

Browns Trace bridge to be replaced; road to be closed, with detour

From the Jericho Town Hall
During July and August 2025 the Town of Jericho will be doing road work on Browns Trace, which will involve closing a section of road for the duration of the project. Plan ahead for detours and get updates at <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=12j634>.
Traffic will be maintained on an offsite detour during a 45-day bridge closure.
The bridge to be replaced is Bridge No. 15 on Browns Trace, over Mill Brook. Bridge 15 (pictured at right) is a Town-owned bridge

located approximately 3.3 miles north of the junction with U.S. Rt. 2.
The Jericho Bridge 15 project includes the replacement of the existing single span concrete T-beam bridge. The existing structure has a length of 39' and a width of 35'. The structure currently has a deck rating of 6 (Satisfactory), a superstructure rating of 5 (Fair), and a substructure rating of 5 (Fair). This bridge was constructed in 1927, and reconstructed in 1962.
The public can contact Information Consultant Toni Pignatelli, 860-321-9017 or toni.m.pignatelli@imegcorp.com for information.



Art and Essay contest celebrates trees



The annual Growing Works of Art Contest encourages students to celebrate their appreciation of and personal connection to trees, through written essays and artwork. The theme for the 2025 contest was *Tree Tales from A to Z*. Students in grades K-8 were asked to chose a letter of the alphabet, identify a tree-themed word beginning with that letter, and write an essay and create a piece of art using any medium.
Entries were judged on creativity and originality (50%) and how well the student conveyed their story through writing and art (50%). The winner in each grade received a Vermont State Park punch pass.
The winning essays and art can be viewed online at <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/arbor-day/growing-works-art-contest>. They also were featured on *Across the Fence*, University of Vermont (UVM) Extension's weekday farm and home program on WCAX-TV, on Friday, May 2. The show can be viewed at <https://go.uvm.edu/atf-youtube>.
Jeffersonville home school student Myriam Girroir captured first place for Grade 7 in the contest, for her artwork pictured above and for her written piece *S is for Sleepless Woods*, both reflecting the contest theme *Tree Tales from A to Z*.

S is for Sleepless Woods By Myriam Girroir

Luna watches me through my window.
I stare at my blank ceiling,
Restlessness.
It's exactly midnight,
My watch reads.
I sit up,
Bundle my sheets around my body like a ghost,
The night has taken me over.

Rabbit tracks lay peacefully on the snow.
Neighborhood birds still sleep.
Snow resting under my feet.
The Moon,
Novelty in the night sky,
Yearns to rest.
The snow fluttering down,
Catching onto branches.

Laying down under a big tree,
Exactly where all can be seen.
Absorbed by nature,
Light headed,
Darkness walks me home.



Jeffersonville home school student Myriam Girroir captured first place for Grade 7 in the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program's Growing Works of Art contest, for her artwork pictured above and for her written piece *S is for Sleepless Woods*, both reflecting the contest theme *Tree Tales from A to Z*.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VERMONT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Purchase a congratulations ad in the GRADUATION PAGES
coming in the June 19 issue.
Contact Brenda
at mtngazette@gmavt.net
for more information.

NEWS BRIEFS

MMUUSD Summer Meal Kits for Kids

By Nora Pemberton
MMUUSD Communications Coordinator
Summer Meal Kits for Kids will be available from the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Nutrition Program during the summer. Meal kits are boxes of ready to eat foods to provide seven days of breakfasts and lunches for children ages 18 and under.
What's in a meal kit? Proteins: Yogurt, Meat or Meat Alternate, Nut Butter, Cheese (vegetarian substitutions available); Whole Grain Items: Breads, Crackers, Baked Goods etc... (gluten free options available); Fresh and Packaged Fruits: Ready to Eat and Packable Options for Your Summer Adventures; Vegetables: Kid Favorites; Milk: 1% White, 1 Gallon Per Child (non-dairy milk substitutions available).
Items are provided in bulk form (ie: loaf of bread, package of cheese slices etc...) with a menu of suggested meals to make from the ingredients. We include local products when we can. Milk must be taken with each kit.
Who is this for? Meal Kits are for all children! Meal kits are not only for families in need, and you won't be taking a meal away from someone

in need. Children do not need to be enrolled in the MMUUSD district. Summer meals help our schools in many ways. The more children who receive summer meals, the more funding our schools receive to support programs. Meal Kits are intended to be consumed by children ages 18 and under who are not participating in other summer meals programs. We do not require any household information such as household income or the names of the children. Children do not need to be enrolled in the MMUUSD district.
I'm interested! What do I need to do? Please fill out the online survey (<https://bit.ly/4d84cb4>) so we can begin to get an idea of how many families are interested in receiving these free meals and plan accordingly. Completing this form does not commit you to every week. Meal Kits are available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.
When and where will pickups be? Beginning Thursday, June 26, last day Thursday, August 7. There are two pickup sites: Browns River Middle School, Jericho, Thursdays 3:00 – 5:30 PM; and Smilie Memorial School, Bolton, Thursdays 3:00 – 5:30 PM.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Underhill approves two articles in May 6 voting

Underhill held a Special Town Meeting to vote on two articles. 183 voters came out (7% of registered voters) and approved both articles, as follows (text excerpted from the official ballot):
Article 1: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Underhill in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$878,000, subject to reduction from available state and federal construction grants-in-aid and other financial resources, be issued to finance the

removal and replacement of Bridge #7 on Pleasant Valley Road? In favor 171; opposed 12.
Article 2: Shall the voters of Underhill authorize the acquisition of a new tandem axle dump truck, with plow package, at a cost not to exceed \$305,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years? In favor 119; opposed 64.

Jeffersonville Board of Adjustment Hearing May 13

By Peter Ingvoldstad
Cambridge Selectboard
A special meeting of the Board of Adjustment (BOA) and the Administrative Officer (AO) for the Village of Jeffersonville will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at the Cambridge Town Offices, 85 Church St., Jeffersonville. Residents can join virtually via Microsoft Teams: Meeting ID: 228 398 796 65 Passcode: qa7cW9BU; or by phone: dial in +1 469-208-1810 Phone conference ID: 195 182 01.

The meeting will review whether the following project meets the criteria for permitted uses in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), per Section VI of the Inundation Hazard Area Bylaws:
Three Mountain Roofing: Surfacing of existing at-grade construction materials storage area for their existing business building at 276 Main Street, Jeffersonville, VT.

Homestead Declaration explained

By Dale Copping, Cambridge Lister
If you have asked for an extension on your Vermont Taxes you may still file the homestead prior to your taxes being filed. You may also be eligible for Income Sensitivity. This is a credit on your tax bill if your household income is less than \$109,000. Your 2024 Vermont taxes must be filed in order to be eligible for the Income Sensitivity.
<https://tax.vermont.gov/content/2014-forms-122-hi-144>
Taxpayer Services 802-828-2865

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. If you file past the April filing deadline there is a 3% penalty. October 15 is the deadline for filing. Here is the information you, as the property owner, need to know about the

SUMMER CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration is open — If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont’s wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife (VT F&W) Department’s Green Mountain Conservation Camps this summer. If you are a GMCC

alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer. The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities. Conservation Camps open June 22 and continue until August 22. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment, and financial assistance is available. Information and registration are available at *https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc*. For more information, contact *FWGMCC@vermont.gov* or call 802-522-2925.

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

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

Saxon Hill School summer camp — Registration is open for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho. Weekly camps at Saxon Hill provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. The camps engage children ages 3-6 with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure,

Summer camps continued on page 3

News briefs continued from page 1

Vermont Homestead Declaration.

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state’s schools. For this purpose, the property is categorized as either non-homestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person’s domicile.

All property is considered non-homestead, unless it is declared as a homestead. The education property tax rate levied on non-homestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements: You are a Vermont resident. You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2025.

News from Jericho Town Hall

Special Election: The Selectboard has warned a Special Election to be held on Tuesday, June 3 for the item: “Shall the voters approve expanding the Selectboard from 3 to 5 members, with staggered two-year terms?” Additional details and sample ballots can be found at *https://jerichovt.org/Elections/news_feed/special-election-june-3-2025*. Early/Absentee Ballots are available at the Jericho Town Clerk’s Office. A public information session on election details will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 6:00 PM prior to the regular Selectboard Meeting. The election will be held at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho on Tuesday June 3, 2025, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

This month we feature Jericho Summer Recreation Director, Lynn Wagner. To read more, go online to *https://jerichovt.org/Celebrating-Each-Other*.

The Town Meeting Reimagined Task Force’s recent report to the Selectboard outlines the areas we plan to focus on in the coming year, for example: better use of the fall Kick-off, improved sound, vote-counting, and integration of online and in-person participation at the winter budget discussion, and consideration of space and technology improvement throughout. The Selectboard has endorsed the task force’s recommendation to continue its work to prepare for the FY2026 town budget. The task force is also looking for some new members as they begin work for next year. To continue reading, log in to Join In Jericho online at *https://jerichovt.org/login*.

The Planning Commission (PC) has wrapped up discussions on the Village Center Bylaw Modernization Grant (BMG) which created zoning amendments to simplify regulations with a goal to increase housing and mixed-use buildings and streamline the permitting process. Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback during this project. The PC will hold a BMG public hearing on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 PM. Find a summary of the BMG work online at *https://jerichovt.org/2024-village-center-zoning-updates*.

The Zoning Office will be closed Wednesday-Thursday, May 14-15.

Community forum on smartphones, social media, privacy

By Andrea Parikh, Underhill

Please join us on Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 – 7:30 PM at Camel’s Hump Middle School, Richmond for a community forum to connect our schools, parents, and policy makers regarding smartphones, social media, and data privacy for our youth. Learn from experts, connect with other parents, get informed by

research, and learn about initiatives and tools.

The event, organized by a group of parents, will present an expert panel including Attorney General Charity Clark, State Rep Angela Arseneault, Dr. Paul Parker, Dr. Bud Vana, high school educator Danielle Simons-Cheney, and student Henry Menke.

For questions or more information, contact *reconnectcamelshump@gmail.com* or go online to *www.ReConnectVT.com*.

Reimagine safe streets in Jericho, part 2

By Bernie Paquette, Jericho

Remember the vote in last year’s Town Meeting to amend the budget by inserting a line item dedicated to increasing speeding control measures across the town for 30 thousand dollars in FY 2026 to be rolled over to future years?

Though committing that much money to slower and safer streets was a big step, the harder part is figuring out how to prioritize the locations in Jericho to address first, and choosing the tools with a focus on their projected effectiveness using financial prudence, and seeking multi-neighborhood inputs.

Some people say it is hard to drive slowly, meaning within the speed limit. My brain lives in the ADHD world. It’s hard to do anything slowly and patiently. But driving slowly, a.k.a. within the speed limit, my foot can easily handle.

Using the \$30K with financial prudence, effectively, and with a fair and even assessment of all areas in Jericho requires patience and slow but thorough going, while paying close attention to the road that will get us the results many in Jericho desire.

We have data from many Jericho, Vermont, and National engineering studies. We know a lot about the speeding countermeasure tools.

What we need is leadership and a small cadre of those who walk, ride bikes, and are concerned for their neighbors, to join forces to be effective in proposing to the Selectboard the priority locations, the appropriate tools, and the best way to use grants to leverage the town fund.

Jericho needs your involvement! So far, the Selectboard has not approved a “Community for Slower and Safer Streets” Task Force. However, each neighborhood or group of neighborhoods can get together and create a proposal to submit to the Selectboard. Keep in mind, some folks are pressing to get this off the docket quickly. Do we want to throw the money blindly and fast, or do we want thorough deliberation with town-wide opportunities for citizens to review proposals and to provide input?

The need has been demonstrated. The tools available are defined. The engineering studies have been completed. (The last study report is due at the end of May).

Everything is known. Decisions, because they involve choices, are more complicated. Your voice and consideration of the options are paramount to fair and effective expenditures.

Contact me at *bernie.paquette@yahoo.com* if you want to provide input to the working group I am part of. Or reach out to your neighbors to create a group for any section of Jericho. We appreciate any amount of participation and input. WE NEED HELP to move the wheel on this issue and get proposals to the Selectboard by June.

Let me know if you wish to have your name on a distribution list for updates. Would a coffee hour work better for you? Or a meet-up at the Community Center? Let us know what works to facilitate your ability to be involved with these decisions.

Also, tell me what more you want to know, as well as to offer input. Let’s design a plan that works for all of us. Let’s make

community participation meaningful.

Even if the brain is telling us to go too fast, we can use the foot to let up on the gas pedal.

Want to understand some of the tools that have been road-tested, and what the projected effect on speed is? View these sites:

- *https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/documents/20230606%20Toolbox.pdf* — the table in the traffic safety toolbox provides a list of the speeding countermeasures that are recommended for use in Vermont, their acceptability on the state highway system, and the applicability and frequency of each countermeasure’s use across seven criteria;
- *https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research/projects/SafetyTool* (page down and choose “presentation”);
- *https://highways.dot.gov/safety/speed-management/traffic-calming-eprimer/module-2-traffic-calming-basics*.

Beyond the decisions for the best use of the \$30K for infrastructure, plus any leveraged grant funds, I envision the mission to include the following:

- Law enforcement review: Obtain quarterly reports from the Sheriff’s department of ticketed speeds, day, time, and location, as well as the total hours of radar by location.
- Develop a data-driven process. Ask the town to ask the Sheriff to prioritize the radar day and time to match when the data shows are the highest offense periods (with data from the State report as well as data from the Sheriff). Ask the town to ask the Sheriff’s department to devote time to those locations and during those periods.
- Messaging (Influence), Education (on the results of speeding), Outreach (Dialogue).
- Messaging example: Burma-Shave-like signs with humorous but serious messaging about speeding.
- Education and Influence example: Contest for Jericho students (55-word short stories).

*Take back our streets and neighborhoods
Say Yes to Safer and Slower Streets*

Brush-hogged area at Mills Riverside Park

By Livy Strong, Jericho Underhill Park District Board Chair

The Browns River has been eroding the bank along the off-leash dog area. As a result, the snow fence that maintains the 50’ vegetated riparian buffer needs to be moved. This will cut off one trail to “doggie beach;” therefore, an expansion of the lawn is required.

On April 27, a section of the off-leash dog area was brush-hogged. It will take some time before the land is walkable, but with frequent mowing, it will be. At that time, the fence will be moved to continue the necessary buffer. Additional plantings along the river will also reduce soil erosion.

The Park District is also working with a group of environmental science students from UVM to study this eroded area for additional ideas. Please contact the Park District, 802-899-1141 or *jupdistrict@gmail.com* with any questions.

Calling all farmers, agricultural and food producers

From the Jericho Underhill Food Hub

The Jericho Underhill Food Hub is seeking information to produce a 2025 Guide to Local Food, Farms and Agricultural products of Jericho and Underhill. The goal of the Guide is to promote local food, help farms and local businesses grow their markets and connect with customers, and support the land-based economy and vitality of our towns.

This guide will be distributed to all households in Underhill and Jericho.

Listings are free for farmers, sugar makers, beekeepers, fiber/wool producers or processors, flower and plant producers, and those who make homemade food products in Underhill and Jericho.

If you would like to be included in the guide, please sign up by filling out the form where you can describe your products and list other information your customers might want to know. It doesn’t matter how large or small your operation is, we’d love to hear from you. Sign up online at *https://forms.gle/U2eyQWirJZGrMA8dA*. If you would prefer to fill it out on paper, just let us know and we can get one to you.

Your information needs to be submitted by Sunday, June 1 to be included in the Guide.

If you have questions, please reach out to us at *jufoodhub@gmail.com*.

The Food Hub’s website (*https://www.jufoodhub.org/*) has links to the 2024 brochure and to the sign-up form listed above.

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

5¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF GASOLINE

FREE

GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE

COFFEE 12 OZ.

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

COMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events

It Takes a Village Women’s Circle meets on the last Tuesday of the month (May 27, June 24), 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Waterville Town Hall, 544 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. Pot-luck — so if you can please bring something to share; if not, whatever the reason, just bring yourself! Also bring a journal and pen. Donation based; suggested donation \$5 goes to the upkeep of the Waterville Town Hall. But all are welcome, always! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1071704021631117?ref=newsfeed>

Ethan Allen Homestead — The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum opened for the 2025 season on May 1, and is open seven days a week, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM until October 31. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$7 for students 5-17, and free for those under 5. The Homestead Museum in Burlington provides a peek into early American life through the lens of the historic 1785 house that was the last home of Vermont folk hero Ethan Allen. Visitors learn about Ethan Allen, the Abenaki who called the land home for thousands of years, the politics and turmoil that preceded the founding of Vermont, and home life in what was then the rural frontier. The site includes permanent and rotating exhibits, two short films, and an extensive network of maintained trails along the Winooski River. Volunteers and staff provide multiple tours daily. There are special event weekends as well. Visit the website at <http://ethanallenhomestead.org> for tour times and the full schedule of events.

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

Burlington Literature Group — a weekly virtual book group that meets weekly, Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, on Zoom. We welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group has been in existence for years meeting in a physical space but, since the pandemic, has changed to online Zoom sessions. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60 to 100 pages, discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com. Our next book is Thomas Pynchon’s postmodern epic Gravity’s Rainbow. Here’s the schedule: May 13: Chapter 3 “Slothrop comes to in episodes” through Chapter 3 “and the dogs run barking in the backstreets.”; May 20: Chapter 3 “When emptied of people” through Chapter 3 “orchestra plays *Tristan und Isolde*.”; May 27: Chapter 3 “They come out into the last of the twilight.” through Chapter 3 “Safe passage through a bad night...””; June 3: Chapter 3 “The Schwarzkommando have got to Achtfaden” through end of Chapter 3; June 10: Chapter 4 through Chapter 4 “There are things to hold on to...””; June 17: Chapter 4 “You will want cause and effect.” through Chapter 4 “just at the other aide of dawning, you can see a smile.”; June 24: Chapter 4 “In her pack, Geli Tripping” to End.

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

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

The Underhill Historical Society meets on the second Monday of each month (May 12, June 9) at 6:30 PM. Meetings are at the Old Schoolhouse, 32 Pleasant Valley Rd, Underhill Center, spring through fall, and at the Town Hall in the winter. Visit our website for more information: <https://underhillhistoricalsociety.org>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (May 15, June 12, 26), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any

craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

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

Tai Chi at the Cambridge Community Center (CCC), 22 Old Main St., Jeffersonville — Come join our community of friends staying fit on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Tai Chi is sometimes described as moving meditation. The art contains movements, which are so varied that they put into play every part of the body with harmonious design and graceful patterns. Each form flows with the grace of a specific aspect of nature, working with nature’s energy, such as the swaying motion of willow branches being coerced by a gentle breeze or clouds slowly changing shape or form. Movements are slow and deliberate without exerting force or power. The speed of the breathing matches the speed of the movement. Wear clothing that is comfortable and easy to move around in. All ages, beginners and experienced participants welcome! Contact Instructor Wade Prescott for easy registration at 727-557-4469 or inst.wade@gmail.com, or just come on down.

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

Bone Builders Class: at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center, on Mondays/Wednesdays/most Fridays, 9:00 – 10:30 AM; first Friday of the month, 9:45 – 11:15 AM. Sponsored by the United Way of Northwest VT, RSVP Bone Builders is a free exercise program for men and women, designed to prevent the negative effects of osteoporosis. For more information contact Danielle Schwer, 802-861-7821 or danielle@unitedwaynwvt.org.

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

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

Summer camps continued from page 2—

counselors will aim to focus each week on children’s interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open! Camps run weekly from June 16-August 22, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

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

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

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

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

Retribe’s 2025 Summer Camps — Registration is open for ReTribe summer camps in Underhill. We invite teens to embark on a Rite of Passage at one or both of our teen retreats: Adventure Game Theater: Ages 12-19. July 3-12. Transform

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All camps happen on the Green River Reservoir in Hyde Park and have a maximum group size of 12. The youth and teen camps have three counselors and nine campers while the young adult camp and the family camps have two counselors and ten campers. For more information (including sliding scale cost), go



Please join us Saturday, May 17 at the Cambridge Community Pavilion for a Flood Resilience Celebration! The event kicks off at 6:00 PM with live music from BlackWolf, delicious food from Green Mtn. Grillbillies (first 100 attendees receive food voucher tickets), Kingdom Creamery of VT ice cream, and a performance by Cirque de Fuego’s fire dance troupe beginning at 8:15 PM to round out the evening. Gather with friends and family, share your flood stories, and check out the JOY sign created by Chris Cleary. We have a lot to be grateful for and we are grateful to be able to share with you at this event made possible with a grant from Vermont Community Foundation. Please park at Cambridge Elementary School and walk to the field. Please do not park at the Rescue Building Lot or Town Garage Lot. Thank you and we can’t wait to see you!
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Coming Events

Wednesday, May 14

The American Revolution 1775 — From Soldiers to Settlers: Connecting Cambridge to the Revolution, 7:00 PM, Warner Lodge, 49 School St., Jeffersonville. Join the Cambridge Historical Society as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with a special event exploring the lives of Cambridge’s earliest settlers — Revolutionary War soldiers from Bennington. Discover how these men bore witness to some of the most pivotal moments in the founding of Vermont and the United States. Researcher Jen Bartlau will guide us through the process of uncovering their stories using genealogy research, pension records, military files, and historical accounts. Learn where you can experience history firsthand and walk in the footsteps of these soldiers in 1775. All are welcome; refreshments. The building is handicapped accessible.

Thursday, May 15

Forest Sit, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Join museum staff for a quiet time outdoors in the forest. Meet outside the museum by the entrance benches. We will welcome each other, walk out to the month’s sit spot, and sit quietly for 30-45 minutes. Let’s rest, restore our spirits, watch birds or butterflies, do a little nature journaling, or whatever is comfortable and quiet for each. Each month (May-September) we’ll visit a different nearby location on

Coming Events continued on page 5

online to <https://www.waterwanderings.org/register.html>.

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

**MAKING SWEET
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The Mountain Gazette
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HEALTH NEWS

Lions Club Blood Drive May 22

From the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, May 22, from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., in Jericho. Please consider helping your neighbors and donate a pint of blood. As always, enjoy a slice of pie after your donation! To schedule an appointment, go to <http://redcrossblood.org> and type in 05465 for a zip code or JULIONS in the search bar.

You can still quit — 802Quits can help (free)

From the VT Department of Health

For most people quitting smoking takes multiple attempts, but every time you try, you learn something new about yourself and the process. Remember: you haven’t failed — you just haven’t finished yet. 802Quits offers the help you need to succeed for free! Enroll for free coaching, a customized quit plan, text support, and nicotine replacement patches, gum, or lozenges mailed directly to you to curb the cravings. 802Quits is twice as effective as quitting cold turkey! Whether you’re quitting tobacco or nicotine for better health, for family, your finances, or your future, we’ve got you. Start today! Visit <https://802Quits.org>, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or text Start to 300500.

Community CPR Class May 28

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

LHH&H Service of Remembrance and Hope May 18

On Sunday, May 18, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, all are invited to a Service of Remembrance and Hope, hosted by Lamoille Home Health and Hospice at Copley Hospital, Wing Memorial Garden, 528 Washington Highway, Morrisville. This is an opportunity for community members to remember loved ones. The service will be held rain or shine. If you have any questions, call Charlene Camire, 802-888-4651.

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

Join us on Saturday, May 31 for the 35th Annual Jiggety-Jog 5K Run/Walk! The Jiggety Jog is the single largest fundraiser for the McClure Miller Respite House, Vermont’s only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The McClure Miller Respite House has served our community for over 30 years, providing medical care and compassion to those at the end of their lives. Last year, over 200 community members participated in the event and we raised over \$128,000 for the McClure Miller Respite House. We hope you will join us for a morning of camaraderie, gratitude, and community spirit. Our community is our strength and we thank everyone that has helped us throughout the years! Every dollar raised ensures compassionate, high-quality care is available to our community at the McClure Miller Respite House. Help us meet our goal of raising \$125,000, which will provide over 140 days of care at the Respite House. Details: the Jiggety Jog will be held at Malletts Bay School, 609 Blakely Rd., Colchester, with registration at 8:00 AM and a 9:00 AM start. Runner registration is \$25, and all ages and abilities are welcome. This family-friendly event will feature prizes, raffles, music and more! To register and for more information, please go online to <https://bit.ly/4jjT8di> (short for <https://give.uvmhealth.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=501&language=en>). McClure Miller Respite House Jiggety Jog was established in 1991. This name came from the nursery rhyme with the line, “To market, to market, to buy a fat hog; Home again, home again, jiggety-jog.” This name captured the essence the founders wanted — a fun community event with the feeling of home. We’re continuing that tradition with this year’s Jiggety Jog 5K, honoring the difficulty and joy that come from end-of-life care and time spent at the McClure Miller Respite House.

Update from Copley

From Copley Hospital

April 24 — part 1: continued communication on Birthing Center Copley Hospital Birthing Center: why we are considering multiple options, and what is happening now. Recently we shared how the healthcare landscape in Vermont needs to become more affordable and efficient. The consultant hired by Copley’s Board of Trustees earlier this year is currently working on the review of the Birthing Center.

Copley’s consultant will be speaking with Birthing Center staff; they will also meet with members of the State Legislature, the Green Mountain Care Board, and state stakeholders. Everyone on the Copley Board hears those who have raised their concerns, praised our midwives, nurses, and doctors, and asked questions about care and proximity to other birthing facilities. We share your appreciation of the Birthing Center and the excellent care provided by our staff. Birthing statistics: • in 2024 Copley averaged approximately 14 births per month, or one birth every two days; • since 2006 when Copley welcomed 316* births, the numbers have steadily dropped; and in the 18-year span currently being used in the review, births at Copley’s Birthing Center have dropped by 42%. (*Here it is important to clarify the number of births attributed to Copley Hospital on the State’s vital statistics site reflect all recorded births: whether born at home, on the way to the hospital, or a birth taking place in the birthing center. This is important to note because the consultant is reviewing the number of births that take place in the Birthing Center.) The decline in births, which has been drawn from a statistically significant amount of time, shows it is unlikely to rise in coming years. Costs: our review includes a thorough examination of operational costs and reimbursement, and use of the Birthing Center in the past, present, and the anticipated future. From the Oliver Wyman report: “Morrisville HSA population forecasted to decline, aged population (65+ years old) is projected as 31.2% of total HSA population by 2040.” Currently, a vaginal birth at Copley is billed at a bit more than \$7000, whereas the state’s largest hospital charges more than \$17,100 for the same type of birth. An obstetrician, anesthesiologist, midwife, two nurses, recovery staff, and a pediatrician are available in Copley’s fully staffed Birthing Center every day of the year. With fewer births and less money coming in to cover costs, there is less available to update or repair equipment, hire staff, or keep services open. Insurance or Medicaid may not cover the full cost associated with a birth — even one that goes smoothly with no complications. The majority of the Birthing Center’s operating costs are not being reimbursed and must be absorbed by Copley. *A possible solution* One possible solution to consider as part of a strategic, regional approach, is to designate Copley’s Birthing Center as a regional birthing center. By attracting patients from nearby hospitals with declining numbers of births, Copley could increase its birth numbers. We hear you. We are a community-focused volunteer board, we take our role seriously. We are nurses, business owners, community leaders, patients of Copley, and your neighbors. We value the excellent care at Copley too. It is our obligation to review all services and budget shortfalls as suggested by the Oliver Wyman report which came out of Act 167. We ask for your patience as the consultant reviews the current volumes in Birthing Center. We are committed to keeping you, our community, informed. The Board of Trustees takes the weight of this decision very seriously. *May 1 — part 2: Birthing Center Review Next Steps with the consultant* Last week we shared detailed information about the decline in the number of births at Copley’s Birthing Center since 2006, the cost of a birth at Copley compared to a competing hospital, the excellent medical staff who care for our birth families, and who will be meeting with our consultant to share their stories and ideas. This week we will share more about the steps involved in the review. *Interview Sessions:* • Birthing Center staff has met with the consultant who heard directly from our midwives, nurses, and doctors. They have asked questions to gain understanding about the service to our community and more. • State Legislators who represent Lamoille County...and beyond...will share their perspectives on regional coordination of care for rural birthing families. • Green Mountain Care Board will provide information about other Vermont hospitals facing similar operational situations, cost reimbursements, the insurance and Medicare landscape, and options that Copley could explore with regional healthcare providers. • Copley Board of Trustees will meet with our consultant to discuss how Copley is positioned and to share what our many patients and concerned community members have shared with the Board. *Listening and asking questions.* The consultant will be listening to many people and perspectives to learn about the Birthing Center and the needs of our Lamoille County community. They will have questions that will help clarify all they hear from you. The consultant has requested and received data and financial figures from Copley. They have access to published information about other rural hospitals that have faced similar situations. Nationally, costs are going up and birthrates are declining. Steps other hospitals have taken may be helpful for us to learn from as we review options for our future. We thank you for your support, your questions, and your patience. Copley’s dedication to providing exceptional care, in

every service, by every member of our team never ends. We remain committed to keeping you informed with the steps of the Birthing Center review. Sincerely and with care, Copley Hospital Board of Trustees and Administration

Springtime means ticks — protect yourself, family, and pets

From the Vermont Department of Health

Avoiding tick bites is the key to preventing tick bite illnesses. The best way to avoid tick bites is to stay away from where they live, such as wooded and brushy areas — particularly during spring, summer, and fall when ticks are most active in Vermont. If you can’t keep away from these areas, we suggest wearing EPA-registered insect repellent, pants, long-sleeved shirts, and long socks outside. Always check your body, clothing, gear, and pets for ticks, and shower as soon as you can after being outside. If you find a tick attached to your body, remove it as soon as you can. If you develop symptoms like a fever, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, fatigue, or rash, contact your health care provider. Symptoms can develop 3-30 days after a tick bite. Get more tick tips and find videos translated into multiple languages at <https://www.HealthVermont.gov/BeTickSmart>.

Howard Center news, announcements

SUCCEED is a post-secondary education program for students with intellectual disabilities or autism who want to continue learning and develop skills for independent living. Students engage in coursework, job training, and community living, building confidence and meaningful connections. Watch our video and read the *SUCCEED* program highlight to learn more about our developmental services at <http://howardcenter.org/programs/succeed>. Looking ahead to Mental Health Awareness Month: spring is a time to reset and refocus on what matters — including mental health. In Mental Health Awareness Month in May, take time to learn how to support your own well-being and the mental health of those around you. Visit <http://howardcenter.org/may-is-mental-health-awareness-month> for information and resources. Howard Center helps people and communities thrive by providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs. To access services, call 802-488-6000.

Fainting

Parents have been anything but “faint” of heart to ask me about what to do if their child or teenager should experience a fainting episode. Well, let me pass out some information on this topic. *Aspects and causes of fainting* Fainting represents a temporary loss of consciousness. This is a result of blood not going to the brain due to a drop in blood pressure and is characterized by dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea, blurred vision, and/or sweating. These symptoms can remain until an adequate amount of blood can get up to the brain. There are many reasons why a child or teenager can faint. The most common include being dehydrated; being in an environment that is too hot or crowded; standing in one place for a long time, getting up too fast after sitting or lying down — this can trigger the heart to speed up and then suddenly slow down and drop blood pressure resulting in a fainting episode; emotional stress like fright, pain, anxiety, and hyperventilation can also trigger these nerves to cause someone to faint; medical causes such as problems with medication, a low red blood cell count causing anemia, or low blood sugar. Although rare, fainting may be due to an unusual heart rhythm problem, or a structural problem with the heart itself. *Possible ways to prevent someone from fainting:* • if someone thinks they are going to faint, help them lie down before this happens, and loosen any tight clothing especially around their neck; • if your child is out in hot weather or heated conditions, make sure hydration is always ample before, during and after exercise; • if you sit for long periods, tensing up the leg muscles or crossing legs can help improve blood flow; • avoid overheated, cramped, or stuffy environments as much as possible. If your child does faint, keep them lying down for 10-15 minutes with their legs elevated. Once they regain consciousness, make sure they don’t faint again, and give them something to drink if they can do so.

Please contact your child’s health care professional right after the episode occurs for further advice. If your child does not come to within a minute or so, if they hurt themselves by fainting, if they are experiencing chest pain or shortness of breath before, during, or after fainting, or if the episode occurred while exercising, this type of fainting may signal more of a medical emergency — requiring you to call 911 for help. Hopefully, tips like these will help you stand up to the challenge of helping your child if they think they are going to faint. *Lewis First, MD, is Chief of Pediatrics at The University of Vermont Children’s Hospital and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont’s Lerner College of Medicine*

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

From the State Senate — the FY26 Transportation Bill

By Rich Westman, Senator, Lamoille District
rawestman@gmail.com

April 26 Last week on Friday the Senate Transportation Committee voted out our version of the FY 2026 Transportation Bill. It is my first Transportation Budget as Chair of the Committee. The Transportation Bill or “T Bill” is the spending that operates the Agency of Transportation each year.

The T Bill this year included nearly \$900 million in total spending. Nearly \$50 million in this year’s T Bill goes to towns for local roads. A little more than \$400 million, the biggest share, goes into state construction projects in the Program Development Division of the Agency and something over a \$100 million goes into what we call the “Maintenance Division,” which plows the roads. The rest of the \$300 million in Agency spending goes in varying amounts to things like Rail, Aviation, Central Garage and Public Transit spending. One of the most interesting areas we discussed in Committee as we worked on the T Bill this year was regarding the “Volunteer Drivers Program” in Public Transit. All seven of the Public Transit

Agencies across the State operate Volunteer Driver programs. These Volunteer Driver programs take people of all ages and all walks of life wherever they need to go. Specifically, they take elderly and disadvantaged individuals to medical appointments. In large part, volunteer drivers provide this service in what we refer to as “medical transports.” With medical services in rural Vermont contracting and with hospitals, home health agencies, FQHCs, and all medical providers down-sizing and facing increasing financial challenges, transportation is becoming an increasingly bigger issue for people. Individuals with driving disabilities and individuals of

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lower income find transportation an increasing barrier to services.

COVID was hard on these Volunteer Driver programs across the state. In 2019 we had more than 300 volunteer drivers; by the middle of COVID that number was cut in half. In 2019 the Volunteer Driver programs offered more than 190,000 rides and during COVID that dropped to 90,000 rides. We’ve seen some recovery in rides provided, but we’re nowhere near what we were before COVID.

The question for us in the Transportation Committee became: How do we help grow this increasingly needed service economically? It became clear that recruiting volunteer drivers that only receive mileage reimbursement for the rides they provide has to be part of expanding this service. What we added to the Budget is monies for positions to recruit drivers statewide. The seven public transit agencies have never had a fully coordinated statewide recruitment effort and what is envisioned is just that kind of effort.

Rural Community Transportation or RCT is our local public Transit provider. They cover the Northeast Kingdom and Lamoille Counties and are now moving into parts of Franklin County. To volunteer to drive for them there is information on their website <https://www.riderct.org/volunteer/>; or to get information about their service for medical transports go online to <https://www.riderct.org/non-emergency-medical-transport/>.

Senate update: economic opportunities

By Kesha Ram Hinsdale
State Senator, Chittenden-Southeast Senate District
kramhinsdale@leg.state.vt.us

April 26

Spring in Vermont is a time of renewal — a season when we reflect on what’s growing, what needs care, and what seeds we want to plant for the future. It’s a natural time to think about fresh starts, whether that means beginning a new career path, returning to school, planning for financial security, or standing up for the values that make our communities strong and welcoming.

This season, I wanted to share a few ways we are working to help open doors and create new opportunities for Vermonters at every stage of life.

Whether you’re considering a career change or know a young person planning their next step after high school, MyFutureVT.org (<https://www.myfuturevt.org/>) is a great place to start. As Vermont’s free hub for career and education planning, it highlights the state’s top 550 careers and connects users with education and training programs to match. It also helps Vermonters find support services along the way — making the journey toward a good job and a stable future easier to navigate.

As a member of the Senate Education Committee, I am also working to double the National Guard tuition benefit, allowing

Guard members to earn multiple degrees or certifications with full state support — up to the equivalent of two UVM undergraduate degrees.

In addition, the Vermont State Treasurer’s Office is helping more Vermonters with disabilities build financial security through ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts. These tax-advantaged savings accounts allow individuals with disabilities and their families to save for future needs — like education, housing, and health care — without losing access to essential benefits like Medicaid or SSI. Eligibility will expand in 2026 to include individuals who experienced the onset of a disability before age 46.

The Treasurer and I, along with other key partners, are also working on establishing an Immigration Defense Fund that will be able to receive private donations to help protect vulnerable Vermonters facing deportation. Stay tuned for more details on this important effort this week.

Thank you for staying engaged — we look forward to continuing these conversations with you and helping shape the next chapter for Vermont together.

Legislative update from the VT House

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

April 26

This week was relatively quiet on the House floor, with only one bill passed — S.27 An Act Relating to Medical Debt Relief and Excluding Medical Debt from Credit Reports.

In the Human Services Committee, we worked on the following bills:

- H.46 – An Act Relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;
- S.36 – An Act Relating to the Medicaid Payment Model for Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services;
- H.120 – An Act Relating to the Study and Design of a Long-Term Care Trust Fund;
- H.248 – An Act Relating to Supplemental Child Care Grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program;
- H.13 – An Act Relating to Medicaid Payment Rates for Home- and Community-Based Service Providers.

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of hosting 20 homeschooling students and their parents from Franklin and Chittenden counties. It was wonderful to see such enthusiastic young learners interested in the workings of our government. Their visit began with a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Rodgers, who shared insights into his role. Following that, David Schutz, the Curator of the Vermont State Capitol, led a tour. The weather was beautiful, and the group enjoyed lunch on the Capitol’s front

lawn. I had the privilege of introducing them on the House floor as they observed proceedings from the balcony.

The Eagle Scout annual Recognition Day ceremony took place at the Capitol, recognizing the young men and women on their achievements. Two Milton scouts were congratulated, Devin Schlegel-Barber and Evan Kaigle. Representative Taylor presented the scouts on the House floor.

The House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs will hold a joint public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, at 4:00 PM to hear from Vermonters about veteran housing, mental health, access to services, and the Vermont Veterans Home. If you are a veteran, a family member, or an advocate with insights to share, I encourage you to sign up to testify by Sunday, April 27, at 5:00 PM. Participation is available in person or virtually, and written testimony is also welcome. For more details or to sign up: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/links/joint-public-hearing-on-veteransaffairs>.

Additionally, the Governor’s Office is seeking a student representative for the State Board of Education. This appointment will be for a two-year term — serving as a non-voting member in the first year and a voting member in the second. Rising sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply via the Application for Gubernatorial Appointment. The deadline for applications is Monday, April 28.

May 4

This week on the House floor, the following bills were passed:

- S.36 — an act relating to Medicaid coverage of long-term residential treatment for co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health conditions;
- S.50 — an act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration;
- H.505 — an act relating to the approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre;
- H.96 — an act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need;
- S.27 — an act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports`.

Additionally, H.454, an act aimed at transforming Vermont’s education governance, quality, and finance systems, has advanced out of the Senate Education Committee. The bill will now proceed to the Senate Finance Committee, where further input on the funding formula will be provided. You can find the 109-page version of the bill that was passed in the Senate at this link: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/Senate%20Education/Bills/H.454/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.454~Beth%20St.%20James~%20Draft%209.1,%205-2-2025~5-2-2025.pdf>;

This week, the Human Services Committee, on which I serve, worked on the following bills:

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the Museum’s property. This time, sit in and around the Retreat’s mini meadow (0.2 mi walk; trail generally level after going down and up from creek, has roots). Locations may change if it is raining. Please bring any of these you wish: water, tick repellent, journaling materials, binoculars, camp stool, pillow, sitting mat. Hats recommended. Max: 8; suggested donation: \$5-\$15. Please register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>. You are welcome to come to one, several, or all.

Saturday, May 17
Empty Arms Vermont’s 3rd annual 5K Run & Walk, check-in/bib pickup 8:30 – 9:50 AM, 10:00 AM Walk/Run, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM music and fun, Veterans Memorial Park, S. Burlington. Sponsored by Empty Arms Vermont, a nonprofit providing peer support to individuals and families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss, this is our biggest fund-raising event of the year. Race begins and ends at Veterans Memorial Park’s main pavilion; the course loop follows the S. Burlington bike path (pet/stroller friendly). Water and little snacks for kids will be available along the way. After the race there will be a Ben & Jerry’s truck, music by *Smokey Newfield Project*, and a magic show by Alyx the Magician for kids and kids-at-heart! Visit <https://www.emptyarmsvermont.org/5krun> to register for the race or to become a sponsor.

Sunday, May 18
Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day marker dedication, 3:00 PM, GAR monument, VT Rt. 15, Cambridge Village. A new roadside historical marker will be dedicated in the center of Cambridge village on to explain the history of the GAR and this designation of the highway. The Vermont Legislature will issue a joint resolution by the Senate and the House declaring that date to be “Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day.” At 3:00 PM, the marker near the GAR monument will be unveiled by the great-grandson of the first commander of GAR Post 10 in Cambridge. Prior to the dedication, Civil War exhibits and demonstrations will be open to the public beginning 10:00 AM at the Boyden Events Barn nearby. Please support the dedication event with contributions online at the Facebook Group for the Vermont Civil War Round Tables or by going directly to <https://givebutter.com/sj9kA3>. Further details on the activity are being developed on Facebook, and you can contact the organizer at GARHighwayVT@gmail.com to send donations by mail.

Tuesday, May 20
Community forum on smartphones, social media, privacy, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Camel’s Hump Middle School, Richmond. This community forum will connect our schools, parents, and policy makers regarding smartphones, social media, and data privacy for our youth. Learn from experts, connect with other parents, get informed by research, and learn about initiatives and tools. The event, organized by a group of parents, will present an expert panel including Attorney General Charity Clark, State Rep Angela Arsenaault, Dr. Paul Parker, Dr. Bud Vana, high school educator Danielle Simons-Cheney, and student Henry Menke. For questions or more information, contact reconnectcamelshump@gmail.com or go online to www.ReConnectVT.com.

Wednesday, May 21
Restoring Crooked Creek, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Button Farm, Colchester. What is a healthy stream supposed to look like? Join Women and Our Woods Vermont and other women landowners, land managers and individuals who are interested in

learning more about what constitutes a healthy stream and what we can do to restore stream function and processes to existing watersheds. VLT Ecologist Allaire Diamond and VLT Forester Caitlin Cusack will take us on a tour of the watershed restoration work in the Crooked Creek headwater drainage on the *Button Farm in Colchester* two and a half years after a dam has been removed. The work began in 2021 and includes instream wood addition, dam removal, wetland restoration, “Stage Zero” stream restoration, plantings, and control of introduced weeds in the context of a working farm and rapidly developing community. Allaire and Caitlin will share details on each of the restoration activities, how they complement each other, and how private and public landowners can initiate this work on their own land. Rain date Wednesday May 28. Sponsored by the Vermont Land Trust and *Women and Our Woods VT*. Contact sam@vlt.org with questions and accommodation requests. For more information and to register, go online to <https://vlt.org/events/restoring-crooked-creek-with-women-and-our-woods-vt/>.

Thursday, May 22
Lions Club Blood Drive, 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., in Jericho. Please consider helping your neighbors and donate a pint of blood. As always, enjoy a slice of pie after your donation! To schedule an appointment, go to <http://redcrossblood.org> and type in 05465 for a zip code or JULIONS in the search bar.

Sunset Bird Walk, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Not an early riser? You’re not alone. Some birds also prefer to sing, call, or display in late afternoon and early evening. Enjoy a sunset stroll around the Museum’s forests and clearings and meet some of them. Although we may see and hear fewer species than we do at dawn, a late day ramble gives us more time to appreciate each kind and to better learn their songs. Meet at the Museum entrance. Trails can be muddy and uneven, and there are some slopes. We usually walk, then pause for observation. Some benches here and there provide additional rest points. Tick protection is recommended. Max: 8; suggested donation: \$5-\$15. Register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

Saturday, May 24
Jeff Church Annual Spring Sale, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, the Jeff Church, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville. Now accepting items including a limited amount of clothes depending on the size. Please, no computer equipment, ski or winter ware, helmets, electronics, large furniture, or textbooks. Call Becky at 802-644-8827 or Melody at 802-644-2409 to make arrangements for pick up or drop off.

Thursday, May 29
Jericho-Underhill Energy Fair, 4:00 – 6:30 PM, Browns River Middle School, 20 River Rd., Jericho. The Underhill Energy Committee and the Jericho Energy Task Force will bring you lots of information about electric vehicles, E-bike demos, weatherization, workforce development, and more (including a Kids’ Tent). There will be more than 15 booths hosted by Drive Electric VT, Efficiency VT, Green Mountain Power, LocalMotion, ReSource, VT Works for Women, and many more.

Saturday, May 31
Cambridge Fire Department Calcutta Fundraiser, 5:00 PM, VT State University, Johnson Campus, Stearns Dining Hall, Johnson. Tickets, \$120 each, include entry to the event and dinner for two. We sell 98 tickets. The final two tickets (#99,

#100) will be raffled off the night of the dinner, \$10 a chance, guaranteed winners and not placed into the game until after draw #90. Top five prizes: draw #96, \$125; #97, \$175; #98 \$200; #99, \$300; #100, \$1500. For tickets, contact taylor@vtlegacyhomes.com or any CFD member.

May Bird Monitoring Walk, 7:30 – 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Birders current, experienced, newbie, and would-be welcome! Join our monthly monitoring walk to record birds at the Museum’s trails, forest, and meadow. Learn something new, share what you know, or both! Please bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. We recommend bringing tick repellent and a water bottle. Max: 12; suggested donation: \$5-\$15. Register at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum> or call 802 434-2167.

Sunday, June 1
Aphasia Choir of Vermont 10-Year Anniversary Concert, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane, Colchester. Free. Enjoy a special program of uplifting pop songs! A reception will follow the performance. The Aphasia Choir of Vermont is comprised of stroke and traumatic brain injury survivors who have expressive aphasia (difficulty talking), as well as their spouses, family members, and others. Because music is mediated by the undamaged hemispheres of the brains of people with aphasia, they can be fluent while singing, even if they have severe difficulty speaking or are nonverbal.

Friday, June 13
Birds and Brunch at Pratt Refuge, 7:30 – 10:00 AM, Pratt Refuge, Duxbury. Are you curious about what bird sings out “teacher, teacher, teacher!” from the forest? Want to know which species sounds like it’s saying “pleased, pleased, pleased to meet cha!” If so, then this program is for you! Join *Women and Our Woods-VT*, Vermont Land Trust, *Mad Birders*, and *Audubon Vermont* for an inclusive, women-focused bird walk at the Vermont Land Trust’s Pratt Refuge in Duxbury. We’ll look and listen for forest birds on a leisurely walk through the woods and gain a better understanding of the habitat those species are keying in on. At the conclusion of the walk, we’ll convene at the Refuge’s cabin for a light brunch, beverages, and conversation. Rain date June 20. Sponsored by the Vermont Land Trust, Women and Our Woods VT, and The Mad Birders. Contact sam@vlt.org with questions and accommodation requests. For more information and to register, go online to <https://vlt.org/events/birds-and-brunch-at-pratt-refuge-with-women-and-our-woods/>.

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

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Bolton Spring Festival
May 17 at Smilie School

By Sarah Courtemanche, Bolton

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community conservation thoughts
in Cambridge: Root Rippers

By Jayne Lukens, Cambridge
Conservation Commission Chair

Happy spring, phew, we made it!

While on a jog around Jeff village today (April 29), I noticed two disheartening things: lots of trash and the beginnings of Japanese Knotweed (JKW) in new places. These things are frustrating, true. But let this be the summer of togetherness in the spirit of conservation! Saturday, May 3 was Green Up Day, the day for tackling the winter trash buildup thoroughly!

I saw so many tiny new patches of JKW, it’s enough to feel very overwhelmed. However, Sara Lourie has started a new task force called *The Root Rippers*, which will meet on the first Saturday and second Sunday of the month at various places within Cambridge to tackle eradication. It would be so great to have community help on this issue. Maybe make a friend, get your hands in the dirt, and stick around for food afterwards. Email CambridgeJKW@gmail.comfor more information.

A new concept, or just putting
the pieces back together?

By Bernie Paquette, Jericho

Recently, Maeve and I were at Mills Riverside Park; she was birding, I was inverting, and viewing ephemerals. After a few hours on the upper level, I met up with Maeve at the base of the park to sit at the Gazebo and watch/listen to birds and insects.

As Maeve viewed a flycatcher, I said, “Hey, your bird ate my insect!”

To which Maeve said, “You got an insect on my bird.”

To which we both laughed and decided that the two great walks and sits (Birding and Inverting) are great together.

We are therefore spreading the word to get a cadre of folks to join in the concept of Birds and Bugs (Birding and Inverting combined). It is worth exploring and developing. Birding is a step into nature. Many folks recognize the many values and benefits of being in nature. Birding is one piece. Add in the quiet. Add in the aesthetics. Add in Inverting. Before you know it, we’re looking at the whole puzzle instead of just pieces. And what a puzzle picture nature is.

Erin Talmage at the Birds of Vermont Museum writes, “We recently had a bird walk that included birds, spring ephemerals, and frog eggs. Because... well... we just couldn’t help it!”

Legislative reports continued from page 5

- H.46 — an act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;
- H.120 — an act relating to the study and design of a long-term care trust fund;
- H.143 — an act establishing a support service program for individuals who are DeafBlind;
- H.248 — an act relating to supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program;
- H.30 — an act concerning the use of seclusion and restraint on children and youth in the custody of the Department for Children and Families.

Additionally, the committee heard from representatives of DAIL (Developmental Disabilities Services Division) regarding updates on the Policy of Payments to Parents and the Adult Services Division (Meals on Wheels) program.

I encourage constituents to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding these bills. If I do not have the answer, I will consult the appropriate committee to obtain additional information.

Weekly legislative report

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden House District

May 9

The pace of bills moving back and forth between the House and Senate is picking up as we near the end of the legislation session. The major education bill is still in the Senate, but has now moved to the Senate Finance Committee.

In other business, the following bills saw action:

- * S.50 – an act relating to solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration;
- * H.218 – A bill related to appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund (this bill came from my committee and is now on its way to the Governor for signature);

Heather Holm, a biologist, pollinator conservationist, and award-winning author, writes of birding and inverting, “My husband and I do this every weekend, he’s the birder and I’m the inverter.”

While individual species, organisms, woodlands, and waterways are distinct, they also interact and rely on each other within ecosystems, creating a web of interconnectedness. Birding and Inverting, viewing Ephemeral flowers, and other nature immersions complement one another, complete the puzzle picture, and help make us complete; they help us see the interconnections.

The similarities between birding and ‘inverting’ are evident. There is the discovery (I have to boast for insects, as there are so many more species to discover). There is the beauty, the colors, patterns, sounds, and behaviors. I have stories of insects mating, predating, falling, crashing, and going eye to eye with me. There is identification for those skilled and wanting to know the species name. There is the challenge. Try getting a photo of a Bumblebee queen fresh out of her winter hibernation and working to get food from flowers. She is hungry and has no patience for me pestering her. Though I have to admit getting a photo of a bird pooping (a fixation of mine) is also challenging!

I believe ‘inverting’ will become the new birding. Worry not, birders, there is room for us (all) to open our eyes to everything around us.

Birds and Bugs Outing: Get out there with eyes, ears, and interest, open. Look up, look down, look. all around. See a Great Crested Fly Catcher hover in the air and snatch an insect. Go eye to eye with a jumping spider - no one can outstare them. Sit in front of Jewel Weed flowers while humming birds and wild native bees all come to you (well, actually, they are coming for the food in the flowers).

Birds and Bugs. Remember that combining birding with ‘inverting’ creates enjoyable walks and sits. They go great together (like chocolate and peanut butter).

View Bernie’s photos of Mills Riverside Park, Insects, birds, Ephemerals at https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=176168&user_id=bugeyedbernie&verifiable=any.

Birds I think I heard or viewed at Mills Riverside Park on a solo trip on May 5 include: Ovenbird, Nuthatch, Chickadee, Red Winged Blackbird, Robin, Wild Turkey (?), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blackburnian Warbler (?), Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue (?), Raven, Crow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Brown Creeper, Scarlet Tanager (?), Blue Jay, Blue-headed Vireo, Titmouse, Baltimore Oriole (?), Downy Woodpecker, Canada Goose, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Broad-winged Hawk, Wood Thrush. Might have finally gotten a shot of the outer wing of the West Virginia White (Pieris virginienis), and possibly a Trout Lily mining bee (it would be my first). Awaiting *iNaturalist*

Government is the solution... if we
support and use it responsibly

By Bill Schubart

There’s been a lot of blither written on both ends of the political spectrum about how government is not the answer to our accelerating challenges. Well, if not government — meaning the balanced authority of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches — then what?

Please don’t say “the marketplace.” We’ve been pushing that folly since Reagan announced in his 1981 inaugural address that “Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem.” And, like lemmings, marched the middle class off a cliff, creating the widest disparity of wealth between rich and poor among all other major developed nations.

In 2023, the wealthiest Americans are worth 38 times what they were worth in 1982. The richest one percent own fifty per cent of the stock market and mutual funds according to the Federal Reserve. According to PEW Research, the share of Americans who are in the middle class has shrunk from 61% in 1971 to 51% in 2023.

And now, in Trump II, we’re trying the same strategy on steroids and expecting different results...? Einstein is supposed to have said, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

Democratic liberals have looked to plug the poverty holes with social safety-net programs. I sympathize with this, though I grew up in a small Vermont town in which everyone was Republican. In those days, Republicans believed in helping those who

* H.96 – an act relating to increasing monetary thresholds for certificates of need;

* JRS 15 – this is a joint resolution (essentially an official statement from the General Assembly, but is not a law) supporting Vermont’s transgender and non-binary community and declaring Vermont’s commitment to fighting discrimination and treating all citizens with respect and dignity;

* H.230 – a bill updating the management of fish and wildlife;

* H.248 – a bill regarding child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (this bill was from my committee, and it updates provisions to conform to federal rules from April 2024);

* S.117 – an act relating to rulemaking on safety and health standards and technical corrections on employment practices and unemployment compensation;

* S.44 – an act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements;

* S.87 – an act relating to extradition procedures.

Proposal for Constitutional Amendment — this proposed amendment (Proposal 3) is in its final stages of legislative activity before being sent to the Governor and then ultimately to the voters in November 2026. It was approved by the Senate and House. The amendment proposes to declare that the citizens of Vermont have a right to collectively bargain.

If you are interested in the process to propose an amendment to the Vermont Constitution, you can read more at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/House%20General/General%20Information/W~BetsyAnn%20Wrask~Overview%20of%20Procedure%20to%20Amend%20the%20Vermont%20Constitution~3-26-2025.pdf>.

If you want to read the full language of the proposed constitutional amendment, you can find it at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/CALENDAR/hc250501.pdf>.

couldn’t help themselves, they cared about the environment as they understood it. They believed in science and invention. They drew the line, however, at spending money they didn’t have.

Today’s MAGA Republicans bear no likeness to the Republicans I grew up with. They decry and destroy effective government systems and collaborative international relationships, ignore science and innovation, and unwind regulation and taxation — at least for themselves — and pray at the feet of a would-be dictator.

Who are these people? Certainly not the party of Lincoln.

Here in Vermont and in the nation, we must... I was going to say “reinvigorate” but will now say “salvage” ... the fundamental utility of government in our lives, not in the oligarchic form as currently envisaged but in its constitutional form, with its basic tenets of free speech, due process, balance of powers, and attention to the common good.

Government’s role scales geographically from community to state to nation. Here at home, we must pay attention to the critical role of government in our lives as well. Politics being politics, we tend to focus on the successes and failures of individuals and lose sight of how the architecture of governing across the three branches must also change with the times. We whine about politicians with whom we disagree but don’t bother to communicate with them. Being a legislator in Vermont is hard work, poorly compensated, and under-resourced. I respect those willing to make the effort. We must come together and address the hard work of being a public servant and review the structural deficiencies in the system within which they work.

As technical progress accelerates, it only complicates strategic issues:

1. public education: quality and financing;
2. healthcare: implementation, regulation and financing;
3. criminal justice: courts and corrections;
4. poverty: housing, hunger, a livable wage, food systems;
5. transportation: public and private;
6. environmental protection and remediation.

Do we elect leaders willing to do the difficult work of navigating change? Does the arcane cabinet system in the executive branch still make sense with six departments of health?

Can legislators address these complex issues with the limited resources they have at hand?

Are our judges, prosecutors, defenders, and court systems adequate to handle the pace of what we call crime? What is a crime and what is an illness? Are addiction and mental-illness really crimes?

We must ask the hard questions of ourselves, not just attack *government as the problem*. Government is an organizing concept. It needs care and adjustment like any other complex system. We must be ready to reimagine how we govern in each of the three branches. Our goal should not be to assign blame but to solve problems that are increasingly interwoven and complex. Are not the moral determinants of health that support wellbeing the same as those that determine educational success?

Here in Vermont, might it be time to convene some experienced people to imagine how we might re-engineer state government to better serve the needs of Vermonters rather than decry its failures?

On the national level, might we revisit what it means to be a politician? Is it a profession that seeks to aggregate power and authority and thereby enhance personal wealth and influence? Or is it a commitment to using the tools of good government to enhance the common good and defend the rights guaranteed us by our Constitution? Is it a lucrative career opportunity that simply benefits the office holder and his cronies, or a commitment to serve others and enhance the lives of all of us?

To me, it is certainly not the sad, insecure little boy in the White House trying to present himself as a mature adult.

Vermont State Historic Sites
opening for 2025 season

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation announces the opening of the State Historic Sites for the 2025 season. The first to open is the Bennington Battle Monument on Friday, May 16. Then Chimney Point, Hubbardton Battlefield, Mount Independence, and President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site open on Friday, May 23. Lastly, the site of Vermont’s first U.S. President, the President Chester A. Arthur State Historic Site, opens Saturday, May 24.

“The Vermont State Historic Sites present history where it happened and provide exciting experiences for everyone,” said Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer. “We invite you to discover Vermont’s rich heritage and how it impacted our national story.”

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site has installed a new exhibit in the Museum and Education Center examining how Revolutionary-era ideals purveyed President Calvin Coolidge’s administration in the 1920s. The ornamental plaster frieze and mural studies depicting significant events in American history by Constantino Brumidi, artist for the U.S. Capitol, will be displayed at Mount Independence. In collaboration with the Mount Independence Coalition, noted historian Willard Sterne Randall will speak about his new historical biography, John Hancock: First to Sign, First to Invest in America’s Independence, at Mount Independence on Saturday, June 14. Hubbardton Battlefield will present a lecture entitled *The Strong Women of Western Vermont during the American Revolution* on Sunday, June 29. On Friday, July 4, celebrate the founding of our nation with a reading of the Declaration of Independence at Bennington Battle Monument or walk in the parade to the Plymouth Cemetery to lay a commemorative wreath from the White House to honor Calvin Coolidge on his 153rd birthday. You can also join the living history reenactment of the 1777 Battle of Hubbardton, the only engagement of the American Revolution fought entirely in what would become Vermont soil, on the weekend of Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13 at Hubbardton Battlefield.

Senator Justin Morrill State Historic Site in Strafford and Old Constitution House in Windsor are closed this season for preservation. Bennington Battle Monument will be closed the week of Monday, June 9 for routine maintenance on the exterior of the structure. It will reopen to the public for Vermont Days on Saturday, June 14.

For more information on the Vermont State Historic Sites including hours of operation and the 2025 events schedule visit our website <https://historicsites.vermont.gov/>.

Home and Garden 2025

The benefits of dethatching your yard

(StatePoint) Dethatching your lawn has numerous benefits. But if you’re not sure what dethatching is or how to do it, you may be wondering if it’s really worth all the effort.

To shed light on dethatching, lawn care equipment manufacturer Exmark is answering some frequently asked questions.

What is thatch? Thatch is a compacted layer of grass and plant stems, leaves, roots, and other organic debris that builds up faster than it can decompose. It accumulates right below the surface of your lawn and right on top of the soil, at the base of your grasses’ blades. Overly thick thatch blocks water and fertilizer from reaching the grasses’ roots, causing them to be trapped and vulnerable to heat, drought and stress — further stunting your lawn’s health and growth. However, thatch isn’t always a bad thing — a layer that’s less than a quarter-inch thick is normal and isn’t cause for alarm. It actually helps reduce soil compaction and water loss through evaporation, and it increases tolerance for cold and heat by protecting the growing blades.

When should you dethatch your lawn? For warm-season grasses, it’s best to dethatch in the late spring or early summer, and for cool-season grasses it’s best to do it in early spring or fall. But before you start dethatching, mow your lawn to half its

normal height to avoid tearing up any live grass in the process. Then, take out your rake or dethatcher and remove the thatch.

How do you dethatch? The process of dethatching is simple. You can purchase a specialized rake, but in a pinch, a regular rake will do. You can also rent a dethatcher to make the job even easier. Your lawn might look a bit ragged afterwards, so you’ll need to go over it again — this time just barely skimming the top of your lawn to remove all the loose debris that you just dug up. But before you start, call up your local utility company and have them mark any buried lines to avoid unwanted surprises.

What are the benefits of dethatching your lawn? The time and effort that it takes to remove thatch pays huge dividends. Primarily, it exposes your soil to warmth and sunlight, helping carbon dioxide and key nutrients reach your grasses’ roots, resulting in deeper growth. It also encourages the effectiveness of fertilizers and reduces water pooling on the surface of your yard by facilitating drainage. And, it helps fight back against invasive weeds that thrive in conditions created by a heavy thatch layer. Best of all, it promotes an overall healthier, greener lawn.

For more insights, watch *The Benefits of Dethatching*, an episode of *Backyard Smart*, an original series from lawn care equipment manufacturer Exmark. To watch the video, visit *Backyard Life*, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and



Dethatching can be performed with a manual or powered rake, or a rotary broom. PHOTO COURTESY OF STATEPOINT

view other Exmark Original Series videos.

Now that you have the lowdown on dethatching, it’s time to get outside and free up your soil. Your lawn will thank you later.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

(StatePoint) When choosing doors for your home, remember that careful selections can improve not only your home’s beauty and value, but also your quality of life. Here are a few door types to consider, along with their benefits.

Mindful moving: simple tips for a greener way to relocate

(StatePoint) Getting ready for a move? It’s important to keep the environment in mind as you pack and plan. From the boxes you pack to the items you throw away, a few small sustainable swaps can make a big difference in lowering your move’s impact on Mother Nature. Whether you’re relocating across town or cross-country, try these moving tips to help reduce waste, save money and lighten your environmental footprint — without adding stress to your to-do list.

1. Give gently used items a new home. Moving is the perfect time to declutter. Take stock of what you don’t need and set it aside if it’s still in good shape. Instead of tossing out unused items, like clothing or household goods, drop them off at a local donation center to give them a new life and reduce landfill waste. For higher-value items, consider selling them via online marketplaces to earn some cash for your moving costs, while still keeping them out of the garbage bin.
2. Source secondhand boxes. Before buying new, check nearby grocery stores or bookstores to gather gently used moving boxes. In the weeks leading up to the move, you also can ask friends, family, and neighbors to share boxes they may have on hand from online shopping deliveries or other purchases. There are even online platforms that connect people giving away or selling used

moving supplies — all great ways to cut down on waste and save money.

3. Choose eco-friendly packing materials. Clear plastic tape is commonly used for sealing boxes, but did you know it can’t be recycled? For a sustainable alternative, opt for Duck Brand EZ Tear Paper Tape. It’s simple to use since there’s no dispenser needed. Plus, it’s recyclable with your boxes and perfect for labeling since you can write directly on it. For packing fragile items, try Duck Brand Packing Paper, which is made with 40% recycled materials — it’s a planet-friendly alternative to traditional packing materials and still protects your valuables from damage.
4. Reduce trips to cut down on emissions. Fewer trips mean less emissions. If you’re moving without the help of professional movers, plan ahead by renting a truck or trailer large enough to minimize the back-and-forth drive time. Consolidating the move



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

air circulation in your home. While storm doors are often thought about more in terms of their functionality, it’s important to keep in mind that varying hardware options, styles, and paint finishes allow you to seamlessly blend yours in with the aesthetic of your home.

Bring the outside in with sliding glass patio doors: Want to bathe your home interiors with light and the beauty of your natural surroundings? One of the most effective, low-maintenance ways to do just that is with vinyl sliding glass patio doors. Those from ProVia are tested against the most stringent industry standards for air and water infiltration, wind load resistance, ease of operation, and more. This means you’ll have lower heating and cooling costs and increased comfort, all while offering your household full, unparalleled views of your outdoor spaces. Customization options, such as the materials and colors of the interior frame and the type of glass you choose, can help you tailor the look and functionality of your sliding glass doors.

For more design tips, visit *provia.com*.

For a true return on your home improvement project, consider how a door replacement can elevate your home’s style while protecting it from the elements.

not only saves on fuel, but it makes the entire process smoother and more energy efficient.

After you’re all settled in, don’t forget to give away your boxes and other supplies to keep the sustainability going. With these smart, sustainable tips, you can start fresh in your new home with less waste and more peace of mind.

Spring rebates on electric yard equipment

From Green Mountain Power

Spring is in the air and GMP rebates can help you save on electric yard equipment! Switch to clean electric for your lawnmower, lawn tractor, chain saw, and leaf blower.

Learn more about GMP’s Home and Yard rebates online at www.greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/home-and-yard/.

Good weather is also a good time to make sure you are storm-ready. Take a minute to sign up for GMP text alerts so you can easily report outages by text, get updates from GMP, and track restoration times, too. Find more information online at www.greenmountainpower.com/apps-alerts/text-alerts/.

In the case of damaging weather, always stay far away from downed lines and trees — they could still be energized. Other tips to be storm-ready are in the safety section of the GMP website, at www.greenmountainpower.com/safety/.



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Home and Garden 2025

How to pick the right plants for your location

(StatePoint) When planning your yard or garden, you likely focus on the what and the where. After all, a beautiful plant in a prime location enhances curb appeal and even bragging rights. You may pay less attention though to understanding how your location, or plant hardiness zone, impacts your garden's success. To help ensure your plants don't just survive, but thrive, the experts at lawn care equipment manufacturer Exmark are sharing the following insights about plant hardiness:

What is plant hardiness?

Plant hardiness is the secret sauce of any healthy outdoor space. Plant hardiness is the ability of a plant to survive adverse growing conditions such as drought, flooding, heat, and cold. Have you ever watched with frustration as a late-season temperature dip leaves your beautiful buds with a serious case of frostbite? Plant hardiness zones were developed to help landscapers, gardeners, and lawn care enthusiasts avoid this headache.

American farming contributes billions of dollars to the gross national product annually, which is one reason why the USDA has long monitored weather data. If determining when the average final frost may occur for every region in the country is worth billions, what could that same knowledge mean for your garden? Well, choosing plants with hardiness levels appropriate to specific planting zones gives you the best chance of cultivating healthy, beautiful plants.

What is my growing zone?

The United States is divided into 13 zones, Zones 1-6 being the coldest, and 7-13 the warmest. Zone 1 averages -60°F while zone 13 never drops below 70°F. A general guideline is to plant anything designated for your zone or lower, but never higher. Know what zone you live in and make a point of checking the tag on the back of the plant or seed pack before planting.

Perennials versus annuals

There's a reason you see palm trees in Sarasota, FL, not Saginaw, MI. When it comes to perennials, it's not about when the first frost is, but how cold it gets, and whether that plant can survive and thrive through winter.

Plant hardiness zones are less important, however, when it comes to annuals. Because these plants are only meant to last one growing season; waiting until after the average first frost date will save you from having to re-plant. Know that even if your plant survives the frost, it may never match the photo you saw advertised at the nursery.

Planting zone rule of thumb

Plant hardiness zone maps are, well, all over the map. Consider the number assigned to your zip code as a starting point. You may live right at the break between one zone and the other. When in doubt, guess too low rather than too high. In the South, the heat stresses a plant not made for the conditions. Your particular geography can also affect your hardiness zone, like if you live on a hill or in a valley.

For more insights, check out the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, and watch Find Your Plant Hardiness Zone, an episode of Backyard Smart, an original series from lawn care equipment



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) DAVIDPRAHL / iSTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

manufacturer Exmark. To watch the video, visit Backyard Life, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark Original Series videos.

Understanding what plants will thrive in your climate is essential to a healthy landscape. Fortunately, free resources abound to help you plant successfully.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rid your lawn of bare spots with these tips

(StatePoint) Even if you have lush, green grass, your lawn may still have bare spots. Bare spots occur for a variety of reasons, and when they do, seldom fix themselves.

To repair these areas and earn the title of best lawn on the block, consider these insights and tips from lawn care equipment manufacturer Exmark.

Clear your lawn: The first thing you'll need to do is clear your lawn of invasive weeds, dead grass, and thatch. To give your new

grass a fighting chance, the soil underneath needs to live its best life, first and foremost.

Prepare and reseed: Soil that's become hard and compacted won't be ideal for the seed germination needed to replace barren spots with fresh growth. So, use a good, heavy garden rake to loosen the soil two to three inches deep.

If your soil's dry, add fresh topsoil for a hearty mix of nutrients and grass-growing energy to the depleted ground. Work the new soil in with the old and you're on your way.

Now that your soil has what it needs, you're ready to repair bare spots by applying new seed. Rake a seed type that matches your grass type into the soil. Always follow the directions on the bag closely, as applying too much seed in too small an area can cause the grass to grow to the point of choking itself out. This will land you right back to square one with a new bare spot to repair, so make sure you don't put down too much seed.

Feed after you seed: All plants require six essential nutrients: oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen, which are received above-ground through air and water, and nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, which come from the soil. Every bag of plant food will contain three numbers separated by dashes. Understanding lawn and plant fertilizer numbers can help you grow your greenest lawn ever.

Post-bare spot repair: You'll want to keep your re-seeded area moist for at least a few weeks before new growth appears. Sprigs of new grass will start appearing before you know it, but it's

important to wait a few more weeks before mowing to allow new grass to become established.

For more insights, watch *How to Repair Bare Spots in Your Lawn*, an episode of *Backyard Smart*, an original series from mower manufacturer Exmark. To watch the video, visit *Backyard Life*, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark Original Series videos.

By following these steps, you can make lawn bare spots a thing of the past—and your dream lawn a reality of the near future!

Purchase a congratulations ad in the GRADUATION PAGES
coming in the June 19 issue.
Contact Brenda
at mtngazette@gmavt.net
for more information.



May 2025 Rabies Vaccine Bait Drop

May 2025

The rabies vaccine bait drop is an initiative of the United States Department of Agriculture to help prevent rabies, and to keep it from spreading north across the Canadian border. Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals.

Rabies vaccine is wrapped in sweet-scented bait attractive to raccoons and skunks. In May 2025, about 350,000 of these quarter-sized blister packs will be dropped from low-flying aircraft in Vermont or placed out of sight by hand in densely populated areas.

Learn more about rabies in Vermont at HealthVermont.gov/Rabies.

This is a rabies bait blister pack.

It contains a rabies vaccine for wildlife to eat.



Home and Garden 2025



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) GEORGERUDY / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Tips to spring clean your budget
(StatePoint) With flowers blooming and birds chirping, you

may be in a spring-cleaning mindset. As you spruce up your home, you can also channel that energy into getting your finances in tip-top shape!

According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNING® professionals, here's how to clear away the cobwebs in your budget:

Sort expenditures: If you've ever sorted your clothes and other items into piles during a spring clean, this budgeting principle will be familiar to you. Review your expenses and categorize them into needs, wants, and expenditures you're ready to part with. Whether you do this on paper or electronically, use a color-coded system to visualize where your money is going.

Review your streaming services: Electronic subscription bloat is common, as is paying for forgotten subscriptions after free trials end. For example, you may be subscribed to several of the most common entertainment streaming services, such as Netflix, Max, and Hulu. Do you really need all of them? Whether it's an online newsletter or a music streaming service, cancel unused subscriptions.

Avoid bank fees: Review your bank statements. Are you getting dinged with fees? Consider switching to a bank that

doesn't charge an account maintenance fee. You can also set up notifications to avoid having your account get hit with an overdraft. If you do get charged, contact your bank to explain your situation — you may be able to have some fees waived.

Switch insurance carriers: Periodically review your insurance rates, and shop the market to see if better rates are available for home, automotive, and other forms of insurance.

Reduce debt: If your debt is costing you a pretty penny, it's time to act. A CFP® professional or credit counselor can help you craft a plan for consolidating debt into lower-rate credit card accounts, refinancing your mortgage and reducing your overall debt burden. You should also automate credit card payments (and other bills) to ensure you aren't paying late fees.

Pay yourself first: Earmark a portion of your budget to savings and investments each month. This will leave you with more money for your important goals and less for frivolous spending.

To work with a CFP® professional who can help you roll up your sleeves and get to work on cleaning up your finances, visit letsmakeaplan.org.

This spring, go beyond dusting the baseboards and mopping the floors. Refresh your finances for a fresh start to the season.

Top trending paint projects of the year to tackle at home

(StatePoint) Need fresh ideas and practical tips to elevate your home's interiors?

Backed by in-depth research, FrogTape brand painter's tape's "What's Trending" report reveals the top projects on DIYers' wish lists, as well as how fixer-uppers of all skill levels can bring these emerging projects to life:

1. *Furniture flips*. Nearly 80% of DIYers say they're considering upcycling old furniture with a little paint within the next year.
2. *Creative cabinets*. Painting kitchen or bathroom cabinets? Use a low-adhesion, premium painter's tape. A great choice is FrogTape Delicate Surface Painter's Tape. Its exclusive PaintBlock Technology seals tape edges and blocks paint bleed for sharp paint lines, and was specially designed to prevent damage on freshly-painted surfaces.

3. *Color drenching*. Creating a canopy of one rich, deep hue across an entire room — including walls, trim, and even the ceiling — is among the year's most sought-after painting projects. Use drop cloths or paint tarps to protect flooring and furniture, and FrogTape Multi-Surface painter's tape to separate areas and ensure sharp lines.
4. *Touches of texture*. Homeowners are making interiors feel warm and welcoming by adding depth and dimension to walls, accent furniture, and fireplaces. Another emerging technique is applying limewash paint — a mixture of crushed limestone and natural pigments — for a texturized, moody finish.
5. *Nature-inspired murals and faux wallpaper*. Whether it's hand-drawn organic shapes or botanical brushstrokes, DIYers are favoring nature-inspired elements to make walls pop. Consider using painter's tape or stencils to gain confidence in your design.

For more inspiration and tips, visit [FrogTape.com](https://frogtape.com).

No matter which project you undertake, the right painter's tape can help you realize your beautiful, on-trend vision.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) YANA TATEVOSIAN / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Microplastics and your water supply: what your family needs to know
(StatePoint) Statistics show if that if you're not filtering

your water the right way, your family is likely consuming microplastics.

An overwhelming 94% of U.S. tap water is contaminated with fragments of plastic pollution called microplastics, and bottled water does not fare much better — microplastics are found in 93% of 11 popular water bottle brands around the world.

Microplastics found in drinking water are not just an environmental hazard — mounting evidence indicates that they are also a potential human health hazard.

So what can you do to help make your drinking water safer? Investing in the right water filter is a great start. Be sure to choose one that meets internationally-recognized testing standards and is backed by independent testing. For example, all of LifeStraw's water filters feature a membrane technology capable of filtering out microplastics and a host of other contaminants, such as bacteria and parasites.

To ensure your family has higher-quality water wherever you go, tackle the problem with this two-pronged approach.

At home: Supply your household with safer water using

the LifeStraw Home High-Capacity Dispenser. In addition to microplastics, this sleek, 35-cup dispenser also removes bacteria and parasites, and reduces lead, mercury, and chemicals including PFAS, as well as chlorine, herbicides, pesticides, dirt, sand, and cloudiness, while retaining essential minerals.

On the go: Access healthier water when you are at school, work or out and about using the LifeStraw Go Series Water Filter Tumbler. This insulated, travel-sized stainless steel water filter improves taste and protects against contaminants, including microplastics.

To learn more about safe drinking water, as well as efforts being made to improve drinking water around the world, visit lifestraw.com/blogs.

When it comes to your family's health and well-being, don't take chances. Simple steps can vastly improve your water supply and reduce your consumption of harmful pollutants.



Many folks recognize the many values and benefits of being in nature. Birding is one piece. Add in the quiet. Add in the aesthetics. Add in Inverting. Before you know it, we're looking at the whole puzzle instead of just pieces. And what a puzzle picture nature is. Full story page 6.

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE



This American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*) rested on my fingers while I walked 150 steps along the Mobbs trail in Jericho.

He is a character in my upcoming book,
Ben Walker Discovers Bugs in an Alien World.

Purchase a congratulations ad in the GRADUATION PAGES coming in the June 19 issue. Contact Brenda at mtngazette@gmavt.net for more information.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho. Most Sundays, Calvary worships at 9:30 AM at the Jericho church. The next Soup/Suppers (held the last Thursday of the month) will be May 29 and June 26, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it!

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays (May 25, June 8, 22) of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

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

Jericho Congregational Church

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

Waterville Union Church

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

Smell the sea, and feel the sky.
Let your soul and spirit fly.
— Van Morrison

MEMORIAL DAY INFORMATION

When a parent is deployed

Memorial Day is a time to think about those who have given their lives defending our country.

Parents who have a partner or close relative who is going to be deployed for a military assignment away from home, or who has already been deployed, have been asking me to do my duty and help them help their children deal with the separation.

Let me salute this important issue and provide some information on this topic.

Some helpful approaches

It is important that deployment not be a secret for anyone in the family. If a parent or close relative is going to be going away in the military, it needs to be discussed by all family members old enough to understand in advance.

Having a deployed person leave something for a child to keep safe while they are gone and having the child give a keepsake to that person can help maintain the closeness during the deployment.

Having a plan to stay connected, if possible, through email, texts, photos, and videos can also help make the time pass more quickly.

Listen to your child’s questions and answer them as truthfully as possible.

Reassure your child and tell them how long a loved one will be away and that safety precautions will certainly be taken — but do not make false assurances that no one will ever be hurt. It is ok to say that the person deployed knows their job and will be working hard to do it well so they can stay safe.

A great idea is to make a calendar marked with events like birthdays and holidays that a child can keep track of to know better when the return is planned. Other older children whose parents are away may be good support for younger children.

It is important to keep routines in place and continue to set limits on things such as screen time and other activities before, during, and after someone returns, no matter how joyful that latter occasion is.

Let the school and other key people outside of the family who work with your child know that this is happening so they can watch for signs of stress such as problems in school performance, behavior, or mood changes. If so, talk with your child’s health care professional to see if counseling or family counseling is indicated to deal with the sadness and anxiety associated with someone being away on deployment.

It is important that a parent who remains home with the children finds time for themselves so they stay refreshed and can feel better about helping others through this tough experience. If you appear stressed, your child may become equally stressed.

Hopefully tips like these will put you at ease when it comes to helping you and your child deal with the deployment of a loved one.

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

2025 Jericho/Underhill Memorial Day Parade May 26

The annual Memorial Day parade will take place on Monday, May 26!

The parade will start at 11:00 AM at the Brown’s River Middle School, 20 River Road, Jericho. The parade will then continue onto Park Street, in Underhill, and end at Veteran’s Park (the green at the north end of Park Street).

River Road, from Park Street to VT Rt. 15, will be closed from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

All of Park Street, from River Road to VT Rt. 15, will be closed from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

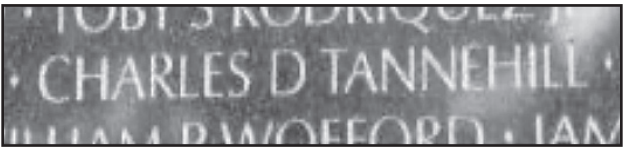


PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL I. SCROGGS, [HTTPS://MICHAELISCROGGS.PAGES.DEV/](https://michaeliscroiggs.pages.dev/)



In April 2000 shortly after we married, Brian and I traveled to Washington, D.C. and visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where I took this photo of him. He searched for and found Charles D. Tannehill’s name on the Wall (also pictured is Brian’s photograph of Charlie’s name in that polished granite). In Vietnam Brian was a USMC officer leading long-range reconnaissance patrols near the DMZ. Tannehill was one of the men in the platoon he led, Bravo platoon, and while Brian led it there were no KIA casualties on their patrols. Shortly after Brian was wounded and medevac’d to the U.S.S. Repose for treatment and then sent stateside — back to the world — Tannehill was killed in a Bravo platoon patrol. Brian has always felt responsible for Tannehill’s death since, as he said, he had not been there to protect him. Semper Fi.
PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

“Dedicated to the memory of Charlie Tannehill, Sgt. USMC, Bravo Co., 1st Recon Bn, 1st Marines.” Tannehill was KIA after April 13, 1969.

PHOTO BY BRIAN B. RILEY, 1ST LT (RET) USMC, BRAVO CO., 1ST RECON BN, 1ST MARINES

SENIOR NEWS

Join Mt. Mansfield Villages — neighbors helping neighbors

Are you over 50 and live in Cambridge, Underhill, or Jericho? Do you need some support to “age in place?” Do you want to connect with or help your neighbors?

Mt. Mansfield Villages (MMV) is a local non-profit of neighbors helping neighbors. Our network of volunteers provides members with a variety of help such as grocery shopping, transportation, shoveling, light home maintenance, technology help, and friendly visits. We also provide social connection with gatherings and other fun events.

MMV is part of the national Village to Village Network. There is annual fee to be a member and we have scholarships available. You can join as a member, a volunteer, or both!

If you are interested learning more, join us at Jericho Ale & Bean for “Coffee and Conversation” on the first Thursday of each month (June 5) at 10:00 AM. We look forward to meeting you!

For more information, visit www.mountmansfieldvillages.org, call 802-858-5381 or email us at mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com.

AARP free drive-through document shredding May 20

Every two seconds someone’s identity is stolen — but you can take steps to protect yourself. Join us to fight back against fraud!

Join us on Tuesday, May 20, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM for a free drive-through document shredding day. The event will take place on the west side of the building located at 530 Community Dr., S. Burlington. There will be signage to direct drivers to the shredding site. Pull up your car, unload your documents, and they

will be shredded on-site. Please, no more than 3 bags or boxes per car.

Drive-ups are welcome, but pre-registration will expedite entry for everyone. Please register online at <https://local.aarp.org/aarp-event/document-shredding-day-jpn4wp3rlq6.html>.

Note: please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before to the start time, as we need space to get the shred truck set up.

Senior Lunch-and-Learn events from Age Well

Age Well provides a weekly Senior Luncheon followed by a ☐ Some details: space is limited so advance registration (at least a week in advance) is required for each community meal. You must call or email to register for the meals. Contact Taylor, Recreation Program Coordinator, 802-876-1160 or recreation@willistonvt.org. An annual registration form is required, which will be done at the first meal you attend. Forms are updated each year. There is a \$5 suggested donation per meal, which goes to Age Well.

For more information contact 802-876-1160 or ☐ thayes@willistonvt.org; more information is online at https://willistonvt.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30348.

Tuesday, May 20 menu: roast beef with sauce, diced potatoes with parsley, green beans, wheat bread, and pumpkin raisin cookie. Program: Senior Medicare Patrol: Protect Yourself from Scams. Join Jean McDermott from the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for an important session on health care fraud, scams, and how to protect yourself and your loved ones. Learn how to spot

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

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

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

Adults

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

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

Thursday, May 15, June 12, 26, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters’ Group. Bring a craft you’re working on and join the camaraderie and conversation. For more information please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: French Conversation Chez Henry. All levels of French speakers, as well as the French curious, are welcome to this informal conversation group.

Wednesday, May 21, 2:00 – 4:30 PM: Sewing and Quilting Group. Volunteer Mary Stephenson welcomes you to this twice-monthly gathering of people who sew and/or quilt. Bring a project you’re working on. Sewing machines are welcome. For more information contact marystephenon6@gmail.com.

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

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

Youth programs

Get ready to *Color Our World* — the 2025 Summer Reading Program *Color Our World* begins Tuesday, June 3, with programs and activities for kids, teens, and adults. Pick up our Summer Reading Brochure, available now in the library and online at <https://www.drml.org/srp25/>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, May 20, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Warrior Cats Club [ages 8+] Make cat masks and paper crafts, take quizzes, play games, and hang out with other series’ fans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JERICO TOWN LIBRARY

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

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

New book/discussion group for adults: the Current Events & Societal Issues Book Club. This group is for adults interested in thinking about and discussing important issues in our local

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

Weekly events

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

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

Tuesdays through June 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Kids’ Radio Program. Do you have kids interested in writing, theater, sound editing, podcasts, or radio shows? Sign them up to help launch a brand-new radio show — created for kids by kids! Program participants will choose a name for the radio show, write scripts for different segments, and record the show, with help from JTL staff and the WRUJ-LP radio project. (What is WRUJ-LP? A low power FM community radio station. WRUJ-LP will eventually have a physical radio station in Richmond, VT. Until the station is built, they will be hosting an internet radio station, which will feature this show.) Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/bWpyXVt3QNSm36iDA>.

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Embodied Wisdom Women’s Group. Please join Project All Together Now (ATN) and Deanna Bartlett for a weekly multi-generational Women’s Yoga Circle! This group is meant to serve women of all ages in building connection with themselves and each other. Gather up your friends, moms, aunties, grandmothers, mentors, and any female-identifying people in your life that could use some more spaciousness in their weeks and explore how restorative yoga can support you in rest and connection. Second floor.

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

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

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

Monthly or twice-a-month

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

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

Find us on Facebook and Instagram ([@jerichotownlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/jerichotownlibrary)) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections. 802-899-4686, library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

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

Saturday, May 17, 10:30 AM: Norah’s Beads. We gratefully acknowledge Healthy Lamoille Valley for their generous support to ensure this event is free and open to the community.

Wednesday, May 21, 5:30 – 7:30 PM: CCLA Annual Meeting.

Friday, May 23, 10:00 AM: Homeschoolers Meet-up.

Saturday, May 24, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Lego Club meet-up.

Thursday, May 29, 4:15 – 5:00 PM: Page Turners Book Club with our newest team member at the helm! Page Turners Book Club is for upper elementary ages and beyond. Meet to discuss creepy and spooky short stories from authors like H.P. Lovecraft, Shirley Jackson, Algernon Blackwood, and many more. We will use these stories as inspirations to write our own — all materials provided! We will have snacks on hand for those just getting off the bus from LNSU Middle and High Schools, as always!

Programs

Find all these program descriptions and more online at [www.varnumlibrary.org](http://varnumlibrary.org). Programs are free and open to the public.

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

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

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

Thursdays, 10:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

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

We’re always happy to see you at the library! Varnum Memorial Library, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville; www.varnumlibrary.org, 802-644-2117.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed.

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

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

What’s up with the annual book sale? Different date... same great sale: Sunday, July 20, Red Brick Meeting House from 12:00 – 4:00 PM. We will be accepting donations for the sale only at certain days and times: Saturday, June 7: 9:00 – 11:00

AM, Saturday, June 21: 9:00 – 11:00 AM, and Saturday, July 5: 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Thank you to those hardworking volunteers that stepped in to help our trustees! Also, the Trustees will still be holding the annual basket raffle on the Common — another great way to support the library!

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (June 4), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, and on the third Saturday (May 17, June 21), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Tuesdays, May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards — a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Thursdays, 11:25 AM: Storytime in the Library. We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. May 15: Cookies. May 22: Mystery. May 29: Flowers.

Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 PM: Trustees Meeting.

Thursdays, May 15, 22, 29, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: LEGO Club (signup required). Grades 1-4; sign up required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus with note from home. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun! Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early.

Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: Menopause “Monthlies.” Come one, come all to talk about (hush) menopause! Just kidding — we are not keeping quiet about this important topic! This month we are zooming in with Dr. Maureen Slattery, OBGYN. Dr. Slattery will give us some menopause basics about the different stages and what to expect. We will have time for questions as well. She will be with us via zoom for an hour or so, then we will fill the rest with conversation, laughs, and planning our next sessions. If you cannot join in person, you are welcome to zoom in with us too — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85224181650?pwd=4AFy4QrxxntBITgZkXLt8McC6ueoT.1>.

Friday, May 23, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Shakespeare Group, second Meeting. In the first meeting, we read some of the play out loud, discussed, and watched a portion of a classic performance. Second meeting: Discuss the entire play and pick the next play to discuss. All materials will be provided. To read or not to read? Come join a new group that is interested in learning and enjoying the written word. No need to be a scholar — the Bard wrote for everyone!

Saturdays, May 24, June 21, July 26, August 2, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: French Storytime. This time the stories will be in French! Join native French speaker, Jannick Vielleuse, for stories, songs, fun guessing games, and a craft. Jannick is hoping to impart a love of French in her own young children — and yours as well. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, May 28, 6:00 PM: Adult Book Group discussing Weyward by Emilia Hart. I am a Weyward, and wild inside. 2019: Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great-aunt she barely remembers. With its tumbling ivy and overgrown garden, the cottage is worlds away from the abusive partner who tormented Kate. 1619: Altha is awaiting trial for the murder of a local farmer who was stampeded to death by his herd. When Altha was a girl, her mother taught her their magic, a kind not rooted in spell casting but in a deep knowledge of the natural world. But unusual women have always been deemed dangerous, and as the evidence of witchcraft is laid out against Altha, it will take all her powers to maintain her freedom. 1942: As World War II rages, Violet is trapped in her family’s grand, crumbling estate. Straitjacketed by societal convention, she longs for the robusteducation her brother receives — and for her mother, long deceased, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death. The only traces Violet has of her are a locket bearing the initial W and the word “Weyward.”

Thursday, June 5, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Maker’s Group. Meets at the library the first Thursday of the month. All types of crafters are welcome to attend. Bring projects to show off, share expertise, and enjoy each others’ company.

Thursday, June 12, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Writers’ Group. Meets the Second Thursday of each month. Facilitated by J Bruscini. My best intention for the group would open itself to writers in the area of any genre, style, and level of experience. I have been part of writing groups and workshops fairly frequently since college and have more than a handful of strategies and exercises to offer as a facilitator when needed. I would like to encourage experimenting with style and open time for feedback for anyone wanting it. Come if interested in any type of writing.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

We’re getting to the last bit of construction that will affect the library! During the summer, the school will be under heavy construction, and while none of it is happening in the library anymore, it still poses a considerable inconvenience for our patrons - limited to no parking, constant noise, and no running water. Because of this, we will be working out of the Fairfax Town Offices over the summer. While regular browsing will be limited, we will still have access to our entire collection, so if what you’re looking for isn’t with us at the town office, let us know and we can pull whatever you need!

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

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

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

Youth events

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 10:30 am: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children’s books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home! This event takes place in the library.

OBITUARIES

There will be a **remembrance of life celebration for Mark Sikora** on Saturday, May 24, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at West Bolton Golf Course, 3324 Nashville Rd., Jericho, VT. There will be food and a cash bar. Please respond to g1946olf@gmavt.net before Saturday, May 17. In your response, tell me how many will be in your group and if you are planning on speaking about Mark.



Mark David Shand, 56, passed away on Friday, May 2, 2025 at his home in Jericho, VT. He was born in Greenock, Scotland on November 28, 1968, son of Rita (Dillon) Shand and the late Charles Shand. He married the former Kathy Verge on November 7, 1998 in Williston, VT. Mark was an amazing husband, father, son, brother, and grandfather. He dedicated his life around taking care of his wife, Kathy Shand, his home, and his children. He loved spending time with family, he was filled with happiness on boat days and mudding with his best friend Darin. Video games and movies in all different genres is pretty self explanatory, he loved his buddy time with his son Matthew. He loved to teach his daughter McCayla how to cook and he found so much excitement in teaching her to come out of her shell and live her life with nothing holding her back. Mark was the sweetest hardass. He showed his love, support, and wildness in all different ways. He was loved by so many people. Such an amazing man gone too soon. Mark is survived by his loving wife of 26 years Kathy Shand, his children Matthew Shand, McCayla Shand and husband Cole St. Peter, Taylor Shand, James Rich and his wife Heather, Tina Rich, Nikki Kerwin and her husband Joey, Kelly Gaboriault and her husband Todd, his mother Rita Shand and step-mother Dianne Shand, mother-in-law Peggy Dube, three brothers including his twin brother Scott Shand,

Charlie Shand, Dan Shand and his sister Dawn Shand, nephew Jaden Shand, many grandchildren, his best friend Darin Jaques, his daughter’s dog Roxy May, and his two cats Webster and Willow. Visiting hours were held on Friday May 9, 2025 at A W Rich Funeral Home –Chapel. Funeral Services were held on Saturday May 10, 2025 at Catalyst Church, Jericho. Burial followed in Pleasant View Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Mark’s memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 55 Day Lane, Williston, VT 05495. Please visit <https://awrichfuneralhomes.com/book-of-memories/5591488/Shand-Mark/index.php> to share your memories and condolences.



Libraries continued from page 12

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 3 pm: Lego Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed Lego play after school. Please register! This event takes place in the library.

Wednesday, May 7, 3 pm: “Spray Paint” Galaxy Art. Make spray paint style galaxy artwork! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register! This event takes place in the library.

Wednesday, May 14, 1 pm: Galaxy in a Bottle. Make a swirling galaxy contained in a bottle! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register! This event takes place in the library.

Wednesday, May 21, 3 pm: Moon Dough and Moon Sand. Learn how to make squishy moon dough, and moon sand! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register! This event takes place in the library.

Wednesday, May 28, 3 pm: Origami Stars. Learn how to fold origami stars and turn them into art! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register! This event takes place in the library.

Adult events

Saturday, May 17, 10:30 am: Silent Reading Party. Book group too much of a time commitment, but still want to meet other readers? Come to our silent reading party! Bring any book you like, and settle in for an hour of silent reading with your fellow book lovers. Afterward, you can discuss what you’ve read over refreshments! This event is geared toward adults, but all ages are welcome! Registration appreciated, but not required. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 849-2420 to register. This event takes place in the library.

Thursday, May 29, 3 pm: Library Book Club. The book this month is We Will Be Jaguars, by Nemonte Nenquimo. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or call us at 849-2420.

Fairfax Community Library, 75 Hunt St., Fairfax; 802-849-2420. 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.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

May-June Display Case — Lauri Bradway has graciously shared her collection of quilted potholders from the early 1900s.

New items in the Library of Things include a knife sharpener, laser level, fabric shaver, air duster, and a home tool set.

The Library has received a new shipment of COVID-19 tests, available at the circulation desk. We also encourage you to visit <https://covidtests.gov/> to order a set of four free at-home tests through the mail and to check the expiration date on your existing tests. Many tests have an extended shelf life, so check before you throw any away.

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

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

Adults

Cookbook Club will be taking a break for the summer.

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

Saturdays, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Chess Club. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge for an all-ages chess club, which will be led

by a local chess coach. BYOB (Bring Your Own Board) or use one of ours.

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

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

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

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

Saturday, June 7, 10:30 AM: Yoga and Meditation Workshop. Enjoy a gentle session of restorative yoga and meditation with Cody Quattrocci of Homebody Massage and Yoga. Take home the tools of simple breathwork and yoga postures to connect mind and body, soften tension, and release stress. Beginners encouraged. Don’t have your own mat? Let us know. Space is limited. Open to teens and adults. Call or email to register.

Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge for discussion of Seek You by Kristen Raddtke. Contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or gwennie1972@yahoo.com, for information on joining this group.

Thursday, June 19, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on for discussion of Deja Dead (Temperance Brennan #1) by Kathy Reichs. Contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or msparent@gmavt.net, with any questions.

Children

Weekly/monthly children’s programs at the library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Golden Dome Book Nominees — we are all waiting to learn who the Vermont students in grades 4-8 have voted in as winner of the 2024 Golden Dome Book Award. Winners of all Vermont Youth Book Awards are announced by the first week of June. The list of 25 nominees for 2025-2026 is out, and thanks to funding from The Friends of the Richmond Free Library, we have brand new copies of each book ready to be checked out and enjoyed over the summer.

Summer Reading Program Every summer we join the Vermont Department of Libraries and libraries across the country in offering reading program materials around a common theme. This year the theme is Color Our World.Registration for the program will begin on June 18. A flyer detailing all the special programs and events happening at the library this summer will be available at the library in early June. Below are a few of the first special programs of the summer.

Baby Laptime. Will resume in September.

Wednesdays through May 28, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Playgroup & Storytime. Join us for free play followed by stories and action songs in the Library Community Room. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant to age 5 and their grownups are invited to join the fun — we will start with Playgroup at 10:00 AM and then finish up the morning with a short storytime at 11:30 AM.

Wednesdays, 9:00 AM, beginning on June 4: Playgroup at the Playgroup. Join Shelly from the Lund Center for a time of unstructured, outdoor play with other families with small children.

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

Friday, June 20, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Big Blue Trunk. Join us on the Library Lawn as local entertainer Mike Randall opens his Big Blue Trunk and sets up some wild fun including a giant sling shot, noodle rings, an obstacle course, and much more. Popcorn will be provided. No registration required; all ages welcome.

Thursday, June 26, 11:00 AM: Dinoman. With magic, merry mayhem, and magnificent, life-size inflatable dinosaurs, Dinoman will take us on a trip to the Mesozoic era. How do we know dinosaurs were here? Come find out. This program is fun and informative for all ages. No registration required.

Monday, June 30, 10:30 AM: Nature-Based Play. Four Winds Nature Institute will supply a multitude of natural playthings for hands-on fun and exploration for ages 2 – 8. No registration is required for this fun outdoor program.

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

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997,

Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Ongoing drop-in programs

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

Community Loom: collaborate on our community loom!

Pattern Swap, Puzzle Swap, Magazine Swap, Coupon Swap

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

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

Closed Monday, May 19 for Vermont Library Association Conference.

Closed Monday, May 26 in Observance of Memorial Day

All programs are free and open to the public.

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

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

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

All ages

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

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

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

Children’s and teens’ area

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, May 27, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Read to Chewy the Therapy Dog! Kids and families can sign up for a 15-minute slot and choose a book to read to Chewy and his human, Cindy Turcotte. Sign up on the website.

Adults

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

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

Weekly events

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

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

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

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

Social media: check us out on Facebook and Instagram for updates on events!

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313; @essexfreelibrary; <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where have all the small towns gone?

To the Editor,

The way of print and newspapers with names and faces you recognize without them being politicians or famous people.

Have we outgrown small, quaint, and personal?

Small town community reporting takes a fine sieve net. Perhaps we are only interested in big fish.

In a world where everyone has a megaphone I liked having a place to write and read at what seemed to me to be a neighbor-to-neighbor talk.

As a pebble rolls down Mount Mansfield, Only the smallest of creatures take notice.

The Mountain will look the same tomorrow. Only the *Gazette* to its right will have rolled on down Leaving a small hole in the Earth and a bit larger one in the communities it served.

Best wishes to Brenda and Sara,
Thank you for being one of the pebbles that keep us connected.

**Bernie Paquette
Jericho**

Our Westford School

To the Editor,

You may have heard, there are a couple petitions circulating.

- One is to ask the school board to consider delaying the plan (for taking Westford middle school students to Essex this September) for one year until more research can be done, and until we find out what the state plan will be.
- The other is to initiate the process to explore Westford’s withdrawal from the Essex Westford School District

Neither involves any cost nor change to the approved budget. It’s just a starting talking phase. Anything that would involve cost would be a separate issue and would be totally transparent, as we are all volunteers working together.

If you have not seen these petitions and would like to, email me, and if you would like to sign I will come to you!

There are many of us in town who do not agree with the forced moving of our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to Essex Middle School. While we understand some students and families may be in favor of transferring, individual students already have that option.

This forced closure of nearly half of our Westford Elementary School will result in a half-empty building, increasing the cost per-pupil to a point where it is almost certain, in the opinion of many, the school will be closed entirely within the next few years.

The EWSD board estimates the savings to be about \$275,000, though they will not give us a budget to explain this figure. This is .3% out of the full budget of \$94,712,480. Almost \$95 million. Three tenths of one percent! We do not feel this is a financially viable plan.

Also — and very importantly — it is not a good move for many students and their families, with projected bus rides of up to TWO HOURS, and a ten-mile trip each way for parents in rush hour traffic.

Please support saving our dear little rural school!

**Carol Winfield
Westford**

Westford Town Administrator resignation with gratitude!

To the Editor,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to notify you of my resignation from my role as Town Administrator. I am both excited that my family will be moving to beautiful Nova Scotia, on the east coast of Canada, and sad to be leaving this gem of a town.

I have been so fortunate to work with spectacular people over the last year and a half. I am truly going to miss my colleagues, the Town staff, whose dedication to serving the people of Westford is an inspiration. It has also been my great honor to serve the various Selectboard members during my time with Westford; each one has taught me something valuable that I will take with me to future careers. Westford’s residents are passionate, thoughtful and so generous with their time, and it has been incredible to be involved in that. I have never learned as much in such a short time or gained such a sense of confidence as I have while serving as your Town Administrator. I have enjoyed getting to know my neighbors on Sandy Knoll where my two boys have made great friends. I’ll always remember the Westford Elementary School community who welcomed us with open arms four years ago and made this place feel like home. This is a very special community!

I know that I am leaving a lot that still needs to be done. I am committed to working with the Selectboard to make this transition as smooth as possible for everyone. My anticipated last day will be Friday, June 20, 2025.

I cannot thank this Town and its residents, employees and dedicated volunteers enough for the opportunity to serve you as Town Administrator; it has been an incredibly rewarding experience and one I will never forget. Thank you.

**Sincerely,
Holly Delisle
Town Administrator, Westford**

Purchase a congratulations ad in the GRADUATION PAGES coming in the June 19 issue.
Contact Brenda at mtngazette@gmavt.net for more information.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

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

Westford Summer Concerts — from Michael Kirick, Westford. Here is a quick summary of concert dates and performers for this 2025 season. More detailed information and a poster will come later in May/June. Enjoy! and save the dates for your favorite shows — all on Sundays: July 13 – *Dave Keller Band*, Vermont’s best soul/blues performers; July 20 – *Barbacoa*, a taste of surf noir; July 27 – *Eclipse*, a fantastic new jazz/rock fusion group; August 3 – *Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo*, country style back porch blues straight from Boston; August 10 – *Mango Jam*, time for the Mardi Gras mambo; August 17 – *Jon McBride’s Big Easy*, New Orleans-style classic hot Dixieland.

The Aphasia Choir of Vermont will perform its 10-Year Anniversary Concert — a free concert on Sunday, June 1, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, at Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane, Colchester. Enjoy a special program of uplifting pop songs! A reception will follow the performance. The Aphasia Choir of Vermont is comprised of stroke and traumatic brain injury survivors who have expressive aphasia (difficulty talking), as well as their spouses, family members, and others. Because music is mediated by the undamaged hemispheres of the brains of people with aphasia, they can be fluent while singing, even if they have severe difficulty speaking or are nonverbal.

Birds and Myth Art Show — Birds are some of our teachers, not only through our senses and observations, but also through our stories about them. These stories can be factual accounts, broader myths, or something in between. Legends, beliefs, representations, truth, insight, guidance, metaphors, meanings, and understandings all play a part. The Birds of Vermont Museum’s 2025 art show is centered on the ideas of birds, myth, meanings, metaphors, and guides. Discover art that uses birds and their meanings to retell an old story, weave several together, represent beliefs, or create a myth for the future. Show is open through October 31; included with Museum Admission. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington; 802-434-2167; museum@birdsofvermont.org, <https://www.birdsofvermont.org>.

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

CAC Sidewalk Art Festival — Back by popular demand, the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) is pleased to announce our 16th Sidewalk Art Festival on Saturday, August 9, 2025. For the last four summers we have been having multiple, smaller shows (dubbed the Jeffersonville Art Jam). This year, in partnership with the Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries and the Bryan Memorial Gallery, we are returning to our larger format. This is a “gently” curated show that showcases fine art of all media. Our sidewalk art festival also features local food vendors, live music, and children’s activities. The booth fee this year is \$40 (\$25 for students). Please join us on Main Street in Jeffersonville from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (rain date Sunday, August 10). For more information and to register for the festival, go to <http://www.cambridgeartsvt.org/fota/>. Please feel free to contact Monica, 802-644-1418, if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you. If you are an artist who would like to sign up to have a booth at the event, please go online to <https://www.cambridgeartsvt.org/fota>.

Assets for Artists’ June/July 2025 workshop season is now live and registration is open for all workshops! This season’s workshops are all online and include topics such as project management, quarterly taxes, website design, project portfolios, and more. As always these workshops are completely free

and are open to artists of all disciplines and career stages in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont. A program of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), *Assets_for_Artists* (A4A) is an artist-led and artist-centered program that provides an ever-evolving selection of free online and in-person workshops to address the most urgent needs, challenges, and opportunities facing artists in New England. The Vermont Arts Council entered into a partnership with A4A last fall and was able to offer workshops starting then for the first time. Space is limited, so don’t delay, register today online at <https://www.assetsforartists.org/workshops>.

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

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

Burlington City Arts, 135 Church St., Burlington, presents spring exhibitions Bunny Harvey: Worlds Within Worlds (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/bunny-harvey-worlds-within-worlds>) and Stéphanie Morissette: Speculative Future (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/stephanie-morissette-speculative-future>), on view through Saturday, May 24. On the first floor, Worlds Within Worlds features the landscape paintings of Vermont-based artist Bunny Harvey. Focusing on large-scale oil paintings and more intimately scaled works on paper, the exhibition debuts several new paintings created by the artist over the last year. In the Roth Gallery on the second floor, artist Stéphanie Morissette explores the conflicting relationship between humans, nature, and technology in Speculative Future. Using insightful observation and dark humor, the artist imagines a future where biological specimens and mechanical technology have merged to create a new, hybrid species of birds and flying creatures. Morissette’s speculative future is not as fantastic as it may appears.

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

A BCA art class is the perfect way to spend a summer evening! Beginning this season, we are offering Burlington residents a reduced class registration fee to recognize the support BCA receives through the City of Burlington. Mark your calendars and be ready to grab your spot in the class that sparks your creativity when registration opens on Monday, May 19, 12:00 PM. Scholarships are available to keep learning in the arts accessible to all. Register online at <https://secure.recl.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog>.

Family Art Saturday, May 24, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 4th floor, BCA Studio, BCA Center. Join BCA for a drop-in artmaking activity inspired by Stéphanie Morissette’s Bird/Drone creatures featured in her exhibition *Speculative Future*. Participants will consider what other hybrid creatures could exist in the future, creating their own works of art depicting a hybrid machine/animal. Starting with a colored pencil drawing, participants will add textural and sculptural elements by including collage and paper cutting into their designs. Free and open to the public.

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

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

SPORTS NEWS

Summer Co-Ed League Volleyball in Cambridge

By Tim Soutiere, Jeffersonville

The summer volleyball league is about to start. It’s 6v6 co-ed played on a sand court. A game is 3 matches to 15. Must be 21+ to play.

We will start either the last week of May or first week of June, and end in September with a double elimination playoff tournament. Captains meeting is Monday, May 12, 7:0 PM at Robbies Wildlife Refuge, VT Rt. 15 —about a quarter-mile east of the roundabout. Teams’ entries will be finalized then.

Feel free to reach out with questions to soutiere25@yahoo.com.

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

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

The Jiggety Jog is the single largest fundraiser for the McClure Miller Respite House, Vermont’s only Medicare-certified

SCHOOL NEWS

Happy children at UCS

By Elizabeth Francis, Underhill

Last night (May 2) at Underhill Central School (UCS) I saw and heard the most wonderful thing — a multitude of excited and happy children! My grandchildren first showed us proudly clay creations outside before running off to join their classmates and siblings at play outside leaving us to enjoy and view very creative artwork inside (which they showed us again later). The art was fantastic, insightful, and caring!

When a teacher called, “Kids time to go to your classrooms!” they very excitedly stopped playing and went in. Parents, siblings, grandparents settled onto camp chairs, blankets, picnic tables, or grass to wait. We then were treated to a grade-by-grade concert of children singing, playing recorders (that we never knew they could), and dancing. They were all engaged and proud of what they did!

After each grade finished they were directed to sit with their (waving) families and enjoy the next group. Which they respectfully did. Then... when everyone was done... they (and siblings) were directed to have popsicles, and were able to run and play!

What a wonderful, caring, and well-organized time! So much creativity, joy, and caring from all staff, PTO, and volunteers I have never seen in all the schools I attended while growing up which was a lot in many states.

Thank you on behalf of my very happy and tired grandchildren. You rock!

JES Farm to School Fun Run May 18

The JES Farm to School Fun Run is Sunday, May 18, 12:00 – 3:00 PM at Jericho Elementary School, VT Rt. 15, Jericho, at the JES Playground and Garden! All money raised goes to the Farm to School program that benefits all JES students.

These 5K and 1-mile races support the wonderful Jericho Elementary School Farm to School program which is co-hosting the event with Jericho Partners in Education. Registration and bib pickup, 12:00 — 12:50 PM: race begins at 1:00 PM. There will be a wood-fired Pizza Party hosted by PIE after the Fun Run, at 1:30 PM! Bring cash for pizza donations or use the donation button on the registration form (link below). Additional money raised from pizza will be donated to JES Farm to School.

Register on race day or at <https://bit.ly/Jfun25> or <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/farm-to-school-fun-run-registration-copy/items>.

Saxon Hill School 60th Annual Spring Fundraiser May 18

Join the Saxon Hill School community on Sunday, May 18, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, for an afternoon of celebration, fun, and fundraising in honor of our 60th Annual Spring Fundraiser — a cherished tradition supporting early childhood education. This special event marks six decades of inspiring wonder and curiosity in young learners, and we invite families, alumni, and friends to celebrate with us.

Admission is free! Enjoy activities for all ages, including face painting, Touch-A-Truck, raffles (over \$3000 in raffle prizes), locally made treats, games, and more! Bring your family and help support the strong community spirit that makes Saxon Hill School so special. We can’t wait to see you there!

Visit the link below for raffle tickets: <https://60th-celebration-raffle.cheddarup.com>.

Auction bids due May 31 to support CES 6th grade trip

The Cambridge Elementary School 6th grade trip committee has put together an auction to help raise funds for their upcoming trip. Register, bid on your favorite item, and keep an eye on the

bidding and see if you won! Bidding closes on Saturday, May 31 at 12:00 PM for the auction to help raise funds for the the trip.

To check out these items and to bid, please go online to <https://givebutter.com/c/KwZzro/auction> where you can register, bid on your favorite item(s!), and keep an eye on the bidding! If you do not want to bid, but wish to make a donation, please go to <https://givebutter.com/c/KwZzro>.

We are so grateful for this amazing community and your outpouring of support for this year’s 6th grade has been wonderful! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Aleshia Ostiguy, jadoyon1@hotmail.com.

High school travel opportunity — April ’26 in Europe

By Gregory Martin, Jericho, BRMS

Browns River Middle School Counselor and LMHC Gregory Martin will lead a tour in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland in April 2026. Each stop on your journey will leave you awe-inspired — the tops of the Alps, the tranquility of lakes Lucerne and Como, the Mediterranean shores of Cinque Terre and Nice, and the culture and architecture of Provence and Barcelona.

Museums will always have their place, but sometimes it’s what’s outside that really takes your breath away!

Please join me for an Informational Meeting in the Huntington Room on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 PM to learn about a trip of a lifetime!

More information and registration is also available by contacting Mr. Martin, gmartinvt@gmail.com, or online at <https://www.eftours.com/tour-website/2907791FT>.

Eagles Achievement Awards applications due May 31

Attention all graduating seniors in Lamoille County — the Green Mountain Fraternal Order of Eagles in Jeffersonville is accepting applications for two achievement scholarships, the Robbie Pollander and the Edison A. Reynolds Awards, both in the amount of \$500. These awards can be used by the recipients for anything school-related, from books to transportation, classes to clothing. They are available to any high school graduating senior in Lamoille County.

Our awards are not based on academics. They are granted to any high school senior who expresses the qualities of a good citizen in their community, with the desire to pursue a higher education.

Requirements for consideration are: submission of a biography and a theme-based short essay. The theme is “In My Community, People Helping People.” All entries are due postmarked by Saturday, May 31, 2025 and mailed to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Attention Gary McNally, P.O. Box 216, Jeffersonville VT 05464-0216.

There is an additional scholarship available from the Auxiliary specifically for female students. The criteria are the same as above. All entries should be submitted to Ladies Auxiliary, Fraternal Order of Eagles, P.O. Box 326, Jeffersonville, VT 05464-0326.

Youth Leadership Conference at VTStateU Lyndon, June 20-22

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

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

have fun!

Students currently enrolled in their high school sophomore year are eligible to apply online at <https://bit.ly/4bPbgJ3> (short for <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmYnHvd3eMYoawHbKiGo-KLPiYaYKMKi77hQJFEzo6laLPeA/viewform>).

Vermont wildlife course for educators July 20-25

Vermont’s popular fish and wildlife summer course for teachers and other educators will be held Sunday-Friday, July 20-25 this year.

The interactive field course that gets educators out into Vermont’s streams, forests, and wetlands with some of the state’s leading natural resource experts takes place at the Buck Lake Conservation Camp in Woodbury.

Now in its 40th year, *Wildlife Management and Outdoor Education Techniques for Educators* is a one-week course taught by Vermont Fish and Wildlife and other Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) staff through Vermont State University.

“Wildlife resources are important to all Vermonters in one way or another,” says Fish and Wildlife’s Outreach Director Alison Thomas. “If educators can get connected with the outdoors and in turn expose their students, then many of these students will be able to make informed decisions about Vermont wildlife and their habitat needs. This course is unique in that it helps non-formal and pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers from any discipline — math, language arts, physical education, or history — improve their instructional strategies and make their lesson plans more relevant to their students.

“This course is hands-on,” added Thomas. “It continues to evolve and incorporate new environmental education ideas and activities, but we also continue to do traditional programs that have been part of the week for more than three decades. It is a great mix of new and old with all of it being incredibly helpful and memorable. I often continue to work with educators who have taken this course for many years after, and it is inspiring to see all the ways they incorporate information about wildlife and their related habitat into their curriculum.”

Tuition is \$710 for the course. Three graduate level credits through Vermont State University, books, food, and overnight facilities are included. A limited number of partial scholarships are available.

A course description, schedule of activities and registration information are available by email from Alison.Thomas@vermont.gov.

Buck Lake Conservation Camp is located east of VT Rt. 14, north of Woodbury Village.

Seeking host families for high school students

By Dylan Charter, Jericho

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

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

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

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

Sports continued from page 14 —

event&eventID=501&language=en).

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

8th Annual Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride to make history

Celebrate style and solidarity as motorcycle riders unite for men’s health in a historic milestone for the Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride.

The 8th Annual Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride (DGR) is gearing up for a remarkable event on Sunday, May 18 as it marks a historic milestone: for the first time in DGR history, we have surpassed the 1000 rides mark worldwide! This achievement is a testament to the passion and dedication of riders everywhere, and we are thrilled to spotlight the Burlington DGR as a key contributor to this success.

Join hundreds of thousands of dapper gentlemen as classic and vintage style motorcycles unite for men’s health in the world’s most stylish on-road motorcycle charity event. The Classic Bike Experience (CBE) will proudly host the Burlington regional celebration, and we invite all motorcycle enthusiasts and supporters to participate in this extraordinary day.

Event details: on Sunday, May 18, meet at 10:30 AM for Breakfast and Registration at CBE, Essex Junction; at 12:00 PM, the Group Ride departs.

Participants can kick off the day at the CBE shop in Essex Junction, where hot-off-the-grill breakfast sandwiches will be served, providing a perfect opportunity to mingle with fellow motorheads. At noon, riders will embark on a scenic 34-mile group ride, after capturing individual portraits and a group photo before heading to Cyclewise in New Haven, VT. Upon arrival at



Cyclewise, riders can look forward to a buffet spread of snacks and drinks, along with thrilling prize raffles.

Cyclewise Inc., our co-sponsor, will showcase an impressive array of the latest Triumph motorcycles available at their dealership. They are also generously donating a collection of Triumph swag for our exciting prize drawings following the ride.

All riders must register in advance at the Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride website, <https://www.gentlemansride.com/>.

Participants are encouraged to download the DGR app, available on both iOS and Android, for quick access to their rider profile and navigation functionality for the Burlington DGR route.

Join us in making history and supporting men’s health on this unforgettable day. Dress dapper, ride with purpose, and let’s celebrate the spirit of camaraderie and charity that defines the Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride!



The MMU Theatre Department

presents

The 2025 Senior Theatre Production

Fri & Sat

May 30 & 31

at 7:30

Popcorn Falls

BY JAMES HINDMAN

Tickets

\$6 students & children,

\$8 general admission

H.O.M.E

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Champagne

Real Estate

The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents its final show of the year — the comedy *Popcorn Falls*. The show features this year's seniors acting on stage as well as building the set. *Popcorn Falls* is a small town facing bankruptcy due to the construction of a dam by the neighboring city, destroying its namesake falls, which were the town's only tourist attraction and source of income. Desperate to save their community, the townspeople take advantage of an unusual loophole that would bequeath them a windfall of money if they just put on a play. The task proves to be more difficult than it sounds, presenting a multitude of challenges that the characters must overcome in delightful comic fashion. The townspeople of *Popcorn Falls* like to be called kernels. Will the kernels succeed? As the curtain falls on their play within the play, hopefully the town will still be popping! In the MMU production, a small cast play a multitude of characters all striving to save the day and their town. The town's Mayor Trundle, the show's protagonist, is played by Onyx Hughes. The neighboring town is ruled by the morally corrupt Mr. Doyle, played by Sam Bernstein. All of the other quirky and zany citizens are played by just two actors; Brady Gouse and Sonya Klinger, giving these two performers the exciting challenge of pin-balling back and forth between different characters throughout the play, sometimes at lightning speed in scenes that feature bunches of them. *Popcorn Falls* may be a made-up place, but for 75 minutes, the seniors at Mount Mansfield Union High School will invite the audience into this wacky town as the play explores the themes of community, perseverance, and the power of theatre to bring people together. Above at right, Senior Onyx Hughes plays Mayor Ted Trundle, a defiant optimist who believes he can save the town of *Popcorn Falls* by putting on a play despite the fact that he has zero theatrical experience. But he is a Mayor with heart, passion, and most importantly a willingness to make a fool of himself. At left, Sonya Klinger plays a multitude of characters, including a librarian obsessed with cats and the town's pitiful Sheriff. Here she portrays an eccentric schoolteacher named Mrs. Stepp, whose maiden name was Miss Guided, of the East Nantucket Guideds.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senior news continued from page 11 —

fraudulent Medicare calls, including common card scams, and discover how the SMP program works to protect Medicare for future generations.

Tuesday, May 27 menu: cheese tortellini marinara with

parmesan and mozzarella cheese, green and black beans with lemon glaze, wheat bread, and oranges with cream. Program: Tech for Tomorrow: MyChart. Join us for a helpful session with Tech for Tomorrow, where we'll guide you through using MyChart,

the app that lets you manage your medical information with ease. Learn how to access test results, schedule appointments, and stay connected with your health care providers through this user-friendly platform.

Welcome to the

Spring Vermont Open Studio

Weekend, May 24 & 25.

Grab this booklet and plan your art tour!

Look for the Yellow Signs.

In this booklet find information about 126 Sites & Exhibits. Use it in conjunction with our website, where pictures, email and artist websites can be found. And see our companion Google map.

During Open Studio Weekend, all sites are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

1. Get the big picture on our locator centerfold map pages 14-15, showing all sites.

2. Map markers show approximate locations. As you get closer to the site, look for yellow wayfinder signs.

3. Your phone works fine in urban areas but not so well in rural ones. Vermont does not have universal cell coverage. When in doubt, use our directions.

Cover: Day Breaks Glass Studio - Dayna Sabatino #84.

PHOTO: SARAH PORTER OF LAST LIGHT STUDIO

Cover Top: Peggy Watson #104

Above: Ken Leslie #116

Scan the QR code for more information

VISIT 126 SITES • EXHIBITS ACROSS VERMONT

vermontcrafts.com

Vermont OPEN Studio

May 24 & 25, 2025

10 - 5 PM

Spring Open Studio Weekend — Saturday-Sunday, May 24-25 — is a statewide celebration of the visual arts and creative process, offering a unique opportunity for visitors to meet a variety of artists and craftspeople in their studios to gain an appreciation for the creative process and the role that artists and craftspeople play in the vitality of Vermont's communities. This year's tour includes the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, metal workers, painters, sculptors, and fiber artists working with silk and felt. The free Vermont Studio Tour booklet contains maps and directions. The maps, along with the yellow way-finder signs placed along the roads, guide visitors to arts sites. Pick up a tour guide from any participating artist, gallery, or art center, or download a pdf from the website [vermontcrafts.com](https://www.vermontcrafts.com). Local artists taking part in the Open Studio Weekend include Emile A. Gruppe Gallery, serving as headquarters for state maps and exhibits of local area artists. 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho; Essex Art League Group Show, oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic landscapes and marvels, at Main St Studios, 7 Main St., Essex Junction; Rend'I Pottery – Irene Lederer LaCroix, Raku and saggar-fired, pottery, sculpture and tiles, 62 Sawmill Rd., Jericho; Sugar House Jewelry – Erin Cohen, fine silver and gold jewelry, 140 A VT Rt. 15, Jericho; Sweet Enemy Art – Kristin Richland, imaginative paintings, prints, and spirited creatures, 52 Maple Ridge Rd., Underhill; Gerald K. Stoner, whimsical, graceful, welded steel sculpture, 185 River Rd., Underhill; Robert Linde, landscape and figurative compositions in soft and oil pastel, 68 Pleasant Valley Rd, Underhill; Dianne Shullenberger, fabric collage, colored pencil, sculpture. 76 Orr Rd., Jericho; Live Edge Creations – John and Mary Weaver, finished live edge wood furnishings, 14 De Havilland Dr., Jericho; Wild Mountain Crafters – Laura Kerson, handmade functional pottery – mugs, bowls, ceramics. 118 Packard Rd., Jericho; On the Rocks Carving Studio & Sculpture Garden – Chris Cleary, stone sculpture, birdbaths, steampunk sculpture, fire breathing, 353 Browns Trace, Jericho; Gretchen Alexander Art, fine art painting, illustration, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. Open Studio Weekend (<https://www.vermontcrafts.com/visit-open-studio/>) is supported by the Vermont Arts Council and the Point Radio.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VERMONT CRAFTS COUNCIL

Purchase a congratulations ad in the GRADUATION PAGES coming in the June 19 issue. Contact Brenda at mtngazette@gmavt.net for more information.