with Horse Power! 12:00 - 4:00 PM, Westford Common and School. Come meet Radar and Minor the Percheron draft horses! Patrick Palmer and his team from Thornapple Farm of New Haven will give you a trolley ride to and from the Common and School to participate in the various venues during Winter Festival. Up near the School you can ski, snowshoe, or sled, and warm up and enjoy a bonfire! Near the Common you can attend concerts, enjoy a chili cook-off, skate, miniature golf, popcorn and cotton candy, great beer from Foam Brewery, and so much more. Come to the Winter Festival and Concerts! Any questions? Contact Westfordwinterfest@gmail.com.

Researching New England's First Settlers, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, on Zoom. If you are preparing to research a person of interest living in New England before the American Revolution you will want to attend this VT Genealogy Library presentation by Scott Andrew Bartley of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Join us as he walks us through

methods and sources, taking us from the first settlers to the Great Migration and beyond. He will also show sources for each of the New England states. If you've already started your research, it is never too late to see what other sources you might want to check out. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Saturday, February 19

First Black Family in Essex, Vermont, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, on Zoom. In 1830 the Federal Census taker found 287 heads of families living in Essex, VT. William C. Virginia and his family were the only Blacks. Who were these folks? Where had they come from? How did he earn his living? Were the children born here? How long did they stay? Were they already here in 1810 or 1820? Were they still here in 1840? As it turned out, William's wife was Hannah, together they raised six children, five boys and one girl. We will follow William and Hannah back in time for a bit and their children forward for a bit. Join us as Jerry Fox goes over the research he conducted, including in New York State, as he worked to learn more about this family. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Tuesday, February 22

Propagating Plants by Seeds, Cuttings, Layering, and Grafting, 1:00 PM, United First Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington. Join Dr. Mark Starrett, UVM Associate Professor, for a hands-on workshop demonstrating methods of propagating indoor, outdoor, and tropical plants, shrubs, and trees. Free and open to the public.



WESTFORD WINTER FESTIVAL & CONCERT

LIVE MUSIC: Cookie's Hot Club jazz/blues & Rockin Ron the Friendly Pirate

The Westford Winter Festival — Saturday, February 12 on and around the Westford Common, 12:00 - 4:00 PM — will feature a silent raffle (12:00 - 3:30 PM, drawing at 4:00 PM) with 41 possible prizes, concerts (Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate at 12:30 PM; Cookie's Hot Club at 2:00 PM), and a whole lot of don't-miss activities like horse-drawn trolley rides, sledding, skiing and snowshoeing, a bonfire, mini-golf, music, a chili cook-off, and more! Masks are required for all indoor events. For more information: WestfordWinterFest@gmail.com.

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concluded that at this time it is prudent to delay a bond vote on the proposed wastewater project. There will not be a bond vote on the wastewater project at March 2022 Town Meeting, for two reasons.

First, the State of Vermont has yet to make its formal commitment of funding to the Town of Westford. The State has dedicated ARPA and Village Wastewater funding in hand. In the fall, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources stated in its public presentation that Westford would be one of the two communities (along with Montgomery) receiving FY22 funds. Between the pandemic and other delays at the State, the full commitment has not been made. Without the specifics of this commitment, we cannot calculate the cost to taxpayers or system users.

Second, the Town has new options to consider for the design of the leach field at the Maple Shade Town Forest. In the course of the final-design-phase evaluation of soil conditions at the site last November, the engineering team discovered that the thickness of soils that are well-suited for in-ground wastewater disposal systems is substantially deeper than could previously be proven. This is good news — and has important implications for design, the need for pre-treatment, and costs. Our engineering team and the Town need time to fully understand and choose the best design option for the community.

The Planning Commission will be moving forward with the community wastewater project in a transparent way, continuing to keep the community informed and engaged as the new engineering options are evaluated. As financial information comes in from the State, we will work with the Selectboard on taxpayer implications and user rates.

The public information meeting previously scheduled for February 8 will be rescheduled to a later date when a complete picture of the engineering and financial options can be presented. While we do not yet know when a bond vote will occur, we anticipate the vote will occur on or before election day in November 2022.

1705 RTE 128 PROJECT UPDATE

The Planning Commission continues to work with our partners on this project. Recent events have created delays and a need to shift future outreach methods, which in turn require amendment of the project scope of work and timeline. The Commission will undertake this work as well as provide updated information to the community in coming weeks/months.

The Planning Commission wants to thank community members for their recent feedback and engagement on the wastewater project and 1705 project. Access to grant money and low-interest loans remains at an all-time high. There are volunteers in the community offering support and helping hands. All this gives the Town a rare opportunity to address crucial and in some cases critical issues. Quality of life and continued vitality remain a priority. We will continue to identify and deliver ideas with solutions for the community to consider.

The Planning Commission meets typically meets the first and third Monday of the month, at the Town Office and via Zoom. Agendas can be found on the Town Website at westfordvt.us. Please continue to contact the Planning Commission with questions at planningcommission@westfordvt.us.

Westford Town Meeting changes, 2022

There will be no in-person Annual Town Meeting in 2022. All articles will be voted on by Australian ballot.

In January 2022, the Legislature passed a bill (S.172) granting municipalities the option of not holding an in-person town meeting and does not require a physical location for the required public hearing.

In 2020, Act 60, which made several changes to Vermont's Election Laws, was passed by the Legislature. One of the changes allows governing bodies (selectboards, city councils, etc.) to decide whether or not to mail ballots to all active, registered voters.

Due to the high number of COVID cases in Vermont, and under an abundance of caution and with the health and safety of Westford residents in mind, the Selectboard voted to apply the temporary election law change to the 2022 Town Meeting and to mail ballots to all active, registered voters.

The warning, public hearing notice and sample ballot will be uploaded to the Town's website soon. You can view the documents by visiting <https://westfordvt.us/voting/town-meeting/>.

Public Hearing for Australian Ballot Articles Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 6:00 PM via Zoom. Information on how to access the remote hearing:

- by computer: To join the Zoom Meeting, go online to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82810167032?pwd=bzJUMz>

BCd0Z0Q25Gd1N5aGUxOWFRQT09 with Meeting ID: 828 1016 7032, Passcode: dQ0H8k.

- by telephone: Dial +1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 828 1016 7032, Passcode: 172254.

Australian Ballot Voting Tuesday, March 1, 2022 Westford School; polls are open 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM. If you decide to vote in-person at the polls, please bring the ballot that was mailed to you. If you do not bring the ballot, you will be required to complete an affidavit before receiving another ballot.

The Selectboard has elected to send ballots to all active registered voters for Town Meeting. So, what does this mean for you?

- If you are an active voter, you will get a ballot sent to the mailing address listed on your voter registration.
- The mailed ballot will come with everything you need to vote during Town Meeting, including a return envelope for your ballot. However, the town is not providing return postage.
- To return your ballot you can drop it in the secure drop box at the Town Office, inside the office in person, mail in your ballot, and even drop it off at the polls on March 1, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Office, 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. You may also contact the Selectboard at selectboard@westfordvt.us.

Important Dates - Town Meeting:

- February 9 (Wednesday) - absentee ballots for Town Meeting will be available;
- February 23 (Wednesday) - Informational Public Hearing via Zoom;
- February 28 (Monday) - 4:30 PM deadline to request an absentee ballot for Town Meeting;
- March 1 (Tuesday) - Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM at the Westford School in the gym.

If you have any questions regarding Town Meeting please call or email the Town Office.

Absentee Ballots

You can request absentee ballots for Town Meeting by calling the Town Office, 802-878-4587, emailing townclerk@westfordvt.us, or through the Secretary of State's My Voter Page (<https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>). Please allow sufficient time for mailing and returning the ballots to ensure your vote counts!

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

E.O. Wilson: In Memoriam

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

On Sunday, December 26, 2021, Edward O. Wilson, known by most as E.O. Wilson, passed away. A two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, as well as an array of other awards and honors, Wilson is the author of more than twenty books, a professor and a bright light in the conservation movement. His work has been a profound influence on me personally, and on many who love and work to protect ecosystems.

The thread that runs through Wilson's work is the celebration of biodiversity. Biological diversity or "biodiversity" is defined by Wilson as "the variation of living organisms at all levels." Biodiversity exists at many scales, from the genetic variation within an individual species to the diversity of different species within an ecosystem, to the variation between ecosystems across our landscape and across the globe. In his writing and his speaking, Wilson is the kind of genius who makes the complex, nuanced concept of biodiversity understandable and even beautiful.

E.O. Wilson was a myrmecologist — a scientist who studies ants — by training, and writes extensively about invertebrates, which he calls "the little things that run the world." He revels in the vastness and the mystery of biodiversity: the millions of species in existence (there are about two million known species on earth) and the millions of species yet to be discovered (perhaps 10 to 30 million species exist). Each of these species occupies a niche and fulfills a nuanced ecological role, and Wilson describes the megafauna of the African savannah and the more than 500 species of bacteria endemic to the human mouth with nearly equal reverence.

E.O. Wilson's words are timely and critical in the midst of a global biodiversity crisis, a mass extinction event directly attributable to human activity. Wilson abbreviates the primary causes of biodiversity loss into the acronym HIPPO: Habitat loss, Invasives (non-native invasive plants, animals, pests, and pathogens), Pollution, Population, and Overexploitation (the over-harvesting of organisms and resources). Taken along with climate change, these factors comprise global change: the true sum of the threat to our ecosystems and to the species that occupy them.

Wilson advocates for protecting biodiversity both for its intrinsic value — its right to exist — and as an act of self-preservation. Biodiversity is the foundation upon which ecosystems are built, and ecosystems make our world work for humans and for everything else. As we endeavor to build a functional, sustainable world for ourselves and for our children, we lose biodiversity at our own peril.

Biodiversity is also critical to ecosystem resilience. As forests and other ecosystems respond to global change, they face an incredible array of challenges and stressors — to individual species, to the interactions between species, and to the interaction between species and their environment — that fundamentally threaten their ability to exist. Maintaining a diversity of different ecosystems, different species, and genetic variability within species provides more pathways for species and ecosystems to adapt to these unpredictable and profound changes.

In his work, Wilson balances idealism with pragmatism. He recognizes the importance of protecting lands and species for their own sake as well as the importance of taking action. He understands that a functional and sustainable world must be a balance between protecting ecosystems and protecting each other — finding ways to produce resources sustainably is a part of that balance, as is promoting justice and equity in our local and global communities.

As insulated as we Vermonters seem to be from its worst effects, we are still experiencing global change and biodiversity loss. Vermont is losing about 1500 acres of forest a year, with a far greater amount being fragmented with roads and with residential and commercial development. Among other factors, non-native invasive plants, pests and pathogens, climatic changes, and shifts in our natural disturbance regimes actively threaten and undermine the health of our remaining forests. We all actively contribute to global change through the resources we consume, which are produced at a cost to ecosystems across the world and our global climate.

As with our forests, our lives are built on complex legacies — the foundations laid by those who came before. Above all, E.O. Wilson inspired countless people to love and to safeguard life on behalf of everyone and everything. Whether or not we will honor his legacy depends on what we do next.

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

Hannibal

By Joe Nelson

Once upon a time, in 1975 to be exact, during the month of March, Ruth, Tammy, and I took up residence on Sugar Hill Road. The moving van departed not long before a heavy snowfall began. It snowed a new four inches on top of an earlier storm's six. Then the sun broke through and glowed on the surrounding birch and pine. The snowfall left behind a wonderland not to be wasted by our neighbors. Amazing we flatlanders, they came out in tee shirts and shorts to do their yard work in the snow.

We got so much more than a house with plenty of space around it, and room for a kitchen garden. Little Tammy, ready for kindergarten, was already becoming friends with her classmates-to-be. Our yard soon became a play place for the little ones of Homestead Acres.

Our first couple of years at our new place found Ruth and Tammy pretty much on their own. Each Monday morning they drove me to the airport for my flight to Poughkeepsie, and then they met me at the airport Friday evening to bring me home. If I remember correctly, it was during this time when Ruth showed me an ad in the *Mountain Villager*, offering English Shepherd puppies. Great, I thought, an ideal addition to the family.

The next time I came home I met the bouncing little roly-poly ball of fluff. Right away, as a watchdog should, he challenged me with sharp little barks.

"What'll we name him, Daddy?" Tammy asked.
 "You are asking me to name him? He's your dog."
 "Come on, Daddy, you're good at funny names!"
 "I am? Well, I'm impressed by the way he challenges me. How about we name him Hannibal after the Carthaginian general who fought Rome?"
 "Hannibal," squealed Tammy. "That's a funny name, I like it!"
 Hannibal it was. He was tight with Tammy and Ruth; with me, the stranger, not so much.

It was some time later, when Hannibal had grown to his impressive full size, a pickup truck came into our driveway where Ruth was working in her flower patch.

"I have prime young trees for sale," the man said, as he started to step out of his truck. Hannibal lunged at him, snarling. Ruth grabbed Hannibal's collar, but he kept lunging, snapping, and snarling.

"You'd better leave, mister," said Ruth, "I can't hold him much longer."

"The man left," Ruth told me. "Ridiculous! We already have enough trees. Hannibal knew that!"

It was later that summer when Hannibal, in his full coat, began to suffer with the heat. Ruth gave him a haircut. It was that full body of fur that gave Hannibal his impressive size. Inside of all that fur there was a smaller dog. As soon as Ruth turned him loose, he dove under the back porch. Until his fur began to fill out again, he barked at strangers from a hiding place.

In the year that followed we, like our next-door neighbors, wintered a horse for an upstate resort. Wintering a horse gives the girls on the hill riding time in the waning days of the summer, but that is another story. However, it's the reason I'd put up electric fences.

Hannibal, when Tammy was at school, would follow Ruth wherever she went. When Ruth crossed our electric fence, always in her dry tennis shoes, she would push the top wire down with her bare hand, and step over. Hannibal, following her, passed under the bottom fence wire with a yelp! He never did learn to tuck his tail down.

I was watching the pair one day as they crossed the fence. Hannibal followed Ruth through the dew-wet grass, and when she took hold of the top wire with her bare hand, he touched her bare leg with his wet nose. I'm still chuckling at the memory.

One pet leads to another, and this time it was two white rabbits. Of an evening it became our custom to lounge on the lawn, and Tammy would bring her rabbits out of their cage and set them down in the grass among us where they nibbled away at the clover. One evening we were distracted by a neighborly visit, and when we turned back, the rabbits had disappeared. We looked all over the yard and found no sign of them. It was growing dark and we were giving up the search, when I looked down at Hannibal.

"Hannibal," I said, "You're from a family that was bred to herd sheep. Go find the rabbits!"

Hannibal stood up, trotted toward the barn and disappeared. A short time later, he shambled back, the rabbits hopping along ahead of him.

Darn freaking COLD

By Bernie Paquette

It was early fall, late September in the foliage capital of the United States if not the world. Okay, other states have pretty leaves too. But Vermont has that rural postcard character with some of the amenities close at hand as well.

As a native Vermonter, I like to think of myself as well seasoned. Been through the mud season a few times; stuck in it, towed out of it, sloshed in it up to the top of my mud boots, slipped into it. Yeah, I even kinda like that sucking sound when your leg and foot move forward while your boot remains stuck in the mud.

Come time for the Champlain Valley Fair during the last week of September, the cotton candy, candied apples, and Beansie's fries are not enough to mask the change in the breeze. The French fried air coming out of Beansie's bus no longer feels oppressing, but comforting instead, combating the decisively cooler air drifting up over the bank from Lake Champlain. Still, the sunset over the sixth Great Lake (Clinton made it official [sort of] in 1998 with the signing of Senate bill 927 led by Vermont Senator Leahy) surely can compete with the best New England has to offer.

Sun or no, sweater weather arrives. Thoughts of winter dance in my head. Sure October can be really nice, a few touches of frost, a burst of sun to put a sparkle on the last remaining hues holding out in the trees. An occasional day of mid-sixty-degrees and it feels like summer is here again.

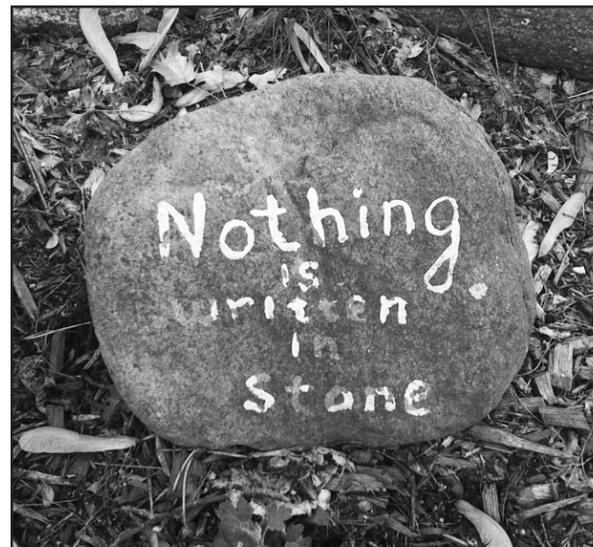
Then the clock strikes midnight. And just like in Cinderella everything changes — everything. The thermometer bounces on a trampoline, teasing and taunting, perhaps preparing me for what by now I should be well aware of. It is going to get cold. But what is cold anyway?

A dictionary describes cold as relatively low temperature, as lacking affection or warmth, no longer fresh (as in "the trail went cold"), without preparation or rehearsal — unawares. The adverb is "completely." "She knew the Florida Keys cold by age 21."

Relatively cold, okay I think I can deal with that. October 28 was frosty, little white whiskers of grass crunchy underfoot. Mud season ruts locked in place for archeologists to study later. "Ah, look here, a petrified boot and a Volkswagen Beetle all stuck in the mud a million years ago."

Unwilling to be fooled or caught unawares, I nevertheless head for the barn to search for winter gear. Quickly finding the snowshoes, I delight at the thought of fresh white powder. Though I wonder what stale powder or purple snow would be like. Soon I have a winter shovel in hand, a bucket of salt set by the back door, winter books, mittens, scarf, mid-layer and outer layer, an under a layer of poly, DARN TIGHTLY nearly knee-high wool socks, wool coat (the kind that makes you look like a lumberjack or an old time Vermonter if it is really roughed up and a bit tarnished). I was not going to be caught unprepared this winter.

Some of my friends accuse me of lacking affection for winter, of having lost my Vermonter toughness. Winter is not that long, nor as cold as that, they all tell me. But I know, I know how it sneaks up on you, how it plays with your mind. The ski slopes, hot chocolate, snowshoeing next to bunny rabbits, sugar-on-snow



(boiling maple syrup rolled out on bowls full of snow), giant snowflakes drifting down upon out-stretched tongues, snowmen, and snow-women with carrot noses. All amidst temperatures of just below freezing, and sunshine billowing out of a bluebird blue sky.

And it is all true. And beautiful. And fun. An experience for all ages to enjoy. But there is a catch. And this year, this year, I will remember what comes next. December's holiday season surely will throw a head fake my way, what with the jolly music everywhere, the Christmas tree and ornaments, the red, green, and blue string of lights around porches, shrubs, and any dog that has the misfortune of being caught standing still. Wearing my winter coat, mittens, boots, poly, Darn Tough socks, I am relatively warm. The music is nice, people are especially nice this time of year; everyone says hi, and may the season's best come your way.

And then it hits, just as the *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* movie starts playing the part about the once-every-hundred-year-snow-storm blizzard, the forecast jumps out at me with a warning of blistering cold, high winds, ice formations, drifting snow to match California surf waves, treacherous driving, sidewalks with holes drilled for ice fishing. Yup, I knew it, cold is building up to a crescendo.

My thermometer is on some kind of a downer. Every time I look at it sinking, I shiver, 'cause it is already freaking cold, how much colder can it get? Worse yet, the thermometer has become a one-way only, drop like a rock, how low can we go, barometer of my emotions. I knew I should have caught the last train to Memphis, or Florida, or California, or even Utah or Colorado — probably warmer than here. I bet all my tough Vermont friends are snowbirds beached in one of those places right now. True Vermonters my ___.

Time to fill the indoor bin with firewood, except the back door is frozen shut. As in my shoulder is sore from pushing against

Community Columns continued on page 5



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HEALTH NEWS



Step up for moms, babies and families — Each year in the U.S., a woman dies every 12 hours from pregnancy-related causes, and 1 in 10 babies is born too soon. Families never pay a penny for March of Dimes family support services, from local families needing in-hospital NICU Family Support, to advocating for maternal and baby health, to educating health professionals and funding critical research. When you step up to march, you support families in your own community. You'll connect with old and new friends who share the same experiences as you — friends united in the fight for healthy moms and strong babies. March for Babies isn't just a march, it's a movement. You choose how you want to honor, remember, or celebrate families facing preterm birth, infant loss, and maternal health risks: an unforgettable in-person March for Babies experience in over 70 communities across the U.S.; or you pick the date, the place, and the activity (walk, swim, garage sale, lemonade stand) you want to do to honor and celebrate families. To get started, go online to <https://www.marchforbabies.org/>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Help Vermont emerge from the surge safely

From the VT Dept. Of Health

After two years, many of us are exhausted by the COVID-19 pandemic. But the surge in cases due to the highly contagious Omicron variant means we can't let our guard down. Using our basic tools to slow the spread of the virus now can help get us to a place where we can live with the virus more safely.

- Vaccines — Getting anyone age 5 or older vaccinated still is the best way to protect them from the worst effects of COVID-19. If you are age 12 or older, you need a booster shot to get that full protection.

- Masks — Improving the quality of your mask will offer greater protection against getting or spreading the virus. You can use an N95 or KN95; or layer up, such as with a disposable mask under a cloth mask. Or wear a well-fitting mask with at least two layers of tightly-woven fabric.

- Testing — Get tested if you have any symptoms, if you may be a close contact, or if you have taken part in activities that could put you at risk, such as large gatherings or travel. If you test positive, stay home and away from others and notify your close contacts.

Visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/Covid19> for the latest on what you need to know now.

Westford Senior Luncheon is on for February 14

By Carol Howrigan, President

Things are looking better this month than January luncheon, so we will have our Senior Luncheon. It will be held on Monday, February 14 at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common at 11:30 AM, and it's your favorite of potluck this month. If we do get a major snowstorm or it's extremely cold, we will cancel. I will add that if COVID hits high records again, we will also have no choice but to cancel. We have everyone's telephone number and will give you a call that morning or the night before if we know that far ahead. If you have a new phone number, please let us know. I know lots of people are switching from their land lines to a cell phone.

Please put the date on your calendar and try to come. It will brighten your winter. Please spread the word to others! As always, we like to see new faces and are always happy to see familiar faces as well. Hope to see you there! Reminder, to bring your mask and please wear it up until we eat. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone.

We have to add the 802 to all calls now. Your call will not go through if you don't put the area code at the beginning. Let's hope the weather cooperates with us.

Send your news
to the
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LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Legislative update — Chittenden 8-3

By Alyssa Black, State Representative, Chittenden-8-3

January 19

Hoping you all had a great week and have dug out from the glorious snowfall we just received!

Starting yesterday, we returned to the Statehouse in our new hybrid model. Our committees will meet in person; however, we will be authorized to participate and vote in our committees remotely for COVID-related circumstances, such as our own illness, close contact, school closures, or loss of childcare. Meanwhile, the floor will be fully remote. So, while most Reps will be in the building, we will all be Zooming in to the floor. Because of IT issues, it would not have been possible to have hybrid floor sessions; and if it was required to be in person, it would disenfranchise a legislator's right to vote and represent their constituents if they showed even the slightest symptoms of illness. Needless to say, I'm excited about this compromise. As I'm writing this, I'm finally sitting in my seat in the House Chamber!

House Speaker Jill Krowinski announced this past week that the Pension Benefits, Design, and Funding Task Force had reached an agreement on a package of changes to stabilize the state employee and teacher pension funds. The task force met throughout the summer and fall to find areas of agreement, and stuck through the difficulty and worked together to craft a package that will have a lasting impact. This conclusion would not have been possible without the dedication, collaboration, and creative thinking between the teachers, state employees, and legislative members on the Task Force. This is certainly not the final step and there is still much work to do. We must still finalize and pass this legislation, but when we do, it will give teachers and state employees the peace of mind that their benefits are intact.

Documents outlining the package can be found on the Pension Benefits, Design, and Funding Task Force here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2022/367/Date/1-10-2022#documents-section>.

This past week, we passed legislation to allow our municipalities to hold Town Meeting and other municipal meetings remotely. This is basically an extension of rules that were put in place at the beginning of the COVID pandemic and have since expired. I don't think anyone anticipated two years ago that we would still be having this conversation. On that note, the Healthcare Committee that I serve on has spent the entire week taking testimony on a myriad of COVID flexibility measures. Many of these rules terminate on March 31, 2022, so we need to work expeditiously to make certain they are extended. As well, we have been working on a committee bill to begin a special licensing registration for out-of-state providers to practice telehealth. During the pandemic this has proven to be a vital asset to Vermonters. For example, college students who receive mental health services at out-of-state schools have been able to continue these provider relationships through the use of telehealth while they are home in Vermont. As these are committee bills, they need to move through the entire legislative process, which can take months!

Have a wonderful week and as always, feel free to reach out to me with any concerns at 802-598-1026 or ablack@leg.state.vt.us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History of JULT conservation project site Riverside Meadow

To the Editor,

Just to clarify information on the site of the cabin of Jericho's first white settlers, Joseph and Hannah Brown: the meadow that the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) is working to conserve is indeed where their cabins were located. They settled here in 1774, but unfortunately the next year Joseph and their two sons were captured by Indians and taken to Montreal, where they were held captive. The Indians felt that they could not get a bounty for Mrs. Brown, so she was left to take care for the animals and garden. Joseph and the boys were released after about two months and returned to Jericho. Sadly, the next year they were once again taken prisoner by Indians, and this time, after killing their animals and burning their house and barn, the entire family was taken to Montreal, where they were held by the British for about three years before being freed. After they were released this time, they returned to Jericho and built a new cabin and barn near the same spot. They lived here until their sons married. After that time, their land was divided: they lived with their son Charles near the present location of Browns River Middle School, while their son Joseph Jr. lived just to the south, on what is today Browns Trace.

There is much more to this very interesting story, which can be found in Volume 1 of the Jericho town history: <https://archive.org/details/historyofjericho01jери/page/n339/mode/2up?view=theater>.

I would echo the call to support JULT's efforts to preserve this meadow, so important to Jericho in many ways.

Gary Irish
Jericho

Social coherence on masking, how do we get there?

To the Editor,

My response to those who email me with a different view (on masking) is that I hope as a community we all care for each other even when we do not agree, that we probably agree on many things and that it is important that we all can describe our positions — why and how we got to them. I think this dialogue in the public realm can help build social consensus, release and deflate some built-up angst, and encourage folks to abide by social well-being measures that protect and care for the community as well as for the individual.

I am no debater, nor speaker, but I do yearn for what I read was a culture in the indigenous society (or at least many of them in North America) whereby the community spent a great deal of

Weekly legislative reports

By Theresa Wood

State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

January 20

Redistricting: Last week in the legislature we began to hear about the legislative process for redistricting. Redistricting occurs every 10 years after the national census. (The current district is the Washington-Chittenden District comprised of Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, and Waterbury.) This is one of the very few instances, maybe the only one, that requires the House to vote on a bill twice in the same session. For the purposes of beginning to move through the legislative process, the House Government Operations Committee voted out H.589 in order to initiate the public input process, as well as input from local boards of civil authority, in the State House. The Government Operations Committee will be taking input on both proposals, which were voted on by the Legislative Apportionment Board. A link to the bill is found here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.589>.

Last week we also heard updated testimony on COVID-19 from Dr. Timothy Lahey, an infectious disease expert from the UVM Medical Center, and Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner of the Department of Health. As with all committees in the Legislature, as well as the full House, you can watch deliberations at your convenience on YouTube. Here is the link to Dr. Lahey's testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzLU2sbzujc>.

Thank you and as always, I can be reached at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

January 28

It's been a busy start to the 2022 legislative session. Over the last several days the following bills have seen action in the House (note, I have started including the link to the actual bill so that if you are interested in a particular bill, you can just click through to the bill itself):

- H.654 — this bill extends regulatory flexibility in State government due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.654>)

- H.462 — this bill provided miscellaneous changes related to the Health Department. Of note here is the change in name of what has been known as ADAP (the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs). The proposed new name to reflect current language and approaches to these issues is Division of Substance Use Programs. The bill also increases the number of take-back drug kiosks available at pharmacies. (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.462>)

- H.74 — is a bill that makes miscellaneous changes to the laws governing self-storage facilities. (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.74>)

- S.30 — this bill prohibits firearms within hospital buildings and also closes the so-called Charleston loophole. (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.30>)

- H.466 — this bill proposes a process to regulate surface water withdrawals in the State. (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.466>)

- H.157 — this bill proposes to initiate a process to register certain construction professionals. (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.157>)

In my committee (House Human Services), we began work on a review of the system serving individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities. We also conducted a public hearing on Proposition 5, the Constitutional Amendment to insure the right to personal reproductive liberty (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/PR.5>). This passed out of committee and is now moving to the next step of the process, a vote by the full House which will occur on Tuesday, February 8. If it passes the full House it will be on the ballot for all registered voters in Vermont to have their say in November.

Thanks for reading, and as always, I can be reached at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

time discussing community affairs every day. As I understand, they put great practice and exercise into eloquent and powered reasoned arguments and debate.

There was a relationship between their refusal of arbitrary power and inclusive political and reasoned debate.

I hope we (society) will all learn such a valuable cultural skill set. No compulsion, but social adherence created through self-conscious reasoned debate, persuasive arguments, and the establishment of social consensus. In addition, a society of communities that have a system of mutual aid, equality, minimal conflict, and who celebrate each other's differences.

We all have the capacity to care for and be committed to all folks in our community.

I again invite folks to read my posting *Make 2022 the year of caring — Conscious reflection of our societal behavior and options for change*. I hope this can be a stimulus for further discussion of how we can improve community dialogue, and lower animosity between divergent approaches and opinions.

You can read my posting at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/12/2022-year-of-caring.html>.

Bernie Paquette
Jericho

Praise for DRML staff

To the Editor,

Friends and neighbors,
I want to acknowledge role of the board and staff of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in enhancing our quality of life during these trying times. Kudos to the friendly and efficient library staff for maintaining an excellent collection of reading and listening materials, computer services, and so much more, for the families in our community.

DRML plays a big part in helping me stay sane! No doubt other patrons will agree.

We are so fortunate to have this facility in the Underhill-Jericho community.

Sharon Faelten
Underhill

Letters continued on page 5

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is now open with updated hours, no appointment needed: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask. Please try to limit your visit to 30 minutes. Curbside pickup is still available; contact 802-899-4962 or rawsonlibrary@drml.org.

To register for programs, call 802-899-4962, or email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) for Adult Programs or Abbey (youth_librarian@drml.org) for Youth Programs.

Adult programs

Thursday, February 3, 12:00 PM: Tech Talk. This series of programs is designed to demystify digital technologies. Have questions you'd like answered? Send your suggestions for future programs to Erik, program_assistant@drml.org. Registration required; email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) to register.

Sunday, February 6, 2:00 PM, in-person and virtual: 22nd Annual Concert Series: Paul Asbell. Join us for a concert by solo acoustic guitarist virtuoso Paul Asbell. In his 50 year career Asbell has played and recorded with artists including Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins, and many others. His jazz-fusion group *Kilimanjaro* has released several award-winning recordings, and performed at jazz festivals worldwide. He presently teaches at Middlebury College and the University of Vermont. Registration required; masks required for all attending in-person. Please call 802-899-4962 to reserve a seat, or email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) to

register for the virtual livestream.

Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers, a monthly adult book discussion group. This month: *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Tuesday, February 15, 6:00 PM: Legislative Update. Join local representatives George Till and Trevor Squirell for an update on the current legislative session. Registration required; email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) to register.

Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 PM, in person in the program room; masks required: Mystery Book Club: *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis. If you need a book, please call the library (802-899-4962) to request a copy. Due to delays with our courier you should request soon so that it has time to arrive. A Zoom meeting will also be available for those who prefer a virtual option. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com) if you would like to receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

Youth Programs

Ongoing

Tuesdays, 3:00 PM: Story Time [preschool]. We're switching things up and testing out an afternoon story time. We hope you can join us for songs, stories, flannel board games, and more! For school break week, Story Time on February 22 will be at 10:00 AM. Everyone over the age of 2 years old must wear a mask.

Spring Scavenger Hunt — We are spring dreaming! Each time you visit the library, you can hunt for the six spring-themed



Art at the Westford Library: An installation of The Art of Tasha Tudor, a personal collection by Peggy Rodgers, will stay up through the end of March. Rodgers grew up living next door to famed author, illustrator, and eccentric Tasha Tudor. She has many pieces that Tudor created for her and her family. Stop by anytime we are open to check out this display of original pieces you can only see here! PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Libraries continued on page 6

Letters continued from page 4

MMusic grateful to MMCTV

To the Editor,

All of us at MMusic would like to thank MMCTV for the set up and live stream recording for our instrumental concert on Wednesday, January 19. Many of our families were grateful for the opportunity to watch from home and for families far, far away being able to watch/hear the concert.

Shout out to Angelique Contis for helping before hand, setting it up; and Phoebe Peckham for recording the livestream.

Super grateful for the community help and support for the MMusic program!

Mary Bauer
Jericho

Gratitude to Underhill
Jericho Fire Department

To the Editor,

As I sit here contemplating how to express extreme gratitude, I noticed it's -13 degrees out and I just watched three fire trucks pass by my house on the way to serve our community. I just want to say how grateful that I am that there's still such good people out there who are dedicated and committed to the well being of our community. Not in just words spoken from the mouth but in deeds and action! They pass up so much of their free time to walk into and witness some pretty critical situations. For that I'm very grateful because it is not something I could do myself.

So thank you to all of you who volunteer! You truly are the unsung heroes of our community!

Monica Moultroupe
Underhill

How to help the "Bluebird
of Happiness"

To the Editor,

This is really rough for these poor little fruit and insect eaters to find themselves in Vermont in January! Bluebirds and robins

should have gone south long ago. A few have been known to stay in cranberry bogs or crabapple trees, but rare to have this many!

Dried mealworms, raisins, grapes, blueberries, suet, apple slices, are all good to put out for them. Bluebirds and robins are not seed eaters, and eating seed can be dangerous, as they cannot digest it properly.

Thanks for helping our wild neighbors!

Carol Winfield
Westford

Infantilizing women is not okay

To the Editor,

Tim Newcomb's cartoon on January 20 compares the three candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives. It appears to imply that experience is the most important factor for voters to consider. But whatever the primary message of this cartoon is supposed to be, the implicit, negative messages it sends about these women, and women and people of color in general, are glaring.

The candidates are depicted as a car full of bickering girls.

The Lieutenant Governor of Vermont is shown as a toddler in a car seat.

A sitting state senator and former state representative, a woman of color, is drawn as a child with exaggerated facial features in a booster seat — in the back of the car.

The candidates in the back seat are labeled "Molly" and "Keshia" while the candidate in the front and the driver are labeled "Balint" and "Kunin."

Vermont's first and only woman governor is depicted as a harried parent tired of her annoying children.

Yes, it's just a cartoon. But I can't un-see the infantilizing of two of the most successful women in Vermont politics today. I can't un-see the dismissive treatment of women candidates for the U.S. House as whiny little girls. And I really can't un-see placing the one candidate who is a woman of color in the back seat and exaggerating her lips and nose. The things that are apparently supposed to be funny about this cartoon are actually entrenched stereotypes and tropes that reinforce implicit bias against women and people of color.

Warm thoughts; if you want me I will be under the tanning salon dreaming of green Vermont hillsides,

Bernie

(Pretty near froze my butt off, but my feet were warm in my Vermont Darn Tough Socks)

Jericho, Snow, Resort

By Bernie Paquette

Jericho plans a ski slope resort!
<https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2018/03/mountain-resort-seeks-jericho-vermont.html>

LAUGH, Dream, Try, and Do-Good — Bernie

(Editor's note: the Mountain Gazette does not have enough space for the indispensable photos that accompany this post, and would not consider committing the injustice of printing the post without them — but strongly recommends readers to follow the link to see for themselves.)

Care givers

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Who are they? What does the phrase mean? Yes, someone who gives care. But that's too easy... just a juxtaposition of words; there is no clarity of meaning. Care is usually meant in a personable way: a connection of words, actions, attitudes, that connotes an exchange of one's values and skills to benefit another.

The dictionary lists a great many synonyms: "having compassion, an ability to being concerned for another, watchfulness, under-the-custody-of, an inclination to 'do' something, a watchful regard, to feel love or liking for." (It also lists an excellent meaning for "concern"... as a state of painful uneasiness.) So, when one is ill or troubled or lacks ease, can we call upon a caregiver? How much can we expect and who defines that? Sometimes the job of a caregiver is quite plain: to change a dressing, to address an anxiety that needs relief, a lonely voice that asks to be heard, meal preparation, physical watchfulness, relief of symptoms, companionship.

Two people are primarily involved... not necessarily to cure,

I also can't help but remember that just last year the Vermont media was called out for its gender bias in an open letter from dozens of prominent women, and news outlets publicly pledged to do better. This cartoon doesn't do better.

A lot of readers are probably thinking, "oh come on, it's just a cartoon, stop being so sensitive, it's supposed to be funny." It's true that political cartoonists have a long and colorful history of tweaking the noses of politicians, poking holes in arguments, shining a bright but unflattering light on government, and exaggerating behavior and appearance in caricature. And this particular cartoonist has made us laugh and cringe at ourselves and our state for decades.

But I can't help thinking about all the Vermonters opening their papers or going online to get the news and seeing this cartoon. Are they thinking about the importance of satire in political discourse? Probably not. I'm guessing a lot of people saw that cartoon and thought, "Yep. He nailed it." Because this cartoon just confirms all the negative biases that exist about women, people of color, and women who run for office, all in one tidy little scene.

I'm also thinking about all the amazing women currently serving in office right now throughout Vermont, and those who are thinking of running for election on Town Meeting Day and in November. They'll also say, "Yep. He nailed it," but for a different reason: they'll see that cartoon as more of the same dismissive, condescending, stereotypical treatment of women and people of color in politics. And then they'll sigh, and carry on doing their good work.

Political cartoons are an important part of our public discourse. They're supposed to get a rise out of us. We shouldn't take them literally — they're supposed to be funny. It's a joke, right?

We get it. But the implicit, disrespectful messages about younger women candidates and candidates of color? We get those too, loud and clear.

Elaine Haney (she/her)
Executive Director
Emerge Vermont
Burlington

Community columns continued from page 3

the door so that I can get outside and freeze my tush off, not to mention get frostbitten on the nose, and have my fingers turn purple while I lug firewood from the woodshed to inside the house. Which makes me wonder: why does wood that is well seasoned become so heavy when you are carrying a load of it across icy steps?

Know how long it takes to go to the grocery store in winter in Vermont? Seven hundred hours. I kid you not. During the summer (July 28-August 3) it takes but a moment's thought to prepare to go out to the garden, pick some fresh vegetables, come in, fix dinner. In winter, one must PLAN to go out. One must PLAN on what you are going to get for food while you are out in case this is the last time this winter you are able to get out. One must dress warmly. No, I am not talking about just the long list of items mentioned earlier for dressing in December. No, come January, when winter really starts, yup, just begins in January; dressing up to go out becomes a journey through coat closets, sweater drawers, socks, and glove liner boxes. One must find ear muffs, emergency blankets, hand warmers, candles — in case you freeze to death, a candle comes in handy for someone else to mark the spot, not so much in honor but more like a safety flare so someone else doesn't trip over your frozen corpse. Believe me, seven hundred hours is conservative.

There are of course some consolations. When you do get back, and after only one hour of defrosting (yourself not the frozen chicken you purchased) and six hours of de-clothing down to just three layers of poly and your lovely DARN TOUGH socks. With just one hour of daylight left (there are only three hours of daylight in winter in Vermont on days when it is not cloudy), you can sit back with a good book (fortunately you did remember to do as squirrels do and stash books in every conceivable nook and cranny in the house), and sip at the molasses-thick boiled coffee that you had left on the woodstove while you were outdoors being fleeced of all the human warmth you had left inside you.

Worse case, if you run out of novels, and get-away-to-sunny-warm-islands advertisements, and you get tired of reading the instructions on how to start your snowblower (which runs fine in the summer but seems to hibernate in the winter), then and only as a last resort before becoming totally claustrophobic, then you can read the dictionary. I recommend starting with the letter C. But don't jump right to cold, take your time and get there gradually, you'll get used to it that way. Or so they say.

mend, heal, or touch, but to fit the best action to meet the stated need. There needs to be a meeting of the primary givers and the receivers of care: there needs to be an initial agreement between these people... verbal and written... as care begins. I recall an incident where the receiver didn't feel she needed more physical order in her surroundings, so the care giver needed to change her expectations of how to meet the physical needs of the receiver within certain necessary boundaries.

Care givers can be overseen by an agency that specifically defines the roles and obligations of the persons assigned. Or there may be an already-existing group that covers a certain area for services. The Visiting Nurse Association or a local hospital or a state health care ombudsman are examples of such groups. They may be run by a board of directors, located within the state or covering a larger territory. Who is assigned to check that the objectives of the initial contract are satisfactorily met? And by what methods of supervision? What method is used to schedule visits, change times of visits? What type of record keeping is used by an agency?

What questions should be covered in the first contact? Is there a short trial period when both parties of a service can judge if this is a possible contract for care? Does one need medical permission and specific orders for certain types of care giving? Does a care giver need special training? By whom? What laws of state or national requirements are needed in each locale? What are specific objectives of care giver and receiver that should be spelled out in a written agreement? What kind of funding is available for services? Who pays for what?

There are excellent stories of friendships that have developed over the times of care giving. There are also examples where complaints need to be voiced, but there is no specific person(s) to whom the receiver of care can turn. Growing old is a tough job. A person needs a place to go, an unbiased ear to listen, and suggestions for possible solutions. Living-in-place is growing in acceptability, and as the requests for service for the elderly continue to increase, there needs to be a well-built program of care that does honor to both the giver and the receiver. And as we search for better caregivers, we need to give credit to those who have done this type of work as a moral obligation...and write laws and procedures that give credit for those years of experience.

Libraries continued from page 5

cutouts hiding all over the library. When you find them all, visit the front desk to enter a raffle for a spring chick finger puppet. You can play the scavenger hunt and enter as often as you like.

Check out these great programs!

All programs meet in person at DRML. Everyone over the age of 2 years must wear a mask. If you would like to join via Zoom, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Thursdays, February 3 and 17, 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Young Writers' Club for tweens/teens. What's the real reason for toothaches? According to our young writers it's tiny ants with pickaxes! Come stretch your imagination and get silly with your fellow writers. No registration required.

Friday, February 4, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: Crafternoon [ages 6+]. This month we're getting slimy! Wild colors, glitter loaded, with other funky mix ins. We hope you can come make ooey gooey wonderful slime! Please pre-register. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Thursdays, February 10 and 24, 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Animation Club [tween/teen]. Love going behind the scenes for movies? Then you'll love Animation Club! We check out behind the scenes videos and then turn the program room into a movie studio for our own masterpieces. Please pre-register. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Friday, February 11, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+]. Have you seen the beautiful LEGO builds on display in the kids' room? Come to LEGO club and create your own! This program is very popular so please pre-register. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962 or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, February 12, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, and Wednesday, February 23, 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt [all ages]. We are so lucky to get two visits from Wyatt and Ms. Sue this month! Come on the weekend or come during school vacation week and read to Wyatt the Bernese Mountain Dog. He and his handler, Ms. Sue, would love to help you build your confidence as a reader while they listen with no judgment to whatever stories you want to share. Please pre-register for a 15 minute spot. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962 or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, February 19, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Community Sledding Party [all ages]. Meet at Mills Riverside Park at 10:00 AM for some epic sledding adventures! Around 11:00 AM Ms. Abbey will head back to the library for folk to drop in for hot cocoa and a wintry craft. A huge thank you to our co-sponsors the Jericho Underhill Park District!

Tuesday, February 22, 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Among Us [ages 10+]. Get lost in the airship, run from danger, or maybe be the cause of it! Who's safe and who's sus? Find out when we play Among Us. Please pre-register. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Friday, February 25, 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Nintendo Switch Games [ages 8+]. Help us unlock more characters in Smash Bros, new mini games in Mario Party, and new equipment in Mario Kart. Please pre-register. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Contact information: email rawsonlibrary@drml.org; website www.drml.org; phone 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

We're sorry to announce that all in-person Jericho Town Library programs are canceled. We've loved having Storytime back in the library these past few months, but we need to prioritize the health and safety of our youngest patrons. Given our small space, limited ventilation system, and this current surge of COVID cases, Storytime is taking a break until further notice. We will be continuing our weekly take-home craft kits, so look for social media updates when those are available.

Jericho Town Library continues to be fully open, no appointment needed: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Saturday. Thank you all for continuing to mask up, get vaccinated, and keep us all healthy!

Get snowshoes from your library! Jericho Town Library is excited to offer twenty pairs of snowshoes that can be checked out by all Jericho Town and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library cardholders, aged 18+. The variety of sizes should fit your whole family; visit our website for more details about the snowshoes sizes and lending policy.

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.

Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum is undergoing renovation for the new hardwood flooring! We will be closed through Monday, February 7, resuming normal hours on Tuesday, February 8 (9:00 AM - 6:00 PM). Please DO NOT use the book drop. Hold onto your books until February 8.

Thank you to all who volunteered at the Varnum in anticipation of our flooring project in January. Adult fiction has been moved to the front, and kids, young adults, and adult nonfiction to the back. New releases can be found in the middle.

If you're interested in supporting the Varnum in any way, be sure to check out our Amazon Wish List! Any donations are sincerely appreciated. Our list this year includes fish tank filters, hot chocolate, crafts, and even a fireplace insert! https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2OTE5H21CH0EE?ref=wl_share

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

The team at the Varnum: April, Carol, Carrie, Courtney, Hope, Jan, Karen, Krista, Laura, Lesley, Liv, Mark, Teelah, and Valerie

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Thursdays 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Fridays 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday.

(Note, hours at the Varnum can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

We are moving back inside for the colder weather months. We require that all participants wear a mask (regardless of vaccination status). Children under two are exempt from this requirement. We will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of takeaways and in-person.

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

February's all-month-long events:

- **Blind Date with a Book!** Check out our display of wrapped books — all you get is a very brief summary. Will you find a new favorite author? Will you have a new reading experience? Spice up your reading by checking out a "blind date" book — take a chance on a new book!
- **The Art of Tasha Tudor:** A personal collection by Peggy Rodgers, with original pieces you can only see at the Library.
- **Winter Story Hike:** If you missed it at WinterFest, The Mitten will be lining the school trails after mid-February. Park in the front school parking lot and follow the signs from the kiosk. Enjoy a walk to and around the Misty Meadows trail. Please do not walk on groomed ski tracks. Installation will stay up through the end of March.

Saturday, February 5: Take Your Child to the Library Day, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Stop by and share your love of reading! Bring your child to the library this day and receive an "I LOVE Books" bag, cool bookmarks, stickers, and we will even have balloons. Supplies are limited, so when they are gone, they are gone!

Tuesday, February 8: Learn to Knit, 3:00 - 5:00 PM. Signup required.

Wednesday, February 9: Library Trustees Meeting, 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

Saturday, February 12: WinterFest! So much fun from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Stop by the library for a take-and-make craft and story walk. Library open until 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, February 15: Learn to Knit, 3:00 - 5:00 PM. Signup required.

Wednesday, February 23: Adult Book Group via Zoom, 7:00 PM. The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab. France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever — and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. Inspiring story for history buffs and book lovers alike (from *Amazon.com*). Print copies (preferred) at Library, digital copies might be available on Libby, especially for audio, but not for multi-use. Zoom link will be posted on FPF, Facebook, and sent to regular book club members.

Storytime, depending on local health data: every Thursday, 11:15 AM, inside the library. Masks required for all, regardless of vaccination status. We are playing this month's Storytimes by ear. Looking at local health data to keep our youngest patrons safe. See FPF and our Facebook page for the latest updates. Thursday, February 24: no story time.

Fiber Arts Group meets every Thursday in person at the library, 6:30 PM.

Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s Club for grades K-2, Thursdays, March 3-April 28 (except April 21). The library is hosting another session (different activities) of Bedtime Math's fun, hands-on math club. Space is limited. Contact the library via email if interested. Good behavior is key to making this fun for everyone! Bus #3 from Westford School; permission and more information for those who sign up. Class ends at 4:30 PM; pick up as late as 5:00 PM.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (February 2; March 2), 4:30 - 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (February 19), 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.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We are asking everyone to please wear a face mask in the library. To help meet the needs of all library users, Curbside Pickup Services will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 - 7:00 PM upon request.

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

Youth events

Wednesday, February 2, 3:00 PM: Ski Lift Challenge. Build a ski lift chair that will take your skier safely to the top of the mountain! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Wednesday, February 9, 1:00 PM: Valentine Creation Stations. Create a variety of different valentines! Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Wednesday, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, 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!

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, 4:30 PM: Kids Yoga with Jessica Turner. Join Jessica Turner for weekly kids yoga classes! These classes will be held virtually, so keep an eye on your email for the zoom link. Ages 6+ Please email

libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Thursday, February 10, 3:15 PM: Read with Henry. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Henry, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Wednesday, February 23, 1:00 PM: Pumping Heart Model. Learn a little bit about how the heart works and make a model that really pumps! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Mondays, February 7 and 14, 3:30 PM: Chess Club. Chess Club is starting up again! Learning chess has been proven to have many benefits: such as building creativity, problem solving, and concentration! Ages 7+. Space is limited, so please register!

Adult events

Tuesday, February 22, 4:30 PM: DIY Stamp Making. Try your hand at stamp making! Materials provided. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Thursday, February 17, 4:00 PM: Financial Literacy Workshop with Cody Fiala — Personal Budget. Starting in January, Fairfax Library began hosting three monthly workshops on personal finance topics. The sessions will provide participants with information they can act upon to manage and protect their money, and to work towards their financial goals. Handouts will be provided at each session, capturing the major points of the presentation and providing additional resources. Each session will be strengthened by the questions people ask! February's session will focus on understanding how a personal budget is beneficial for you, building a personal budget, and saving money by using a personal budget. A Zoom link is available for this event! Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

The Library Book Club will meet to discuss the book Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart. Book club meets in the library and a Zoom link will be available to attend remotely. The next book club date: TBA. To reserve a copy of the book and/or request the Zoom link, email fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or call us at the library! All are welcome!

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Mask up, please. Everyone over the age of two entering the Library is required to wear a facemask regardless of vaccination status. As a community library, we value the privacy and safety of all our patrons.

The Library's hours have changed to the following: 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. Our webpage, Facebook, and email reflect this information and we will be changing physical signage soon.

Book Chat: Join the monthly *Discover Between the Covers* book chat with Rebecca Mueller of the Richmond Free Library and Stacey Symanowicz of the Huntington Public Library featuring materials from the two libraries. Chats will introduce readers to a variety of titles old and new, fiction and nonfiction, past and current award winners, favorite series, and perhaps a movie or two. There will be time set aside to let participants share what they have discovered, too! Use the zoom link found at <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/collections/book-chats/>.

Colección Española: If you have a child enrolled in the Spanish immersion program at Richmond Elementary School, you may be interested in our new collection of Spanish language resources. Books in the collection range from the simplest of board books to more complex language resources appropriate for intermediate students. Ask to be directed to the shelf where the collection is currently being held.

Youth Programs are currently ongoing with COVID precautions in place as needed. Program details are below. Weekly youth programs at the Library run September-May and follow the MMUUSD school district schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Mondays, 10:30 AM: Baby Laptime. This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their grown ups. 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: Storytime and Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and songs in the Library Community Room and then it's outdoor play time with old and new friends. For Storytime, families will spread out in the spacious community room. After Storytime we will move outside to the playground for playtime as weather allows. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from 0-5 and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 5:00 PM in the Community Room: Kaiut Yoga with Caroline Sheftel. The Kaiut Yoga method applies biomechanical, integrative, and therapeutic techniques in the practice. Every individual class is designed with the purpose to increase freedom of movement and integration between body and mind. Caroline believes that yoga is for everyone, and finds this universal accessibility in Kaiut Yoga. Bring a yoga mat, a yoga bolster (or equivalent), and strap (or equivalent). By donation; proceeds will be given to charitable organizations.

Free Tong Ren sessions Molly Lawney leads a free bimonthly community energy healing class. She practices a form of energy healing called Tong Ren, which works well in a group setting and it's contact-free, so it also works well for social distancing purposes. For more information, contact molly@openchannelenergy.com.

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; www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

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

OBITUARIES



Harry R. Thurgate, Jr., 82, of Jericho, VT passed away at his home on Friday, January 14, 2022, with his loving family by his side. Harry was a well-known contractor and builder of beautiful homes in Chittenden County. He is survived by his wife Carolyn Thurgate, son Kenneth Thurgate, daughter Karen Fick, and five grandchildren. Services for Harry will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction, VT 05452. We would like to thank LHC Providers Hospice, friends, and family for the wonderful care given to Harry. Arrangements are in care of Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home, Essex Junction, VT 05452.



Dennis P. Hogan, 65, of 42 Starbird Rd, Jericho, VT passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022 at his home unexpectedly. He was born on November 4, 1956 in Burlington, VT, the son of Henry A. and Catherine Pflieger Hogan. He was a graduate of Burlington High School, class of 1975. He was married at St. Joseph's Church, Burlington, VT to Diane M. Jean on September 24, 1977. He worked at IBM for 38 years as an engineering technician. He enjoyed spending time with his family, working on his home and his car. He is survived by his wife Diane M. Hogan; children Amy J. and C. Michael Lawrence, and Aaron F. Hogan; grandchildren Caton F. Lawrence and Henry A. Lawrence; his sister Ellie Cartier; Kevin and Diane Hogan; and Sean Hogan and Kathy Moreau; and by several cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends. Calling hours were on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at the Ready Funeral Home South Chapel, Burlington, VT. Funeral services were held on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at the Essex Alliance Church, with reception afterwards. Dennis was an avid platelet donor; in lieu of flowers please consider donating at the Burlington Red Cross Blood on North Prospect Street. Please go to www.readyfuneral.com to place online condolences.



Christine M. Tompkins, 69, of Burlington, VT and Jeffersonville, VT passed away at home on Saturday, January 1, 2022, with family by her side. Her funeral was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at Elmwood-Meunier Funeral Chapel, Burlington, VT; interment followed in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Annex, Pomeroy St., Burlington.

Elizabeth "Betty" Learned MacDowell, originally of Jeffersonville, VT who was born on May 13, 1925, the youngest daughter of the late Wallace and Annie Learned, passed away peacefully of natural causes on January 25, 2022 at age 96 at Brownway Residence in Enosburg Falls, VT. She was married to Donald MacDowell, who predeceased her in 1975. Don worked for NBC and was assigned to the newsroom at the White House during the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations. He traveled extensively with Air Force One, going to several countries and recording events to be broadcast via NBC. During this time, families were permitted to join staff members, so Betty was able to travel with Air Force One to various destinations within the United States. Betty's hobbies included driving in Auto Road Rallies with her husband as navigator. They competed together in regional events near Washington, D.C. as well as national rallies, where they won numerous trophies. During her high school years, Betty took flying lessons taught by her brother-in-law, Merle Wood, who at that time was a flight instructor at Berlin Airport and later at Burlington Airport. From 1925-1948, while growing up on Elm Grove Farm on VT Rt. 15, halfway between Cambridge and Jeffersonville, she enjoyed helping on the farm in the summer by raking hay with her favorite horse, "Topsy." She often rode horseback with her nextdoor neighbor Charlotte Crane, taking rides high into the hills. Betty was a graduate of Cambridge High School, Johnson Normal School, and the University of Maryland, where she earned a Master's Degree in Education. She taught first and second grade for one year at the Graded School in Underhill, VT and kindergarten for 25 years in Bethesda, MD and Silver



Spring, MD. She spent one summer traveling in Europe with a group from Maryland University, beginning in Bergen, Norway and going south to Portugal. During the summer of 1977, she and her daughter Susan toured and camped across the U.S.A. They also traveled together throughout Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, having an exciting time. The Great Barrier Reef was a treat. Later they visited and stayed with relatives in Alaska, touring the Kenai Peninsula and spending time salmon and halibut fishing. After retiring from teaching, Betty moved back to Vermont and settled on land that once belonged to her father. Here she had the wonderful opportunity to live next door to her son and daughter-in-law and help raise her grandchildren, Ian and Emily. Other hobbies were the love of gardening and beautifying the roadside with daffodils and lupines. She enjoyed reading, word games, traveling, jigsaw puzzles, and cooking. She made the best pies ever! She even won First Place at the Champlain Valley Fair with a strawberry rhubarb pie! She enjoyed photography and made and sold note cards. Several of her photographs are displayed in the office of our local dentist (Dr. Solomon). She was a member of the Vermont Retired Teachers of Lamoille and Franklin Counties. She was also a long-time member of the Essex Junction and Jeri-Hill X.Y.Z. Senior Citizens groups, where she enjoyed meeting and becoming friends with many wonderful and interesting people. Betty leaves behind a son, Laird MacDowell and his wife, Nancy, of Jeffersonville, VT; a daughter, Susan Graves and her husband, Alan, of Reedville, VA; three grandchildren, who affectionately called her "Grammoo" and were the pride and joy of her life: Ian MacDowell and partner Fawn Thompson and great-granddaughter Matilda, and Fawn's son Levi, of Dripping Springs, TX; Emily Wolynski MacDowell and husband Jorge Wolynski, of Milton, VT; Alan Graves, Jr. of Kensington, MD; and many beloved members of her extended family. She was predeceased by two sisters, Abbie Marsh and Mary Wood; and five nephews: John Marsh, Page Marsh, Rex Marsh, Danny Marsh, and Merle Wood, Jr. The family thanks the excellent staff of the Brownway Residence in Enosburg Falls and Bayada Hospice for their care and attention. There will be no funeral service and a private celebration of her life will be held at the convenience of her family. If desired, contributions in her memory may be made to the Vermont Land Trust through their website: www.vlt.org. You are invited to share your memories and condolences by visiting awrfh.com.

COLLEGE HONORS

Jonathan Thomas Aselin of Jericho Center, VT has been named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2021 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY. Aselin is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.

Devyn Beliveau-Gale of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 President's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Myra Boulanger of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Lucy Boyden of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Samantha Chapman of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Natalie Coddling of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY.

Madison Commo of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Wyatt Cunningham of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Emerson College, Boston, MA. Cunningham is majoring in interdisciplinary and is a member of the Class of 2024.

Madeline Daly of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. Daly is a Communication and Media Arts major.

Emma Forsyth of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

Ryan Gosselin of Waterbury, VT graduated in December 2021 from Castleton University, Castleton, VT and will be recognized during the 235th Commencement.

Samuel Grandfield of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 President's List at Dean College, Franklin, MA.

Colin Green of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Green is in the Bachelor of Science Construction Management program.

Malina Griffiths of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Griffiths is in the Associate of Applied Science Veterinary Technology program.

Carly Hansen of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY. Hansen is a member of the class of 2025 and attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Marie Haviland of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at the University of Rhodesia Island, Kingston, RI.

Kyle M. Hekeler of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY. Hekeler is a senior majoring in civil engineering.

Alex Hill of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Hill is in the Bachelor of Science Architectural Engineering Technology program.

Ethan Howard of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Samuel Keller of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Belmont University, Nashville, TN.

Jordi Kulis of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY. Kulis is a member of the class of 2024 majoring in art and art history, and attended Harwood Union High School.

Lily Loomis of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Mason Maeder of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY. Maeder is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.

Cameron Main of Underhill, VT graduated in December 2021 from Castleton University, Castleton, VT and will be recognized during the 235th Commencement.

Jack Messier of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Alex Pendo of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY. Pendo is a member of the class of 2024 majoring in English, and attended Harwood Union High School.

Rosemarie Phelan of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Stefan Pilo of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY. Pilo is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering.

Brenna Redmond of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

Shane Riddell of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Riddell is in the Bachelor of Science Electromechanical Engineering Technology program.

Owen Senesac of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 President's List at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.

Colby Surprenant of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Surprenant is in the Bachelor of Science Renewable Energy program.

Elizabeth Walko of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 President's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Walko is in the Bachelor of Science of Computer Software Engineering program.

Kayla Yalicki of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT. Yalicki is in the Bachelor of Science Construction Management program.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

UJFD is seeking volunteers

Are you a resident of Underhill or Jericho? Are you at least 18 years old? Do you want to serve your community? Are you interested in training with a close-knit group of people to learn a skill that will help make your community a safer place? Do you want to be a firefighter or medical first responder?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you should consider joining the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD). We are currently looking for applicants to join our next firefighter apprentice class in March. For anyone interested in medical first response, we will provide or coordinate EMS training. No previous emergency services experience is necessary.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please email info@ujfd.org or call our Duty Officer, Andy Forsberg, 802-899-4025. Learn more about the UJFD at <http://www.UJFD.org>. Applications for membership can be downloaded directly at https://www.ujfd.org/_files/ugd/09e61b_8dca750a948c49f3b346cd575b8f5246.pdf.

Cambridge Rescue Squad E-911 reflective signs available

Cambridge Rescue now offers 911 Reflective Address Signs. Reflective 911 address signs are durable address signs made of reflective material that make them easy to spot from the road. These reflective signs are easily installed on the façade of a home or on a mailbox and are intended to help police, fire, and emergency responders find your home in the case of an emergency. Please visit our website at <http://cambridgerescue.com>

and click the link labeled *E-911 Road Sign Program*. The cost of the signs is \$20, with proceeds going back to support our local EMS volunteers.

Cambridge Rescue is actively looking for volunteers. If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity to give back to your community, take a moment to visit our website and fill out an application. Please follow us on Facebook for CRS updates and live feeds.

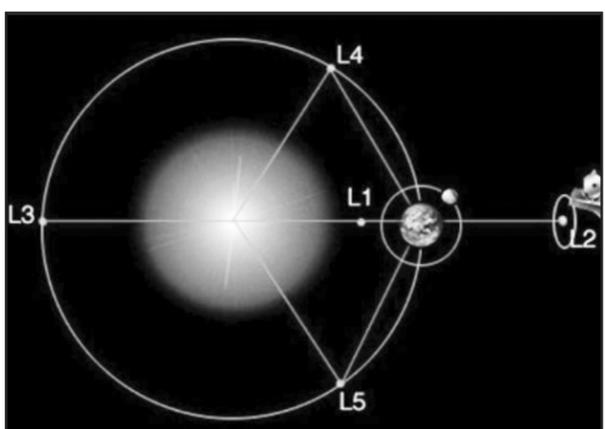
Free VSCS virtual job fair through May 31

Are you looking for work, an internship, or a volunteer opportunity?

The Free Virtual Job and Internship Fair organized by the Vermont State Colleges System offers a great way to connect with businesses throughout Vermont and beyond. The Virtual Fair runs through May 31.

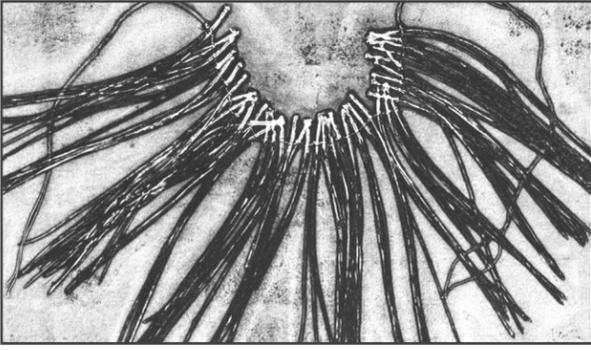
See the Virtual Job and Internship Fair web page at <https://www.vsc.edu/jobfair/> for direct access to more than 200 businesses, organizations, and schools announcing opportunities through the Fair. New opportunities will be added each week to the listing, and employers may join in throughout the spring semester.

Northern Vermont University Career Services staff are available to answer your questions. Contact Beth Walsh, Director of Career Development, NVU-Johnson.Beth.Walsh@NorthernVermont.edu, or Amy Wright, Director of Career Services, NVU-Lyndon.Amy.Wright@NorthernVermont.edu.



View larger. | A body's distance from the sun, and the speed it maintains to keep that distance, are correlated. There are 5 points in the Earth-sun system where a spacecraft can move at such a speed that the craft stays put relative to the Earth and sun. These are the 5 Lagrange points, shown here. Webb is headed to L2, about a million miles (1.5 million km) from Earth, about 4 times farther away than the moon. Image via NASA. Not to scale.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



The Diane Gabriel Visual Artist Award was established in 2021 by the family of Diane Gabriel (1947-2017), one of Vermont's most celebrated artists and educators. This award is given on an annual basis to emerging Vermont-based artists to support their creative development. The award recipient will receive a \$1500 cash stipend and a \$1000 value toward class registration and/or usage of BCA Studio facilities for one year. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, March 31, 2022. Crystal Stokes was the inaugural winner of the Diane Gabriel Visual Artist Award in 2021. Based in central Vermont, Stokes works primarily in portraiture as she explores the intersection of photography and painting. Capturing moments that may otherwise go unnoticed, Stokes combines keen observation with dramatic contrasts of light and dark to investigate the beauty of the world. Artists are encouraged to visit <https://burlingtoncityarts.org/> for more information and can apply at <https://burlingtoncityarts.awardsplatform.com/>. For more information, contact Colin Storrs, cstorrs@burlingtoncityarts.org.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jericho Town Hall Art: Tracks. The latest exhibit of art within the Jericho Town Hall, *Tracks*, is now hung. It is open to all to view during regular Town Hall hours. The Town Hall does require masks to be worn inside the building. The show will run through April. Stop by to see how various artists viewed the theme. To pique your interest, Angelike Contis of MMCTV has created a short video of the work at <https://archive.org/details/jericho-art-tracks-jan-2022>. The video will also be posted on the Join in Jericho site.

VT Arts Council offers grants: Artist Development Grants help artists at all stages in their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills or that increase the viability of an artist's business. Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity.

Eligible expenses for such activities include, but are not limited to: advanced study of technique or practice with a mentor; attending a professional conference to build business or artistic skills or knowledge; contracting professional services including photographic documentation of work, contract preparation or business incorporation, creation of accounting systems, developing e-commerce on a website, creation of marketing materials, etc.; marketing, planning, purchasing some materials, or renting studio space (outside of your own home) to create new exhibitions or performances; travel within the United States. Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, we are able to increase the maximum grant amount this year to \$2000. The application deadline is Monday, February 14 at 11:59 PM. For more information and links to the application process, go online to <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/artist-development>.

Creation Grants support artists in creating new work. Grant funds may be used to compensate the artists for time spent creating new work, to purchase materials, or to rent equipment or space for the process. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Examples of fundable projects include: a multimedia artist creating a new video series; a writer completing the first draft of a novel; a dance ensemble developing choreography for a new piece; a visual artist creating art for exhibition that explores new subjects and techniques; a musician composing music for a new album. The application deadline is Monday, April 4, 11:59 PM. For more information and links to the application process, go online to <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/creation>.

Vermont Arts Council changed its grant management systems in early 2021. If you have applied for a grant using our old system, your login credentials will no longer work. All applicants, new and old, must register in this new system using the "Register" link on the portal landing page. If you have questions or problems with registration or signing in, please contact Meredith Bell, mbell@vermontartscouncil.org, with "Grant Portal Access Help" in the subject line.

Unbound and Bradley Borthwick: Objects of Empire will be at the BCA Center, Burlington, Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM through February 5, 2022. Come explore our fall exhibitions! *Unbound* features the work of three New England artists — Rachel Gross, Rob Hitzig, and Kirsten Reynolds — who explore contemporary approaches to abstraction through their use of geometric, shaped forms that push outside the boundaries of the common rectangle. *Bradley Borthwick: Objects of Empire* examines the shared cycles of civilization, combining exquisitely hand-carved marble and cast beeswax reproductions of headstones and amphora with a rhythmic soundscape to create an experiential exploration of memory, place, history, and cultural connection. BCA Exhibitions are funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and Vermont Arts Council.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce the return of MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, through May 2022. For this festival, MNFF Selects presents *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*. The series illuminates the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. Passes: individual tickets \$16 (under 12, \$7) available at www.midfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. COVID-19 protocol: All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated; and all attendees, including children under 12, must wear masks while inside the theater.

Upcoming films in the Series:

Duma [PG] Sunday, February 20, 2:00 PM. In this drama directed by Carroll Ballard, an orphaned cheetah becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film and inspired by a true story, *Duma* offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassion in a beautiful and grand landscape.

Buck [PG] Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM. Directed by Cindy Meehl; winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, *Buck* is a revealing examination of the life of acclaimed "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people.

Grizzly Man [R] Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM. Director Werner Herzog delivers a heartrending docudrama that centers on amateur grizzly bear expert Timothy Treadwell, who periodically journeyed to Alaska to study and live with the bears. He was killed, along with his girlfriend Amie Huguenard, by a bear in October 2003. Winner of the 2006 Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary, *Grizzly Man* is an epic tale of the profound and fraught relationship between a man and the animals he dared to befriend.

The Rider [R] Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM. The highly acclaimed second feature from Oscar-winning director Chloe Zhao tells the poignant story of a young rodeo cowboy who, after suffering a near fatal head injury, begins a search for new identity, seeking to know what it means to be a man in the heartland of America. Focusing on life in the indigenous community of the Pine Ridge reservation, Zhao offers a penetrating vision of masculinity and humility set in a world where humans and animals intimately co-exist.

For more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: <http://www.midfilmfest.org>.

Miscellaneous continued from page 7

Urgent call for a foster home: special needs child

Dept. for Children and Families, Vermont

The story below represents the need for foster care providers, and, although fictitious, this story is not unlike many of the children and youth who are in foster care. We are recruiting for safe and caring homes of all types for children and youth throughout the state. You can be married or single, gay or straight, with children at home, or an empty nester. Might you consider becoming a foster, kin, or respite care provider? As a trained care provider, you will be giving the gift of stability to a child. You will be fully supported, trained, and provided a stipend for any child or youth placed in your care. Find out more. Thank you!

Have you ever tried to walk UP an escalator that's going down? That's how it feels for Marta — a 14-year-old girl with special needs who lives in a world that operates one way while she sometimes operates another. So, if you become Marta's foster family, here is what you'll need to know:

She loves dogs! She loves being outside and going for long bike rides. And she loves being the oldest sibling in a family. She also has special needs that require a level of skill and patience from her care providers.

Is your family right for Marta? Can you ensure that Marta stays connected with important people in her life even if she lives with you? Could you also work with Marta's birth mother toward hopeful reunification? Can you help her develop coping skills that keep her safe? Could you learn to read Marta's nonverbal cues, especially when she's stressed? Can you help her to maintain connections to school supports and through counseling? All these things will help Marta feel wanted, connected, and a little less stressed about being in foster care.

Foster care will be challenging, but it will also be one of the most meaningful decisions you'll ever make.

To learn more, go to <http://fostercare.vt.gov>. If you want to be contacted, complete the form at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fostercare-inquiry>.

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

Are you healthy? Are you in a low-risk category for COVID-19? If so, please visit us on the web at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>.

KEEP LOCAL KIDS LOCAL.

Efficiency Vermont 2022 Rebates

If you're planning on improving the efficiency of your home or apartment this year, make sure you take a look at Efficiency Vermont's 2022 residential rebates list below. (All offers are subject to availability and eligibility. Visit <http://www.energycyvermont.com/rebates> for the most up to date listing.)

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility. You can sign up to be notified about new offers at <http://www.energycyvermont.com/newsletter-sign-up>.

Air Sealing and Insulation

- Comprehensive Weatherization: 50% off project costs up to \$3000 (completed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor)
- DIY weatherization: \$100 back on select do-it-yourself

projects

Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

- Air-to-water Heat pump: Up to \$1000/ton rebate + \$500 income bonus
- Ducted Heat pump: \$1000 off + \$200 income bonus
- Ductless Heat pump: Discount starting at \$350 + \$200 income bonus
- Ground source Heat pump: up to \$2100/ton + \$500 income bonus
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$300-600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces and boilers: \$6000 rebate
- Wood and Pellet Stoves: \$200 discount at select retailers

Appliances

- Heat Pump Clothes dryers: \$200-400
- Dehumidifiers: \$25-\$40

Electric Vehicles

- Federal tax credit: up to \$7500
- State incentive: up to \$4000
- Electric Utility incentive: \$500-2500
- Income-eligible Vermonters can get up to \$5000 more on a used EV through <http://MileageSmartVT.org>

Lighting

- Discounts on select ENERGY STAR LED fixtures at participating retailers
- LEDs for indoor growing: \$100 rebate for qualifying fixture

Income Based Assistance — additional help is available in the form of free lighting, appliances, energy consultations, and more — <http://www.energycyvermont.com/free-products> to find out if you are eligible.

Funding available for Spark Connecting Community Grants

Funding is now available for organizations and projects across the state of Vermont through the Vermont Community Foundation's Spark Connecting Community competitive grant program.

Spark supports projects that nurture community and build social capital — the connective tissue of our communities. The program prioritizes community resilience and strength, increased civic engagement, and collaboration among organizations.

This is a unique moment for Vermont communities. Because of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the infrastructure bill, and other state and federal funding opportunities, applicants should be aware that a Spark grant can be used to help communities plan how to use public grant dollars most effectively. For example, this might include a design conversation to inform community and/or town-led funding decisions and activities.

Spark awards grants of \$500-\$3000. First-time grant writers are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Visit vermontcf.org/spark to learn more and apply.

From Johnson Food Shelf — all are welcome!

The Johnson Food Shelf is open Tuesday and Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and Wednesday, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. They are located at 661 Railroad Street and their phone number is 802-635-9003.

Johnson Food Shelf has frozen meats, grains, beans, dairy products, bread and sweet treats, ready-to-eat canned goods, canned and fresh fruits and veggies, as well as toilet products and dish and laundry soaps. The Food Shelf does home deliveries, and all are welcome!

The Johnson Food Shelf would also like to thank the surrounding communities for their continued donations!

Electric vehicles: maintaining an EV

By Ruth Machell Julianelle

Underhill Energy Committee Member

The Underhill Energy Committee is continuing to answer questions people have about electric vehicles. These FAQs are not intended to be a binding, finally definitive document, but should give enough information and resource websites that a reader can get a general appreciation of facts. If a reader wants updated or detailed information, they should talk directly to dealerships and reference web sites with updated information.

How do I maintain an EV?

There is much less maintenance required to be done on an EV than a gas-powered car, as there are many fewer parts. A mechanic or DIYer will already know how to do much of the maintenance on an EV: hydraulic brakes, suspension systems, tires, etc., and these would require standard parts. The hydraulic brake systems would be expected to last longer, as they are used less often than in conventional cars.

Servicing the battery packs and motor would require specialized knowledge and should never be worked on by anyone except a trained professional. The power train will require fluid changes and the cooling systems (engine and battery) may require flushing or coolant changes, although these would be infrequent. These types of systems will vary as some are air cooled and some are liquid cooled.

You will not need traditional oil changes.

The life of the battery packs are typically expected to be over 100,000 miles. Some projections forecast 200,000 miles. Some things an owner can do to preserve the long life of a battery are:

- avoid extreme temperatures;
- avoid fully charging or fully depleting the battery;
- avoid regular use of DC fast chargers (Level 3). Use level 1 or 2 most often. Some studies have found that using a level 3 regularly reduces the battery capacity by 4% over level 2 after 50,000 miles

EV manufacturers generally offer guarantees of eight years or 100,000 miles on batteries. A buyer would need to look into whether this specifies complete failure or reduced charging ability.

Miscellaneous continued on page 9

NEWS BRIEFS

Watch your mail for IRS letters 6475 and 6419

The IRS is sending out letters 6475 for the third economic impact (stimulus) payment, and letter 6419 for advance child tax credit payment. (In the case of the 6419, a married couple should each receive a letter.) The dollar amounts from these letters should be used when preparing your 2021 tax returns.

If you feel that there is a difference between the dollar amounts received for the third economic impact payment and/or for the advance child tax credit payment and what was reported on letters 6419 and 6475, take the following steps:

- Double check your bank account for the payment(s);
- Request a payment tracer by calling the IRS at 800-919-9835 or mail or fax a completed Form 3911;
- Go to <http://eipcard.com> to get an EIP debit card reissued (for the third EIP only).

While we are going through the recent interruptions in delivery of our mail, it's important this time of year to be aware of correspondence related to the preparation of the 2021 tax returns. If it's an option, please help our local post office by stopping by to pick up mail you may feel is missing/late.

Bolton Town Meeting 2022 update

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

There will be no in-person town meeting in 2022.

There will be a virtual public informational hearing held on Monday, February 28, 6:30 PM. There will be NO voting at this hearing.

There will be in-person voting for all warned articles by Australian ballot at Smilie School on Tuesday, March 1, from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

Absentee/early voter ballots can be requested, as usual, either online through My Voter Page <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or by contacting the Town Office.

See the town website for additional and updated information: <https://boltonvt.com/about/town-reports-and-town-meetings/>.

Cambridge Lister reminds residents: file Homestead Declaration

By Dale Copping, Cambridge Lister

2021 Income Tax filing season is upon us. This notification from the Town of Cambridge Listers is a reminder to file HS-122 Vermont Homestead Declaration. This form must be filed every year by every Vermont resident whose property meets the definition of a homestead.

A Vermont Homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by a resident individual as the individual's domicile on April 1, 2022. If your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2022, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2022 calendar year. You must claim any business or rental use of the dwelling.

You should also file HI-144 Household Income as you may qualify for a property tax credit. The forms must be submitted by April 15, 2022 even if you file for an extension on your 2021 taxes. If filed after April 15, 2022 the Town of Cambridge will access a 3% late filing fee. The deadline for filing these forms with the State of Vermont is October 17, 2022. If filed past this date you will not be able to claim a homestead or be eligible for a property tax credit. The forms are available on the Agency of Taxes website: <https://tax.vermont.gov/search/node?keys=HS-122>.

MMCTV offers to make free videos for local board candidates

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV) will again be making free campaign videos for local candidates for board positions ahead of Town Meeting Day voting. If you are a candidate who'd like to connect with viewers on Comcast cable and online, let us know and we'll arrange to film you in a socially distanced way and share the video with the public.

If you'd like to learn more about what you're voting on, check out our live streams ahead of Town Meeting day of special selectboard and school district budget/voting informational meetings on MMCTV's Youtube channel (<http://bit.ly/MmctvYoutube>) and Comcast Cable Ch. 1086.

Jericho winter snow removal alert 2022

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

January 18

In the wake of the first major storm of the new year, big props to our Highway Department and their snow clearing effort. It has been a busy 48 hours...

We are reaching out today to remind neighbors of an easily accessible snow removal notification page located on the "Join In Jericho" website.

In the wake of recent increases in COVID driven illness, we are not immune. If the Highway Department is experiencing staffing shortages that could impact snow removal capability or time tables, you can find this information by visiting the site below:

The Town will post the current status online at <http://www.jerichovt.org/2020-2021-winter-alert>.

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District as well as the Vermont State Police Williston Headquarters will be notified. You can register to receive email notifications on this page, by clicking the "Stay Informed" widget on the right sidebar. Thanks!

Westford Town Office news

Dog Licenses are due by April 1. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let us know. For your convenience you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you. The fee until April 1 is \$13 for intact dogs and \$11 if your dog is spayed or neutered. Dog licenses obtained after April 1 are subject to a late fee.

The Town Office is open to the public! The office is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, and Friday, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Masks are required for unvaccinated people.

There are several municipal job openings in Westford: Dog Warden, Recreation Coordinator, Tree Warden, and Assistant Town Clerk. Contact the Town Hall for more information, 802-878-4587.

Open seat on Underhill Recreation Committee

The Underhill Recreation Committee is seeking a motivated and engaged Underhill resident to fill an open seat on the Recreation Committee. If you love the idea of supporting an active and vibrant community, building community, and helping to engage residents to take advantage of our incredible local outdoor resources, please consider joining the Recreation Committee.

The seven-member all-volunteer Recreation Committee is responsible for multiple aspects of recreation in the Town of Underhill. The committee manages the Town Pond and Recreation Area on Stevensville Road, maintains the ice rink in Moore Park, puts on multiple annual events including summer food truck/music nights in Moore Park, pumpkin carving in Moore Park, and supports recreation opportunities in Tomasi Meadow like cross country skiing, among other things.

Recreation Committee members attend monthly meetings at the Town Hall, and help out at multiple events throughout the year, listed above. In many respects, the time spent at events and doing things like keeping the ice clear at the skating rink and the water flowing into and out of the town pond are the most important roles of the members.

If you are an Underhill resident and are interested in joining the committee, or you would like to discuss the roles and responsibilities further, please contact Committee Chair Anton Kelsey at anton@lavjaveler.com.

Westford Selectboard draft minutes

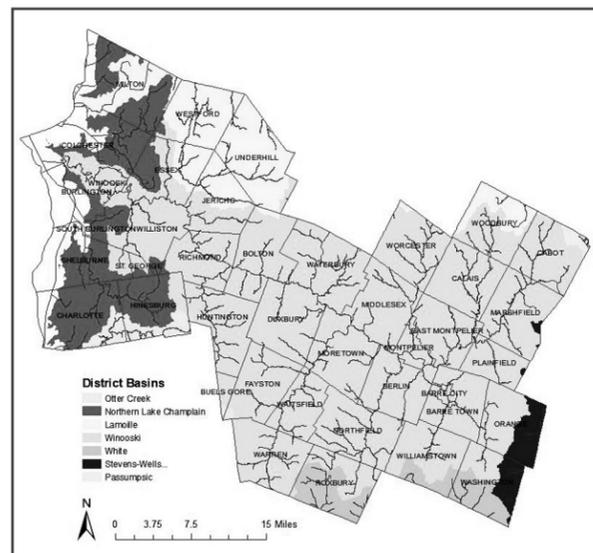
By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

You can now view the draft minutes from the Thursday, January 13 Selectboard Meeting. Read them here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-01-13-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Jericho: changes for local candidates, school voting 2022

By Jessica Alexander, Jericho Town Clerk

Election law changes for Annual Town Meeting 2022 have been signed by the Governor so that: all Jericho Town Meeting articles will be by Australian Ballot (no in-person Jericho Town meeting in 2022), candidates for local election only needed to



This map shows the towns served by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD). The organization's annual tree sale is focused on pollinators this year; its online catalog may be found at <https://winooskinrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-Tree-Sale-Brochure-WNRCD.pdf>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

WNRCD annual tree sale

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) hosts an annual tree sale to help residents of our District access affordable native tree and shrub species, and as a fundraiser for our organization. Proceeds from the sale are used to support our work developing and implementing on-the-ground projects that protect natural resources.

This year we emphasize tree and shrub species that benefit native pollinators like bees, moths, and butterflies.

We do not grow plants on site; rather, we source trees, shrubs, and starts from wholesale nurseries in VT, NY, MA, and MI. We research each species to ensure that it is appropriate for planting in our District.

Please review our online brochure (<https://winooskinrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-Tree-Sale-Brochure-WNRCD.pdf>) to learn important information about the sale and plant species before placing an order.

All orders must be submitted by Thursday, March 31. For help placing your order online, contact info@winooskinrcd.org.

Orders are available for pickup from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 30, only. Failure to pick up your order at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the order without refund.

We do not offer warranty on any products. To minimize losses, please follow planting and care instructions in the brochure closely. Refunds will only be issued if we are unable to fulfill part of your order at the time of pickup.

file a consent of candidate form by January 24, and nominating petitions are not required for local candidates at the annual town meeting.

School Boards of union school districts typically required to co-mingle ballots of the member towns may vote not to require the commingling of ballots. Instead the School Board may allow the ballots to be counted in each of the member towns, with the results being reported by each member town to the school district clerk.

Westford seeking town tree warden

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

The Town of Westford is seeking a person to fill the role of tree warden. This is a volunteer position. Westford residency is not required but is preferred.

The duties of the tree warden include enforcing all laws relating to shade trees and posting public notice of the intent to cut or remove a shade tree or group of shade trees. As an appointed official, the tree warden may also perform other related duties as designated by the Selectboard.

For more information on the role of the Tree Warden, please go online to <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/vermont-tree-wardens-0>.

To be considered for the tree warden position, please submit a letter of interest to Town of Westford, Attn: Nanette Rogers, 1713 VT Rt. 128, Westford, VT 05494, or townadmin@westfordvt.us.

For more information contact Nanette Rogers, 802-878-4587 or townadmin@westfordvt.us.

Miscellaneous continued from page 8

How long do electric car batteries last?
CARFAX: <https://www.carfax.com/blog/how-long-do-electric-car-batteries-last>

Many mechanics that are not at dealerships are building their skill bases for the newer and unique systems in EVs. Training is available from parts suppliers. As EVs become more common (GM and Volvo will be all EV in a few years), private mechanics will be trained to work on them. Some private mechanics can now do everything except work on problems related to the electric drive system.

Tesla does not have traditional dealerships with repair facilities. They have mobile service technicians that are dispatched to work on your vehicle. At present, while there are no Tesla brick-and-mortar centers in Vermont, Tesla owners do have access to these technicians.

The following website gives some detail on maintenance and safety:

Alternative Fuels Data Center: Maintenance and Safety of Hybrid and Plug-In Electric Vehicles https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric_maintenance.html.

United Way Volunteer Opportunities

LEND A HAND — VOLUNTEER. United Way of Northwest Vermont's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, but opportunities are increasing. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED — Green Mountain Habitat invites an experienced videographer to help record their work at job sites and at their ReStore. If you have experience with DSLR or Video Camera, and are adept at editing video with software such as Premier or After Effects and have the software on your personal device, this opportunity is for you! Flexible scheduling in a fast-paced, often outdoor environment. If this opportunity interests you, send two or three samples or a social media handle to kali@vermonthabitat.org.

LIGHT CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECTS — Maquam Bay of Missisquoi has a number of small jobs that need attention at their Tribal Office. Tasks include replacing pillars in front of the building and hanging a large message board. They'll provide the materials, you provide the labor. Flexible scheduling. Email

info@abenakination.com.

A SERVING NEED — ANEW Place is looking for volunteers, age 18 and older, to serve an evening meal provided by New Moon Catering between 6:00 – 8:30 PM at Champlain Inn Low Barrier Temporary Housing Facility. All volunteers must be fully vaccinated or have a negative test result a week before volunteering. Masks are required. Contact Andre Clark, aclark@anewplacevt.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA GURU — Trinity Educational Center is in need of a volunteer to create a website, newsletter, and engaging social media about the Infinite Center for teens at University Mall in South Burlington. The Center is a safe after-school and evening place for teens to socialize, do homework, and participate in activities. Flexible scheduling. Contact Travia Child, dr.travia.c@gmail.com.

BUSINESS MENTOR — SCORE is looking for volunteer advisers to help aspiring and existing individuals and small businesses solve problems, become more efficient, and develop long-term business plans. By sharing a few hours a week, you can help a small business achieve new levels of success! Flexible scheduling. Email recruiting0284@scorevolunteer.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. February 13: Sarah Ward. 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 exclusively held over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We are young and old; single, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. All are welcome. Some people think of us as the Harvest Market Church or the Clutter Barn Church. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children's sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 802-899-4583.

Church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our

web-space! https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch or https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC.

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. Services continue to be live virtual for the coming weeks. To join in: Zoom links are provided via Good Shepherd's communication document called the E-Bulletin. Subscribe ahead of time, by the Tuesday prior to a service you hope to attend, at www.goodshepherdjericho.org. You need to subscribe only once, and you can unsubscribe at any time. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. In addition, online offerings include Monday evening Prayerful Meditation, Tuesday Evening Prayer, and Centering Prayer on Friday mornings. Good Shepherd also hosts the monthly online Racism in America Forum. 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. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information at 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church in Jericho, now worships virtually via Zoom on Sundays at 9:30 AM due to the Omicron variant's rapid spread throughout Vermont. If you would like the worship service login information, please contact the parish administrator at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453. All are warmly invited!

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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



Winter has come to the Browns River, which is frozen over. PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

SPORTS NEWS

Girls on the Run coach registration open now!

As a Girls on the Run (grades 3-5) or Heart & Sole (grades 6-8) coach, you make a difference. You empower participants with critical life skills — such as identifying and managing emotions, resolving conflicts, standing up for themselves and others, making intentional decisions, and building positive relationships. It's time to show up for your community's youth.

Seeing a girl activate her limitless potential is extraordinary. But being part of that transformation can be absolutely life changing. Our youth are navigating an increasingly complex world and facing new challenges at school, at home, in their peer groups, and throughout their communities. Will you be there for her, for them, this spring?

You do not need to be a runner, nor have coaching experience to volunteer. We train you and provide a comprehensive curriculum and resources.

Register online at https://www.gotrvt.org/coach. Participant registration will open Wednesday, March 2, online at https://www.gotrvt.org/.

Westford Women's Futsal registration now open

Women's Futsal, Session 2, sponsored by the Westford Recreation Department, will run on Thursdays, February 10-April 21, 7:30 - 9:00 PM. The cost is \$45 per ten0week session (no play during school breaks).

The play will be held at the Westford School gym. Masks are required.

To register online: https://forms.gle/1nPDEvP6FeoCxKGD6. The link is also available on the town website, at https://westfordvt.us/recreation/.

Group fitness classes at Cambridge Community Center

Group fitness classes have begun at the Cambridge Community Center. They run Monday-Friday at 6:30 and 8:00 AM, and Saturday at 8:00 and 9:30 AM, and will be running through the week of February 13. You can sign up for the full session or individual classes. All ages and abilities are welcome. Classes include Beginner Strength, Intermediate Strength, and a Strength/Plyometric hybrid class.

For more information and to sign up, contact taylorjoyfitness@gmail.com or go online to https://www.thecambridgecc.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30910.

BRLI registration open; girls' softball returns

Registration is now open for the 2022 Browns River Little League season for boys and girls in Jericho and Underhill, aged 4-12! Register online (only) at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com. Registration is open through Tuesday, March 15 for 4-8 year olds. Early registration is important for league planning so don't delay.

Mount Mansfield Girls' Lacrosse Club registration is open

Welcome to the 2022 season of middle school girls' lacrosse — Mount Mansfield Girls' Lacrosse Club.

This program is for girls in grades 4-8. The season starts at the end of March (depending on snow) and runs through the first week of June.

Practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. Games are Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June.

Please email melissamutolo@live.com for registration.

Cambridge Youth Soccer Spring Registration

Cambridge Youth Soccer is excited to announce that registration is now open for our Spring season. Teams for girls and boys are offered from pre-K through U16, depending on enrollment. For more information please go online to https://system.gotsport.com/programs/842N25686?reg_role=player.

Also, we are eagerly seeking individuals with time and energy to serve who may be interested in joining our board, as well as volunteers interested in working with us in other capacities, such as fields and equipment and program boosterism. Thanks!

The legal voters of the Town of Underhill, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at Underhill Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Road, in said Town on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to transact the following articles by Australian Ballot.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT QUESTIONS

- Article 1 Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
Article 2 To elect all Town Officers and School Directors as required by law.
Article 3 Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,256,766 of which \$939,278 shall be raised by taxes, \$317,488 by non-tax revenues, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2664?
Article 4 Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$1,740,384 of which \$1,320,884 shall be raised by taxes, \$419,500 by non-tax revenue pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2664?
Article 5 Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a dump truck and borrow an amount not to exceed \$192,000 for a term not to exceed five years, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1786 a(b)?
Article 6 Shall the voters approve a full-time administrative position to support staff at the town hall?

Selectboard Members:

Handwritten signatures of Daniel Steinbauer, Robert Stone, and Patricia Richards with their names printed below.

Received for record this 28 day of January 2022 at Underhill.

ATTEST: [Signature] , Town Clerk

SCHOOL NEWS

MMUUSD PreK registration is open

By Jenna Stewart • Communications Coordinator and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, MMUUSD
Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) is excited to continue providing pre-kindergarten opportunities to families. The Universal Pre-K bill (Act 166) entitles all three-, four-, and five-year-olds (not attending kindergarten) to receive 10 hours per week of publicly funded Pre-K for 35 weeks. This education can be in any pre-qualified private program or home-based program, with a tuition of \$3656 paid to the provider by the school district. If a child attends a MMUUSD public school-based Pre-K, the program is free of charge. However, there may be a lottery for school-based programs.

If you have a returning PreK student in a school-based or private program, please go to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and fill out the enrollment form at <https://mmusd.powerschool.com/public>. Once logged in, click on the *Quick Links — Powerteacher Portal Home*, then click on *eCollect* forms. If you are interested in your child attending a school-based program, please complete this form by Thursday, March 3, 2022. If you have any questions about Powerschool, contact Wendy Garrapy, data@mmusd.org.

If you have a new PreK student, please complete the online enrollment form by Thursday, March 3, 2022 at <https://tinyurl.com/wpu67f3>. Once the form has been submitted, you will receive an email from data@mmusd.org within 24 hours with instructions on how to proceed with the registration process (wait times may be longer on weekends, holidays, and school breaks). Once the PowerSchool Portal link is emailed to you, log in, complete the required forms and upload a proof of residency and a birth certificate in order to be fully registered. If you do not receive an email with a PowerSchool Portal, please contact *Wendy Garrapy* at data@mmusd.org.

If you choose a school-based option, completing the registration by Thursday, March 3, 2022 ensures your child's name is entered into the lottery process. Placement letters will be sent out by Friday, March 11, 2022. If you have questions, or need help filling out the online forms or uploading documents, please contact Kyle Hibbard, kyle.hibbard@mmusd.org or 802-434-2962.

Part 2: The Early Years offers wraparound care including after school care (2:30 – 5:30 PM) for SMS, BP, and RES students. If you are interested in signing up for Part 2, registration will open on Monday, March 14. For those families who are in need of five full days (7:30 AM – 5:30 PM) of preschool for their child, Part 2: The Early Years will be prioritizing full time enrollment for the first three days that registration is open. For more information visit <http://part2kids.com/>.

Saxon Hill School will offer after school care (2:30 – 4:30 PM) to students that attend Underhill ID Preschool. After school registration will also open for SHS on Monday, March 14. I look forward to working with you and supporting your child's PreK education. For more information, please contact registrar@saxonhillschool.org.

Growing Works of Art contest calls for tree stories

Grade K-8 students, including homeschoolers, are invited to share their appreciation for forests and trees by creating an original story and artwork for the *Growing Works of Art* contest.

The deadline to enter is Friday, March 11.

The theme of this year's contest is *Sharing your TREE-mendous story*. Students are asked to write a short story (one to three paragraphs) about a meaningful experience or memory about trees, and then create a work of art to illustrate their story. Entries will be judged on creativity and originality (50%) and how well the story is told through writing and art (50%).

All art must be original and no larger than 11"x17". Any medium may be used, including pen, pencil, crayon, pastels, paint, cloth, collage, photography, or computer-generated art.

Entries may be submitted by mail or email but must include the official entry form, which can be found at <http://go.uvm.edu/growingart> along with contest rules and submission guidelines. Past winning entries also are available to view on this website.

The winner in each age group will receive a Vermont State Park punch pass and will appear on *Across the Fence*, UVM Extension's weekday program on WCAX-TV (if possible, in 2022). Winning entries will be announced on Vermont's Arbor Day, which is May 6 this year, and will be featured on the contest website.

The contest is sponsored annually by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, a partnership between University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, as part of its Arbor Day activities.

For more information contact Gwen Kozlowski, gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu or 802-651-8343, ext. 506.

Preschool registration open at Saxon Hill School

Your preschooler will thrive at Saxon Hill School in Jericho, with an awesome and dedicated group of teachers and a wonderful, creative group of kids. Find more information and enroll for the 2022-2023 school year: <https://saxonhillschool.org/admissions/registration>. Saxon Hill is Act 166 approved and NAEYC accredited.

Registration dates were in January for currently-enrolled students; open through February 4 for siblings and alumni; and February 5-11 for new families.

For more information please visit <http://www.saxonhillschool.org/> or email secretary@saxonhillschool.org.

Visit NVU in February, right where you are

Find your direction North! Register for a Virtual Open House in February at Northern Vermont University. Meet with faculty, staff, and current students to learn about programs, our admissions process, student life, and athletics.

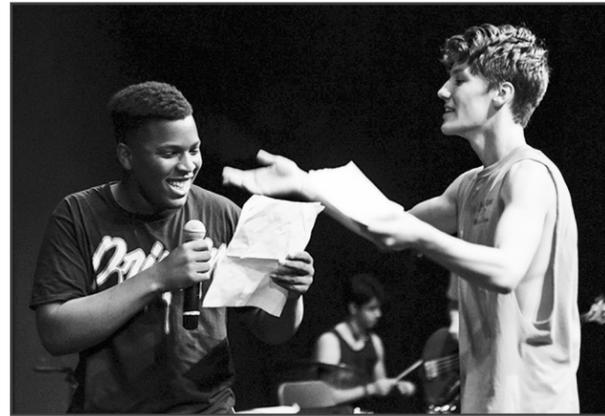
NVU-Lyndon Virtual Open House: Wednesday, February 16, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/LyndonVirtualOH>.

NVU-Johnson Virtual Open House: Thursday, February 17, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/JohnsonVirtualOH>.

You can schedule your own information session, too, in person or virtual. Register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/Visit>.

Virtual Campus Tours are always available. See <https://NorthernVermont.edu/Visit>.

Questions? Reach out to Admissions@NorthernVermont.edu.



VT students create the future at Governor's Institutes

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) has just opened applications for its nine in-person, residential summer programs. Passionate Vermont students in grades 9-11 are invited to apply!

Each Institute takes place on a Vermont college campus, and gives its attendees the opportunity to dive deep into a topic of interest for an intensive one to two weeks. Subjects include Arts, Astronomy, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science & Technology, Global Issues & Youth Action, Health & Medicine, Mathematical Sciences, and Technology & Design.

At GIV, students learn from industry professionals, participate in hands-on projects and research, and explore career options — all while having fun and making friends! These programs are designed to be affordable to all Vermont families, and tuition is based on a sliding scale to ensure that. Students can pay as little as \$10 to attend.

"[Experiences] like GIV can change a person's life," said one recent Entrepreneurship student. "I learned so much about people, and changed the way I think about things thanks to the new friends I made. I gained skills that I know will really be helpful down the road in my career, and I can pass them on just like how they were passed on to me."

This summer will mark the first time GIV has hosted in-person Institutes since the winter of 2020. For the past two years, all of its programming pivoted to an online format, encouraging students to engage in hands-on learning from their own homes.

"We're immensely proud of what GIV and its students have accomplished in an online environment," says Program Coordinator Ross Cagenello. "Honestly, it's made us all the more excited to return to in-person programming! After all, if our students can coordinate and submit a bill to the Vermont legislature over Zoom, there's no telling what amazing things they'll make happen when we're all together again."

To learn more about GIV's 2022 summer Institutes, please visit www.giv.org, or email hello@giv.org with any questions. Students can visit www.giv.org/apply to fill out a simple application.

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that welcomes business sponsorships and individual donations to help fund GIV's efforts to deliver high quality programming to all interested Vermont students, regardless of their family's finances. If you are in a position to give, please call 802-865-4448 or visit www.giv.org/support.

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