

Hazen Abbott and Levi Friedman named as Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship recipients



Hazen Abbott's Core Values are: 1. Push myself; 2. Push my peers; 3. Admit when I'm wrong; 4. Always get back up when you get knocked down; 5. Treat everyone how I would like to be treated; 6. Never say never; 7. Don't let other people control what I do; 8. Be the best friend, brother, and son I can be; 9. Always push myself outside my comfort zone; 10. Never stop having fun; 11. Live easy; 12. Stay stoked. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hazen Abbott lives in Jericho, VT and has had a passion for skiing since before he was two. Skiing is the sport he is most passionate about and that gives him the most freedom, but he also enjoys mountain biking, playing lacrosse, and soccer. He skis for the Smugglers' Notch ski club and competes in u15 IFSA Freeride ski competitions. This year was hard for him because he moved up an age group and started competing against people two years older than himself. But he was fortunate enough to put down multiple good runs in Regional and National comps and achieve multiple podium finishes. Because of these finishes he was fortunate enough to qualify for Nationals in Breckenridge, CO. This scholarship will help cover the comp registration price and travel expenses.

Levi Friedman lives in Underhill, VT and grew up skiing at Smugglers' Notch Ski resort in Jeffersonville, VT. He joined The Smuggler's Notch Ski Club when he was eight and that is where he learned about The Flyin Ryan Foundation and how important it is to have core values. He has also been homeschooled for the past four years, which allows him to ski six days a week: It's awesome! One of his favorite parts of skiing is competing at Freeride competitions in the East. In his opinion, having good sportsmanship and being a supportive teammate is the most important part of competing. In 2023 he was fortunate enough to compete in the U12 North American Championship at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, where he placed sixth. When he's not skiing you will find him biking, swimming, dirt biking, building trails, and working towards his black belt in Taekwondo. One of Levi's goals for 2024 is to go back to the Junior Freeride Championships (JFCs) in Breckenridge, CO this April. This is what he will be using his award for.

The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship Program exists to provide monetary awards to assist adventurers of all kinds, from all around the world, in pursuing their passions. Applicants must come up with their own set of Core Values and demonstrate character, passion for their goal, and financial need. To date we have given out over 120 awards. Learn more and apply at www.FlyinRyanHawks.org/Adventure-Scholarship-Program/.



Levi Friedman's Core Values are: 1. Live life to the fullest; 2. Be kind and respectful; 3. Ask questions; 4. Be a great role model; 5. Continue to learn new skills; 6. Be grateful; 7. Have fun; 8. Be in the moment; 9. Set goals and work hard; 10. Find balance in physical limits and safety. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Get outside on Green Up Day — Saturday, May 4

We know it isn't your litter, but Vermont needs our help to be beautiful! Pick up your free Green Up supplies from your Volunteer Town Coordinator and spend an hour or two picking up litter around your town. It makes a huge difference, and it feels great to give back to your community.

Bolton's Town Clerk is the coordinator for its Green Up Day — 802-434-5075 or clerkbolton@gmvt.net. Green Up bags are available in covered bins located outside of the Town Office and the Smilie School. Bring full bags to the Town Garage, 3530 Theodore Roosevelt Highway (U.S. Rt. 2).

Cambridge Green Up coordinators Justin March and Jayne Lukens can be reached at 802-730-2383 or marshvt@gmail.com. Pick up Green Up bags at Town Offices, Cambridge Village Market, Hanley's, and The Farm Store beginning Thursday, May 2. Leave full bags at closest intersection town road to be picked up by the Westford Road Crew.

Jericho's Green Up Day is being coordinated by the Jericho Conservation Committee — 802-899-4936 x1 or info@jerichovt.gov. Jericho will hold its 22nd annual Green Up Day Breakfast at the Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center, 8:30 – 10:00 AM. Bags will be available at the breakfast, and before May 4 at Jericho Town Hall, Jericho Town Library, and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Green Up trash can be brought to the Jericho Town Garage, 510 Browns Trace, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM on Monday, May 6 (no early drop off please). Do not pick up propane tanks! More Green Up information is available on the Jericho town website, <https://jerichovt.org/green-up-day>. If you would like to be a co-coordinator for Green Up Day, please contact Jessica, jerichovermont@yahoo.com.

Underhill's co-coordinators for Green Up Day are Karen McKnight, 802-899-4185 or kmcknight802@gmail.com, and Brad Holden, 802-899-4434 x7 or bholden@underhill.gov. Bags are available at Wells Corner Market, Jacobs' Family Market, and outside the Underhill Town Hall. Full Green Up bags must be dropped off at the Town Garage, 75 New Rd., on Saturday, May 4, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM; bags will NOT be picked up on roadsides.

Westford's Green Up Day coordinator is Mark Peloquin, 802-233-6417 or mark_peloquin@yahoo.com. Green Up bags are available at the Town Clerk's office. Bring full bags to the town dumpster.

Burn permits in Westford

By Callie Hamdy, Westford Town Clerk

As of Sunday, April 13, it is required that you obtain a burn permit for ALL fires unless it is a small campfire.

Please go online to <https://westfordvt.us/administration/fire-warden/> for the burn permit system, or call our Fire Warden, Dennis, with further questions.

EWSD budget information

By Andre' Roy, EWSD Board member representing Westford

I am sure you are aware that the EWSD school budget was defeated. The EWSD School Board will be meeting in the next few weeks with the goal of presenting a second budget vote on Tuesday, May 7, which is the target date the board decided at last evening's meeting.

Also at last evening's meeting (April 11), public comments were taken around the direction that the EWSD School Board should take to reduce costs for the district. One suggestion from a community member (and has been proposed previously) was to close the Westford School. Given the task of the School Board to reduce the EWSD budget, as well as the limited Westford community representation on the board (two Westford members who only get half a vote each), I encourage everyone to take part in the upcoming public engagement opportunities.

It is important that the Essex, Essex Junction, and Westford community provides information and suggestion to the board regarding the budget that will be presented for a revote on May 7.

Underhill's open burn permit platform

Underhill Forest Fire Warden Parker Ripley, with the help of the Town of Underhill, has set up a new, online platform for obtaining open burning permits in Underhill.

Through this website, residents will be able to log in to request a permit when conditions are safe and find out when permits are not available because of unsafe conditions. This platform will also allow key people in our community to know where there are open burning permits on any given day, which will enhance our safety.

If you are interested in burning legal materials in Underhill, please go to <https://underhill.burnpermits.com/>.

You will be asked to create a profile that will allow you to quickly login in each time, using saved information to create the permit application. The website will ask for the address where you want to burn and ask you to review and accept the terms of the permit based on Vermont state law. You can also upload a photo of the burn site, but this is optional.

Your permit will be issued or denied based on whether the conditions are right that day, and once confirmed, it will be valid for the next 24 hours.

Please note that you MUST call the phone number given on the website 877-240-9699 in order to confirm the permit before you begin burning.

If you have questions or concerns, you can still call Parker at 802-734-7114, Nate Goldman at 802-363-3548, or the Fire station (Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM) at 802-899-4025. We can set up permits for those unable to access the website.

Remember when you get a permit, or are burning when snow covers the ground, you are always required to follow the State laws regarding open burning, as shown on the website.

MMCTV seeking local eclipse videos, photos

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Now is the time to email your eclipse experience videos and photos to Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) for our compilation video of the event. Make sure to include your name and town so we can credit them.

Please send them to mmctv@mountmansfieldctv.org. Thank you!

Clutter Barn opens for donations May 4

The Clutter Barn 2024 season begins soon. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 4, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, and begin setting aside items to donate to this ongoing mission of the United Church of Underhill. Like last year, enter on the Park Street side of the church parking lot. The Clutter Barn team will greet you and assist you as you bring in your gently used household items.

Your donations should be presorted into the following categories: clothing (separate into baby/children/adult), books (separate children and teens from books for adults — NO COOKBOOKS), toys, puzzles and games, small electronics and appliances, wooden ware, crafts/fabric/yarn/sewing, linens and bedding, pictures and frames, office supplies, tools, sports, kitchen and housewares, holiday decorations, small pieces of furniture (NO fiberboard furniture please). Thank you for presorting! It's a big help to our volunteers!

Just a reminder: NO SHOES OR SNEAKERS. We do take boots. For a complete list of items we no longer take, please go to our website <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/serve/clutter-barn/>.

Thank you for your support with your donations. The United Church of Underhill and our Tag Sale shoppers appreciate the wonderful gently-used items that come in.

The donation days for 2024, all Saturdays, are: May 4 and 11, June 1, 8, 15, July 6 and 13, August 3, 10, 17, September 7 and 14.

We are back to our pre-Covid Tag Sale schedule with a Tag Sale from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM on the last Saturday of each month. Tag Sale dates are: May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31. Our finale is Harvest Market, Saturday-Sunday, September 28-29.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you have questions about volunteering or what we accept, email clutterbarn@ucu.church or call Sharon, 802-899-3572 or Kathy, 802-899-3122.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you this summer.

NEWS BRIEFS

Help Cambridge determine the future of its Town Meeting

By Peter Ingvaldstad
Cambridge Select Board

Our Cambridge Select Board is looking for a few good people to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to Explore the Future of Conducting Town Meeting... We are hoping to gather a group of people with various perspectives to explore all options and make recommendation(s) to the Select Board.

Please contact me at 802-793-7210 or pingvaldstad@gmail.com if you are interested in serving or have questions.

Westford wastewater update to the community

By Holly Delisle
Westford Town Administrator

On behalf of the Westford Selectboard: During the Thursday, April 11, 2024 Selectboard meeting, the Selectboard motioned 3-2 to discontinue work on the Maple Shade Community Wastewater Project, paused at 30% design, and rescind the funds dedicated to that project by Vermont State ARPA.

The Selectboard continues to support the Wastewater Alternative Committee's work to look for an alternative solution to wastewater issues around the Town Common.

If you have any questions, you may email selectboard@westfordvt.us.

Cambridge-Johnson VT Rt. 15 resurfacing project

March 29

Project overview: The Vermont Agency of Transportation is resurfacing VT Rt. 15 in Cambridge and Johnson, with construction scheduled to begin in April 2024.

The project area extends along VT Rt. 15 from junction with VT Rt. 108 in Cambridge, VT (also referred to as Jeffersonville) east 9.1 miles to just past the intersection with VT Rt. 100C in the Village of Johnson.

The project includes road resurfacing along VT Rt. 15 within the Village of Johnson, reclamation and paving work along the eight-mile stretch of VT Rt. 15 from the village limits west toward Cambridge, replacement and maintenance of several culverts and guardrail, and ditching.

Construction schedule: Construction for this project will span two seasons. Construction is anticipated to begin this month and be complete by Fall 2025, with a temporary pause in activity over the winter.

The project team will issue weekly email Construction Updates to the project stakeholder list beginning in April. Crews are scheduled to mobilize the week of Tuesday, April 9, following the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8.

This construction season, crews are scheduled to complete the road resurfacing work in the Village of Johnson, and drainage improvements, slope stabilization, and clearing along the entire corridor. Crews are also projected to complete the milling, reclamation, and paving of the base and intermediate course of asphalt along the eight-mile stretch of VT Rt. 15 outside the Village of Johnson limits. Crews will paint temporary line striping along the eight-mile stretch of VT Rt. 15 and begin guardrail installation and clean up before the winter shutdown.

In 2025, crews are projected to complete the final wearing course of pavement along this eight-mile stretch, including the Cambridge VT Rt. 15/VT Rt. 108 roundabout, install final line striping and any remaining guardrail, and complete clean-up activities.

Construction will predominately take place Monday-Friday during the daytime hours. Construction will take place under single-lane closures with alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers. Crews will not work during peak commuting hours (6:00 – 8:00 AM and 4:00 – 6:00 PM) in the Village of Johnson. There is potential for weekend work. Night work is not anticipated.

Call to vendors for Westford Farmers Market

By Kristin LeClair
Westford Farmers Market

The Westford Farmers Market is now accepting applications for vendors. There is high demand for fresh produce, preserved/prepared foods, eggs, meats, cheese, and baked goods, but all types of farmers and artisans from the surrounding communities are welcome!

The market will be held on Wednesdays, 3:30 – 6:30 PM, from July 10-September 25 on the lawn of the Westford Country Store & Cafe (26 Common Road).

Apply online at <https://forms.gle/4VMZ7tqb2HJBoaa9A>. Easy sign up process and flexible scheduling options: smaller, startup, and part-time vendors encouraged.

We are also looking for entertainment and enrichment activities such as music, interactive demonstrations, games for kids, etc. Please let us know if you would like to participate!

Contact Market Organizers Kirsten Tyler and Kristin LeClair at westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com.

For 4th of July Market, please register with the Westford Recreation Committee.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram, @[westfordfarmersmarketvt](https://www.facebook.com/westfordfarmersmarketvt).

Part of LVRT to close for flood repairs

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) in Franklin County and just into Lamoille County has closed as of Monday, April 15. Dirt Tech will be completing recovery work to address damages from the December 2023 flood event. We will be closing the trail in segments through early June. The damage sites run from MP 85.6 (Sheldon) to MP 36.1 (Hardwick).

The first segment of work and trail closure will be from Sheldon to just into Cambridge Shawville Road at MP85.6 to Pollander Road at MP66.2. We anticipate this first segment of work will be complete the first week of May. Due to the low volume of trail users this time of year, we are not closing the trail from trailhead to trailhead this Spring like we did last summer.

Questions? Contact Rail Trails Program Manager Jackie Cassino, VT AoT, at jackie.cassino@vermont.gov.

Wanted: Jericho/Underhill photos for 2025 calendar

Calling all photographers for the 2025 Jericho/Underhill calendar!

Spring is here — even though Mother Nature played a nasty April Fool's joke on us — and the Community Center in Jericho is once again seeking your amazing photos for its annual calendar.

This year's subject is weather. Photos could show clouds, falling rain or snow, thunderstorms approaching, wind clouds hugging a mountain top, icicles, mud season, sun and shadows, and so on.

Photos should be high-resolution and either landscape orientation or croppable to fit that format.

Please send submissions to VTsnwbrdr@gmail.com. We'd love to have lots of ideas to choose from.

Reminder: dogs must be leashed at Brewster Uplands

By Annalise Carington
Vermont Land Trust

We want to remind all visitors to the Brewster Uplands property that dogs are required to be on leash at all times. This is required per Vermont Land Trust (VLT) Recreation Rules & Guidelines and the Town of Cambridge Dog Ordinance.

We ask that you please respect this rule to ensure all visitors feel safe and comfortable sharing this public space!

Brewster Uplands Trail Map: <https://vlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Brewster-Uplands-Trail-Map.pdf>.

VLT Recreation Rules & Guidelines: <https://vlt.org/featured-properties/brewster-uplands/#visiting>.

Town of Cambridge Dog Ordinance: <https://cambridgetownvt.documents-on-demand.com/> — the dropdown list is in alphabetical order. Pick "Ordinances/Policies" and then "Ordinances," and choose "Cambridge Dog Ordinance February 19, 2018."

Jericho community news

This month we feature Bicycle & Pedestrian Connectivity Committee member Niels Rinehart. To read more: <https://jerichovt.org/Celebrating-Each-Other>.

Conservation Commission: Bears are out! We humans are obliged to do our part to avoid creating situations that attract bears to our residences. Be a good bear neighbor! The Jericho CC would like to remind residents that it is time to take your bird feeders down for the season (day and night) and keep your trash secure. Read more here: https://jerichovt.org/conservation-commission/news_feed/bear-aware.

Sustainability Book Group: The next book for the Sustainability Book Group will be [Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future](#) by Saul Griffith. Once again, the Jericho Town Library will have some copies to loan out. We will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, May 18. Contact Jericho Town

Library director Catherine Bass (catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) if you would like to sign up and participate.

MMCTV records and posts videos of Jericho Selectboard, Planning Commission, DRB, and Affordable Housing Committee meetings. To view past meetings click on the MMCTV button on the right side of each respective JoinInJericho committee webpage (or go online to <https://mtmansfieldctv.org/>) and watch recordings on the MMCTV YouTube page.

Cambridge Rec news

Discounted Six Flags amusement park tickets: The Vermont Recreation and Parks Association (VRPA) is offering discounted tickets to Six Flags New England and Six Flags Great Escape this summer!

These tickets are good any day of the week for the duration of the park season. By purchasing your tickets through the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association, you can save money and help out the VRPA, which in turn benefits local parks and recreation departments throughout the state. For details and to buy tickets, go online to <https://www.vrpa.org/Discount-Ticket-Sales-Program>.

VT youth, grades 1-12: Get your (chess) game on! To help more young Vermonters try chess for the first time — and for experienced young players to have the opportunity to compete against each other — Senator Bernie Sanders' office has organized a Youth Chess Day. It will feature learn-to-play sessions for students interested in trying out the game as well as a recreational tournament for experienced players. We encourage all young Vermonters in grades 1-12 to come join us. Students are strongly encouraged to register as soon as possible, as space is limited. For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/events/>.

Pickleball and more: Learn to play pickleball at Cambridge Community Center Monday and Wednesday mornings, 8:15 – 9:00 AM. Get in on fun! Free for members and \$5 for non-members. Already play? Stop by for pick-up pickleball for all levels most days of the week.

Not into pickleball? There's all kinds of fitness, sports, wellness, and community programming for all ages at the Cambridge Community Center! Go online to <https://cambridgeccvt.myrec.com/info/activities/default.aspx> to see a full list of activities.

Senior Survey results: Thanks to everyone in our active 55+ community who responded to our senior survey! Your participation provided us with excellent guidance on how to expand our programming to meet your needs and interests.

For those who volunteered to help with senior activities, we'll be reaching out to you soon.

The survey results can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/4aEhABm>.

Underhill Community Orchard and Potato Project

We are looking for stewards (especially children and families) to care for the Community Orchard at the Underhill Town Pond in Underhill Center, and the Potato Growing Project at the Chamberlin Farm on River Road in Underhill.

There will be a Morris Dancing celebration at the Orchard on Sunday, May 12, and Potato Planting at Chamberlin's on Sunday, May 19.

Please send questions to John Connell, jc6greenmont@gmail.com.

Cambridge Mall Reuse Shed at Transfer Station

The Cambridge Mall Reuse Shed at the Cambridge Transfer Station, located on VT Rt. 104, will be closed on Wednesdays until we can scare up more volunteers. We are still open on Saturdays as long as the roads are passable.

If anyone would like to spend a few hours a month volunteering, please contact Cheryl

Vreeland, gilbertcheryl35@gmail.com. Get first choice of items coming in!

Westford Rec youth logo design contest

By Amanda Gifford

Westford Recreation Coordinator

The Westford Recreation Department (WRD) needs a logo!

Westford youth are invited to submit a design by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 to be considered as the new logo for WRD. This will be used for promotional material, the town website, all programs, team jerseys, and other swag. Not simply a sports program.

Winner will be determined at the Tuesday, May 7 WRD meeting. The winner will receive some type of swag with their design on it. The finished logo will also be posted on the WRD website, with or without the artist's name per parent/guardian preference.

The winning design will be presented to the Design and Creative Media (DCM) Program at CTE for final production of a printable logo. Hopefully the youth artist will be able to meet with the DCM team to see the logo creation come to life. The design will need to be clear if printed in color or black and white.

A parent or guardian must give permission for the artist's name to be used in connection with the artwork. Registration is necessary and registration is construed as permission given for the youth to enter the contest. Registration must be made by the legal parent/guardian and may be completed at any time before dropping the artwork off at the Town Office.

Design Requirements: No larger than 8½x11 inches; clean sketches or clean drawings with pen or marker are best; colored pencil is also acceptable, though solid colors will translate more easily to the "ideal" logo design; the designer's name (as registered) should be lightly printed on the back of the design.

Register online at <https://forms.gle/Go6nbQqt2WmycJ9DA>.

Video about growing up in Cambridge Junction

Donna Nolan's video interview *Growing up in Cambridge Jct. Vermont in the 1940s and 50s* that was presented at the Cambridge Historical Society's March 13 program is now available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_BSSv3zk70.

Spring clothing swap at CCJ April 28

The Community Center in Jericho is hosting a spring clothing swap, with a little help from Jericho Town Library!

Bring your clean, gently used clothes, shoes, and accessories to the Community Center (329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center) on Sunday, April 28, anytime between 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Stick around to browse and select free clothes. (You don't have to donate in order to shop.) All clothing donations must be made during the swap; we are not collecting clothes prior to the start of the event.

All leftovers from the swap will be donated to Spectrum Youth and Family Services. During the swap, we will have special donation bins, should you wish to donate items directly to Spectrum. You can find Spectrum's wishlists at <https://www.spectrumvt.org/donate/> — wishlist items include new socks and underwear, backpacks, camping gear, and more.

All set with clothes after the fall swap? Come on by and check out some offerings of free books and toys from Jericho Town Library. We will also be serving tea and light snacks; we invite you to bring some snacks of your own to share.

Interested in volunteering on the day of the swap? We'd love your help! Contact catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, avaserstein@yahoo.com, or learn.love.laugh@gmail.com, or call the library at 802-899-4686.



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COMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events

Eagles Auxiliary Friday Night Bingo. Fridays, 6:30 – 9:45 PM, through Friday, May 24, Eagles Club, VT Rt. 109N (Waterville Rd.), Jeffersonville (.5 miles from the junction of VT Rts. 108-109). Doors open at 5:00 PM, with bingo refreshments available; purchase quickie, regular, and special bingo game papers by 6:15 PM. Bingo quickie games start at 6:30 PM; regular bingo games begin at the end of the quickie games. 50-50 raffle at half-time intermission, when refreshments are sold. The \$1000 jackpot-cover-all game is played during the last regular game of the night and has to be won by a “designated number” of balls called. If not won, the cover-all game continues for a consolation payout. All players must purchase at least three cards. Each game’s payouts are split between the winner(s) for that game. Children attending must play at least three cards and be under supervision by an adult (payouts to children paid to supervising adult). No card splitting. Please view our game rules posted at the Eagles Club. For additional information, contact the Eagles Club on Friday nights, 802-644-5333 after 5:00 PM (or leave a message during the week and receive a call back on Friday when bingo opens).

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

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (May 9) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (April 18, May 2, 16), 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 atowerinv@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehehir@comcast.net.

Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper, on the last Thursday of the month (April 25), 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come and enjoy some great soups and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

Waterville Country Church hosts a Community Meal the first Thursday of each month (May 2). 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!

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

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

Thursday Trivia nights — Thursdays through May 1, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Supersounds Trivia at Jericho Cafe & Tavern, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come by for Trivia, hosted by DJ Mike Toomey. Lots of awesome prizes, and a way to ward off the winter blues.

Healthy Habits VT, meets Friday and

Saturday mornings: Fridays in Essex Junction at 9:30 or 11:00 AM; Saturdays in South Burlington at 9:30 AM. Leslie Dunn leads weekly group meetings where participants talk about managing weight, being more physically fit, and motivating each other — building habits to achieve better health is the underlying theme of each meeting. For more information, go to <https://www.healthyhabitsvt.com/>, email leslie@healthyhabitsvt.com, or call 802 234-1277.

Coming Events

Tuesday, April 16

MMU and Rice Memorial High Schools’ England Tour Preview Concert, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington. Featuring *MMU Choirs, Rice Memorial HS Chorus, and MMU Instrumental Ensemble* will perform two movements of *Mass in Blue* (which they will play in full at Worcester Cathedral in England on Saturday, April 27) accompanied by Burlington Jazz Pianist Samuel Whitesell, an *a cappella* arrangement of *Loch Lomond*, and the spiritual *Hear My Prayer* by Moses Hogan.

Wednesday, April 17

Town of Cambridge Democratic Committee Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Brewster River Park, Jeffersonville. The Democratic Committee of the Town of Cambridge will be hosting a caucus to elect town delegates to the Vermont Democratic Convention. For more information about this caucus, please contact Lee Ruark, dleeruar@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 18

Jericho-Underhill Community Coffee Hour, 10:00 AM, Ale & Bean, 51 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come meet more people in our community! Share a cup of coffee and get to know each other better. We’re all part of this two-town community we call home.

Saturday, April 20

Identifying Your Ancestor Using the FAN Principle, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom and in person at the VT Genealogy Library, Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Rd., Essex. Do you have some ancestors who are hard to locate, or difficult to separate from people with similar names? Even when we find a person in the right place with the right name, we still need to establish that this is actually our person. Resolving these cases involves the use of additional resources beyond censuses and vital records. One approach is the FAN Principle (Family-Associates-Neighbors), also called “Cluster Research.” In this talk Joanne Polanshek will discuss this research technique, the types of sources, and some examples. Cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Sunday, April 21

Signs of Spring Walk, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Peter A Krusch Nature Preserve, North Cambridge Road, Jeffersonville. Come join a “Signs of spring” walk on the trail to the Cambridge Pines, looking and listening for signs of spring in Northern Vermont. Please meet at 316 North Cambridge Road. To pre-register: events@kruschnaturepreserve.org.

Spring Wildflower Progression I, 10:30 AM – 12:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Explore our trails in search of spring wildflowers and ephemerals. Learn about the season challenges and changes influencing these briefly blooming beauties with Museum volunteer Mary Ann Schlegel. (This is the first of two; other walks happen in May.) Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/spring-wildflower-walk1/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

Monday, April 22

Earth Day: Healthy Soil, Healthy Earth, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, meeting room at the Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Transition Town Jericho hosts this panel discussion. Refreshments provided. RSVP TTJericho.VT@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 24

Eggstatic! (for kids), 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Why do birds lay eggs? How do bird eggs compare to other animals? Discover challenges and conditions

eggs face, and how they survive. Ages 6-10; limit eight participants; cost, \$15-35. Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/eggstatic-april/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

See It, Sketch It, Bird It! 1:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Get ready for spring birding with this interactive program. Learn techniques for observing, describing, sketching, and identifying birds — tools that will immediately help you become a better birder! Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/see-it-sketch-it-bird-it-april2024/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

Family Game Day (all ages) and Night (adults and teens), Day 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Night 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Community Center in Jericho (CCJ), 329 Browns Trace, Jericho. Hosted by CCJ and the Jericho Town Library. For more information contact Julia Blake, juliavblake@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 27

April Bird Monitoring Walk, 7:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Join our monthly monitoring walk to record birds on the Museum’s property. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Maximum 12 people. Free, suggested donation \$5-15. Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/april-bird-monitoring-walk-2024/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

Spring Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Please help us prepare the Museum for our spring opening, and we’ll feed you! From trail maintenance to hanging art, we have opportunities for all. Come for an hour or all day, bring yourself, a friend, a family. Register (so we know how many sandwiches to make) at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/volunteer-work-day-april-2024/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

International Bake Sale, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. This sale will benefit the Essex-Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf, and will draw from the church’s diverse membership. Stop by to purchase items and, if you have time, sit and enjoy pastries with a cup of coffee or tea.

VT Genealogy Library Open House, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, VT Genealogy Library, Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Rd., Essex. Are you interested in starting on your family history? Have you wondered what the Vermont Genealogy Library can do for you. If so, come visit us. We will be giving tours of our facility, along with 30-minute demonstrations. There will also be many new and gently used books for sale. You can chat with other researchers while enjoying free refreshments. Free and open to the public. Bring a friend! Visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for details.

Jericho CC — Learn About Forests and Current Use, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Join the Jericho Conservation Commission for pizza and a movie — have a slice and watch the short documentary film *Seeing the Forest For the Trees*, released in 2024, which celebrates the importance of working forests in Vermont. After the film we will have Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester, and Don Tobi, Tree Warden for Jericho and Underhill, available for a Q&A. Come learn more about Vermont’s forests, forestry, and forest products industry. How is a healthy forest products industry important to healthy resilient forests, wildlife, biodiversity and forest ecology? What are

the benefits of responsible forestry? What is the Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) program, and how can you participate? What other programs are available for working forests?

Sunday, April 28

Spring Clothing Swap, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Bring clean, gently used clothes, shoes, and accessories, and browse and select free clothes (you don’t have to donate in order to shop). All clothing donations must be made during the swap — not collecting clothes before the event. Donations not chosen will be given to Spectrum Youth and Family Services (to donate to them directly see their wishlist at <https://www.spectrumvt.org/donate/>). Jericho Town Library will provide tea and light snacks (or bring your own to share), as well as free books and toys. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, avaserstein@yahoo.com, or learn.love.laugh@gmail.com, or call the library at 802-899-4686.

Saturday, May 4

Green Up Day, all day, throughout Vermont!
Green Up Day Breakfast in Jericho, 8:30 – 10:00 AM, Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Join your neighbors for a community potluck breakfast before heading out to Green Up our town! Bring a dish to share. Coffee, tea and cold drinks will be provided.

Case Studies Continued, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, in person at the VT Genealogy Library, Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Rd., Essex. Anyone who has researched their American French-Canadian heritage back to Canada knows how original names have been changed. Sometimes the trail gets obscured by not recognizing “dit” name variants. In this presentation, Michael Dwyer draws on 40 years worth of case studies of French names lost in Vermont and the research steps and resources he took to rediscover them. Michael will draw upon new research studies since his last presentation. Cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Saturday, May 11

Bottle drive to support Westford robotics team The Pickle Pandas, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Minor’s Country Store, 874 Main St. (VT Rt. 104), Fairfax. The Pickle Pandas will represent Vermont in the Western Edge Open competition held in California, Friday-Sunday, May 31-June 2. These students have put in almost 90 hours of extra-curricular effort and have honed their engineering, coding, and problem-solving skills in order to create projects that will better the STEM community. They are now asking for your support to raise funds in order to cover the cost of transportation, lodging, and meals. The Pickle Pandas will be there in-person! To donate individually, please reach out to Jessica Moreland (fundraising lead, jessica.moreland33@gmail.com) or Mark Drapa (head coach, madraps@ewsd.org). Donations can be made out to *Westford School, Attention: Westford Robotics Team*.

Bolton Spring Festival, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Smilie Memorial School, Theodore Roosevelt Highway (U.S. Rt. 2), Bolton. All proceeds will go towards the school’s new playground and the fourth grade field trip. There will be a craft fair, indoor flea market, ice cream stand, face painting, food, fire trucks, plant sale (, and bake sale. There will also be a car wash at the Bolton Fire Station. Questions? Contact Smilie Community Associations leader Savanna Phillips, 802-595-0867 or savanna.phillips@mmuvsd.org.

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COLLEGE NOTES

achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters, and the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Luther is majoring in Computer Networking and Cybersecurity.

Joseph Poley of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Poley is majoring in Cybersecurity.

Haily Sumner of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Trustees’ List, having achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters, and the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College,

Burlington, VT. Sumner is majoring in Social Work.

Ashley Taylor of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT.

Ben Treybal of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT.

Michael Baker of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT.

Desirae Byrd of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Trustees’ List, having achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters, and the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Byrd is majoring in Psychology.

Benjamin Cummings of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 President’s List at Champlain College, Burlington, VT.

Avery Luther of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Trustees’ List, having

HEALTH NEWS

Yoga in Underhill, April-July

The Underhill Recreational Committee is pleased to announce:

- a free Community Yoga Class on Saturday, April 20, 10:00 – 11:00 AM; and
- weekly by-donation Gentle Yoga Classes, starting Tuesday, April 23 and running through July 23, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

All classes will take place at the Underhill Town Hall, Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center.

Diana Rose will be teaching Gentle Flow Yoga classes designed to honor you wherever you are at physically. You don't need to be flexible to do Yoga! No expectations, judgements, or prior experience needed. The class will begin with joint opening exercises and warm-ups, flow through a balanced series of standing, seated, and reclined poses with instructions and modifications available, and will finish with a guided relaxation meditation during the final resting posture.

Diana began her journey teaching Yoga in 2014 while working as a wellness coordinator in a subluxation-based chiropractic office. Yoga played a pivotal role in her own healing journey, so she wanted to be able to share the ancient healing practice with others. Her intention with every class is to create a sacred space for people to unplug from the busyness of the world, let go of worries and concerns, tune into their breathing, honor their own body's physical sensations, and bring awareness to thoughts flowing to find peace and balance and honor the connection between the mind, body, and spirit.

Please RSVP to InfinityOasis1111@gmail.com or 802-345-9435; drop-ins are also welcome. Donations by cash/check/Venmo will be accepted but not expected. Please bring a Yoga mat if you have one or Diana will have a few extras to borrow!

Know the health risks of raising backyard chicks

From the Vermont Department of Health

Whether you're raising backyard chickens and other poultry for fresh eggs or just for fun this spring, make sure you are also protecting your health. Even if your backyard poultry look clean and healthy, they can carry germs that make people sick, like *salmonella*, *campylobacter*, and *E. coli*.

Some people, like young children, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems, can get very sick from these germs.

To keep you and your family safe, follow these simple steps:

- wash your hands with soap and water after touching poultry or anything in their area;
- avoid kissing or snuggling with the birds;
- keep the birds and their stuff outside, not in the house;
- wear a specific pair of shoes when taking care of the chickens, and keep them outside of the house;
- regularly clean the coop, floor, nests, and perches.

For more tips, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html

Eye myths

Parents have been asking me some eye-opening questions about their child's vision and whether some of the information they have been told is fact or fiction. Let me see if I can shed some light on some of those vision myths.

Is having my child sit too close to the TV bad for their eyes?

The good news is there is no evidence that that is true. The only thing a child may be showing when they sit up close is perhaps some nearsightedness but that was there before they started watching TV.

What about sitting in front of a computer screen for hours?

Well again, the vision may not be affected, but studies suggest

you blink less when you read or do close work. This may lead to the eyes drying out which can make them feel strained or fatigued. Make sure your children take breaks from being in front of a computer doing work or playing video games.

What if they like to cross their eyes? Can I tell them that they will stay that way? As you may already know, that too is not true. Unfortunately telling your child that myth may only result in their crossing their eyes more to see if it's true or to simply get your attention.

Will wearing glasses too much make their vision worse?

Not true! Wearing glasses helps your child to see and their vision will change as they get older likely due to genetics, but not because they are wearing glasses.

So if all of these are myths, are there any truths about vision?

If parents have poor eyesight, it is likely your child will too, so it is important to let your child's health care professional know whether vision problems run in the family.

What about eating more carrots?

Another possible truth is that carrots potentially can improve vision. Carrots are rich in vitamin A which does help with sight. Yet many other foods from milk to asparagus are rich in vitamin A, so don't force carrots onto your child. If they are drinking their milk or eating other fruits and vegetables that are likely to contain vitamin A, their vision will still be fine.

Can only boys be color blind?

No. Girls can also be color blind, although boys are eight times more likely than girls to have some difficulties seeing colors.

Hopefully with tips like these you won't myth or should I say miss out when it comes to separating the fact from the fiction about knowing more about your child's vision.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reasons to oppose S.258

To the Editor,

I'll offer a perspective on S.258, one of opposition rather than support. S.258 looks to gut the existing system of managing game and non-game species in the State of Vermont. Under the current system we have flourishing wildlife in Vermont. Our deer herd is in generally good shape with body weights and antler sizes increasing. Both of these metrics are indicative of a healthy herd. We are managing the moose population and their battle with the winter tick. Eastern wild turkeys were once extirpated from Vermont. They were reintroduced in 1970 and we now have 45-50,000 eastern wild turkeys in the State of Vermont, which leads to fruitful hunting every spring and fall.

The current system has one representative from each county in Vermont. This gives equal geographic representation. This is important because managing wildlife in South Burlington is different than the NEK, which is much different than the Islands, which is different than the spine of the Green Mountains. This allows every citizen to have a specific, local representative — something that will be lost if S.258 is passed.

The current system does not have a "secretive" process to appoint members to the board. Rather, they are appointed by the Governor, and approved by the Commissioner. They serve a six-year term. Members are typically chosen based upon experience in hunting, trapping, and fishing. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are traditional activities in Vermont that have spanned generations. The current board has the interest of continuing this Vermont tradition for generations to come. That is their best interest, which may not be the interests of board members with the proposed new structure.

As was indicated by the testimony at the State House, anti-hunters intend to use this opportunity to better push their non-scientific, hurt-no-animal rhetoric in the state. The irony is that by not managing species through a successful hunt, Vermont's big game species tend to exceed the habitat's carrying capacity. When this happens, there is not enough browse for the wildlife and they starve and become diseased. This causes them to suffer and die, rather than succumbing to an ethical hunt. A planned hunt is important to keep populations at levels which our habitat can support.

Finally, whether you support coyote hunting or not, banning types of hunting through legislation rather than through Fish and Wildlife regulations is foolish. Changing legislation is a long, drawn-out process. Managing hunting regulations through the Fish and Wildlife Department allows for agile, annual adjustments to regulations as ecosystem, habitat, and wildlife populations change from year to year.

Learn more about S.258 from the New England Backcountry Hunters and Anglers: https://www.backcountryhunters.org/vermont_bha_opposes_legislative_bill_to_eliminate_the_fish_and_wildlife_board_24.

Please reach out to our senators and voice your opposition to S.258:

- Senator Thomas Chittenden: tchittenden@leg.state.vt.us
- Senator Virginia "Ginny" Lyons: vlyons@leg.state.vt.us
- Senator Keshia Ram Hinsdale: kramhinsdale@leg.state.vt.us

Karl Neu
Underhill

Thanking voters for supporting MMUUSD budget

To the Editor,

I want to thank the community for voting to approve the school budget.

As a consultant who has worked in over 100 schools and 11 districts across the state in the last few years I can say that EVERY school is experiencing daily crises related to mental health issues and developmental and academic delays — both directly related to the pandemic and other external, cultural forces.

According to a fellow colleague, a psychologist who is called in to evaluate students who are struggling, the number of students unable to "handle" school has doubled since the pandemic. In general terms, this means 10% of a teacher's class is disengaged or disruptive at any point in time. My work is to help educators "level up" in order to respond more effectively to this new world of teaching and leading. But it is impossible to level up the profession if adequate supports and staffing are cut.

Significant cuts to school budgets along side the end of the federal recovery funds would be devastating to our youth and drive more teachers out of an already depleted profession. So THANK YOU! Now more than ever we need to support our schools and educators.

Annie O'Shaughnessy
Underhill Center

Another view on MMUUSD school budget passage

To the Editor,

I am delighted how pleased you (MMUUSD board) are with the new school budget passing and the monumental increase to

the towns' taxpayers. I just calculated my taxes to go up about \$1000 next year. As you say it's all for the kids.

Let's share your excitement and enthusiasm by asking the teachers' union at the next school board meeting to start paying for their own healthcare insurance and capping their salary increases to 2.5%. The big increases in homeowners' property taxes are almost all accounted for by those expenses. Industry raises are often less, and everyone contributes to their healthcare premiums.

The teachers and administrators need to start paying their fair share and not be forcing elderly people out of their homes by making them pay for them on top of what they pay for their own insurance.

Equity and fairness are all what education means so let's walk the walk.

Marty Jacobson
Underhill

Taxes or grants, Westford wastewater problem needs to be addressed

To the Editor,

Here's my take on the Select Board meeting I attended last night (March 29).

We can tweak what was voted down on the wastewater issue and get a ton of money to solve a problem that needs to be addressed — stay with the Maple Shade project and get it paid for — but we are running out of time;

Or search for alternate plans for the problem which may or may not be feasible, and pay with 100% taxpayer money. According to the experts last night they have never seen grant money for this type of project. So our taxes will go up.

It defies logic not to go with the first plan. We lose this money soon. To walk away from this opportunity will cost this town plenty.

If you feel strongly about it I suggest you contact your Select Board members and implore them to continue on a path that makes sense for your pocketbook. It's really up to this community to come together to solve this problem in the way that makes most sense.

Joan Farmer
Westford

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Saturday mornings at the University Mall food court

By Thomas Chittenden, State Senator
Chittenden-Southeast

On Saturdays, April 20 and 27, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, I will be at the food court at the University Mall, Dorset St., S. Burlington to hear more from you about what you want Montpelier doing more (or less) of. I'll be inviting other area legislators as well so please come down and say hello.

For those of you who voted on School Budgets over recent weeks, please know that a message was received by me in Montpelier when so many School budgets failed. We need to rethink how we budget for, fund, and manage the spending in our public school system. There are many in Montpelier looking deeply at systemic changes to our current configuration — all will require time to implement and to "get it right." Expect to hear more about these changes in the weeks to come and know that Montpelier is looking closely at ways to improve the yield this year with non-homestead property tax revenues to reduce the burden on Vermonters' property tax bills. Here is a longer write up of current discussions on this topic: <https://bit.ly/4cFgxTw> (short for https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02rqFdrnGBbcpg5YoX1LMYJGwVRdGHvHRFqBSqUG1wQ1qfx-oZYrRdmvioZcm7bxadkl&id=100057735142646).

Please come down to the University Mall on a Saturday morning in April to say what's on your mind. Your legislators are working hard to listen and to move us in the right direction.

Or if Saturday mornings don't work, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at Thomas.Chittenden@gmail.com or 802-233-1913.

Update from the VT House

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden

April 6

You might be interested in VHIP 2.0 — this is a program that provides funding to property owners to increase the availability of housing in Vermont. If you applied previously and were told that the State was not accepting any new applications, you can now apply under this new iteration of the program. More information can be found online at <https://accd.vermont.gov/vhip>.

The State House is likely to be undergoing some renovations to increase accessibility for the public. As part of this process, the public is invited to share your feedback at <https://bit.ly/4aqqu5F> (short for https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw-CaaN-RG_wQm_avsyUS6Gq1Nj2NMG7Ib1qGjdXEtEGX-gopQ/viewform).

It's been another busy time moving bills from the House to the Senate; here's a recap:

H.612 — is a bill that makes miscellaneous changes to the cannabis laws;

H.622 — is a bill related to access to emergency medical services and funds for training emergency responders;

H.702 — is an act relating to legislative operations and government accountability;

H.585 — is a bill amending the pension system for sheriffs;

H.630 — is an act regarding boards of cooperative education services;

H.687 — is a bill to update Act 250 and improve community resilience and biodiversity protection;

Legislative reports continued on page 9

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COMMUNITY COLUMN

Learning inside

By Bill Schubart

Previously, I have written about the visionary work the Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC) is doing to decarcerate people in prison who no longer need to be there, to provide educational, interventional support and counseling services for those in their custody to ensure a safe and secure reentry, and to reduce recidivism. This column expands further on their education work. The quotes below are all from incarcerated students in the CCV/DOC educational program.

Today, I'll shed light on a joint venture between the Community College of Vermont (CCV) and DOC that brings the opportunity for a college education to the incarcerated population.

In a stated effort to get offenders to "think differently about themselves," learn skills, and prepare for reentry, the McClure Foundation in 2019 seed-funded CCV's Prison-to-Career Program.

"This is the first time my family has been proud of me."

Beginning in 2023, the U.S. Department of Education began the reinstatement of Pell Grant options for offenders meeting qualifications. This allows incarcerated learners to file for tuition assistance from the federal government in pursuit of their degree.

Only months earlier, Sen. Sanders secured \$4.5M to expand the reach of the CCV / DOC educational partnership into other DOC facilities. Currently, three of Vermont's six facilities offer CCV classes: Northwest in St. Albans, Northern in Newport, and Chittenden in South Burlington. Plans are underway to expand the program this fall to a fourth facility, Southern in Springfield, and to add another facility each academic semester until all six state correctional facilities offer the program.

"My education has given me something to talk about with my family."

To no one's surprise, at the outset of the program, correctional staff raised the obvious question, "Do I need to commit a felony to get the degree I couldn't afford?"

The partnership responded quickly to this question and made

CCV classes available not only to correctional staff but to their spouses and dependents as well. Currently some 35 corrections employees take regular CCV courses. Tuition is now a benefit of employment and has been a positive factor in the ongoing challenge to fill vacancies in correctional staffing. Correctional staff attend CCV in person and online like regular matriculated students, while classes for the incarcerated are managed inside the correctional facility. 86% of Corrections staff taking courses said that their work at CCV radically improved their relationships inside the facility.

"It's a sense of pride you get because you are a part of something positive. Even the Correctional Officers start to treat you better and with more respect."

Offenders apply and are screened by Corrections for their suitability, security-risk, and behavior. Of those that completed their first semester, 100% continued on to the second semester and 96% reported "experiencing a success" during the semester.

The "pencil box" is a test of the student's commitment to themselves. The students are allowed all the materials in it but the supplies have value in the facility, and many may be tempted to sell the box and its contents. During orientation, a second semester student shared with incoming students, "The pencil box is a test to see how committed you are to yourself. You don't need it to pass, you don't need it to graduate, but are you going to sell it, or are you going to be serious about the work you're doing here?"

The partnership has both risks and challenges, even as the cultural benefits vastly outweighs both.

Students are only allowed to participate if their release does not occur during the semester. Offenders who are released between semesters can continue their work at the nearest CCV academic center.

One significant impediment is the issue of online access. Incarcerated students do not yet have Internet access for classes. Yet so much modern education occurs online in the form of scheduling, information, educational material deliveries, testing, and teacher-student communication. CCV and DOC

are collaborating to create a secure online learning environment using learning management tools specifically designed for incarcerated populations.

The other less obvious challenge is infrastructural. In a concrete and steel facility designed for security where broadband access is neither needed or allowed, how does one create secure wired or wireless networks that enable the information collection and distribution critical to educating incarcerated people? Wiring a wood frame building is different from securely wiring a solid concrete facility, even with conduit.

But the most significant difference is cultural.

"I remember feeling proud the first time I got my grades back and could show my kids and family that I was really trying to better myself."

Historically, prisons have been high-security fortresses designed to protect society, to isolate and punish offenders. For many in the system — staff and offenders — the DOC/CCV partnership has greatly improved prison culture... from an offender lock-down culture to a learning community. Most incarcerated individuals will be released. How can we prepare them to be productive citizens, and what could that mean for the communities they re-enter?

This shift from penal culture to learning community has made a significant difference in how most incarcerated Vermonters see themselves... fulfilling an original goal. And this change in self-perception becomes the starting point for a new life, one that holds promise rather than the despair of confinement.

"The classes bring us together. I have created a bond with people that I would have most likely have never spoken to without CCV."

Any such experiment is rife with risk. But in order to pilot towards a greater good, improve the lives of those under their custody, facilitate secure community reentry, and reduce recidivism, the CCV/DOC partnership has had the courage to take those risks for the greater good.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant community. We are young and old; straight and LGBTQIA; singles, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. We are an Open and Affirming and Reconciling church, which means all ARE truly welcome. We are the Old Fashioned Harvest Market Church, the Clutter Barn Church, and a church of fellowship, mission, and service. We gather to worship together virtually and in-person every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM for a traditional but lively service with music, and Sunday School and nursery for the children. We welcome you to join us for worship or just come in, be still, and

contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary email secretary@ucu.church. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>.

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

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

Jericho Congregational Church

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT

Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson

Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages

Fellowship time at 9:30 AM

Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery care provided

Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

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. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it! Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho and worships Sundays at 9:30 AM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453.

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

Covenant Community Church — "Come As You Are!"

What is the Covenant? The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo — people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 – 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 – 11:00 AM; Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM – ?

Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo's)

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.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

Adult Programs

Monday April 29 and Wednesday April 24, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention. Age Well and DRML are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention for those 60+ or those who have limiting conditions that would like to improve their balance, strength, and well-being. We will learn the Sun Style Form and ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed. The form can be adapted to your personal needs, so all can participate fully. In-person or on Zoom from the comfort of your own home (Zoom link will be provided). Registration required, please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne at joanosborne2@gmail.com.

Second Tuesdays (May 14), 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (or whenever you would like to leave): Underhill/Jericho Cribbage Group meets in the program room at DRML. All levels are welcome! We will split up into pairs, singles, and three-hand depending on the turnout. Please bring your own deck and board in case we need them.

Thursdays, April 18, May 2, 16, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters Group. Join as at DRML for a couple of hours of crafting and conversation with your neighbors. All are welcome — beginner to expert — in any craft you can transport. Hope to meet you there. Questions? Please contact Amy Tower at 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 PM: Board of Trustees meeting,

in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@gmail.com) to receive the link to attend.

Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 PM: Underhill Energy Committee. Follow up to the "Wanna Be A Solar Farmer?" meeting held in March, the Underhill Energy Committee will invite several solar developers who will provide details and answer your specific questions about hosting a solar farm on your property. Please contact Steve, stevew831@gmail.com, if you have any questions about the informational meeting.

Thursday, April 25, 6:30 PM: Mah Jongg. Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you'll love Mah Jongg! All are welcome—no experience necessary!

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Club. Check the library website at <https://www.drml.org/programs/calendar/> for more details. If you need a copy, call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. We meet in-person in the program room. A Zoom link is available. Email Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com for a link.

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 PM: Chez Henry. French: Venez nous rejoindre notre cercle de conversation de retour à la bibliothèque Rawson dès mardi le 30 avril à 19 heures. En hommage affectueux à notre cher raconteur en chef défunt, Henry Weinstock, nous vous prions de venir partager vos idées pour cette série de réunions dans une ambiance de décontraction et d'amitié. Ce cercle n'est pas visé à faire apprendre la langue, mais les francophones de tous niveaux et ceux qui ne sont que des «French curious» y seront bien accueillis. (English: Come join our informal French conversation group back up and running at the Rawson Library.

Named in fond remembrance of our past leader and "raconteur sans pareil," Henry Weinstock, come share your ideas for a new series of informal Tuesday gatherings beginning April 30 at 7:00 PM. This is not intended as a language class and we welcome all levels of French speakers as well as the French curious.)

Youth Programs

Ongoing

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby Toddler Storytime [ages 0-5] Join us for a baby and toddler focused story time with tickles, bounces, songs, rhymes and, of course, stories.

Fridays (except April 26), 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London [ages 0-5] What makes Friday so great? Songs and stories with Beth and David London. Hope to see you there!

Here is what's going on this month! All programs meet in person at DRML, unless otherwise specified.

Tuesday, April 16, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Tissue Paper Flowers Craft [all ages] Turn tissue paper into beautiful April flowers. This craft is adaptable to any age. No sign up needed. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday, April 17, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt [all ages] Spring might be here, but it's always a good time to cozy up with Wyatt and read some stories. Therapy dogs don't care how well you read, or if you get all the words right, and that helps build a more confident reader. Sign up for your spot with Wyatt when you call, email or visit the library.

Thursday, April 18, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: [ages 8+] Animation Club. Create a claymation masterpiece, or try out an animation

SUMMER CAMPS



Now, this is a signpost — in this case, listing the many choices for fun at summer camps, this one at Green Mountain Conservation Camp. Go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc> for more information.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Stowe Children's Theatre: Seussical Jr. camp

Stowe Children's Theatre is excited to get to know your camper this summer! Our creative team has chosen *Seussical Jr.* because this show features student performers, student producers, student costumers, and student stage managers like none other!

This summer, we have four camp options for your young Actors and Producers:

Option 1: Costume Design Camp for burgeoning fashion designers, where we will dye fabric, sew, design, and hot glue all week — no experience sewing is necessary. For information, <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-costume-design-camp-2024/>.

Option 2: Performing Camp for those who want to get out on the stage. This two-week camp requires no experience performing, dancing, or singing — this camp option caters to the first-timer and those who have loads of experience, all are welcome! We will sing, dance, and act this show to life! Ages: 8-16. For information, <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-performing-camp-2024/>.

Option 3: Production Camp for those interested in the arts of Scenic Design and Lighting Design. Learn together what it takes to put all of the technical elements of a show together; no experience needed. For information, <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-production-camp-2024/>.

Option 4: Stage Managing. Have a camper who was born to be a boss? This is the camp for them! This two-week camp teaches the skills necessary to manage an entire production. Stage Management Campers will learn how to record staging notes, manage daily rehearsal schedule, cue lighting, actors, and more. Information at <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-stage-management-camp-2024/>.

We are offering a 25% tuition discount for siblings. Feel free to use the CODE: *geisel24stowe*.

Questions? Contact Molly the Director, stowechildrenstheatre@gmail.com or 802-730-4157.

VTSU Johnson Summer Athletics Camps

The Johnson Athletic Department is excited to share its our upcoming Athletic Summer Camps for 2024. We have a full summer of fun for all!

All camps can be found on the official Athletics site of Vermont State University Johnson, <https://nvubadgers.com/CAMPS-CLINICS/INDEX>.

- Boys Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday June 16-20, day and overnight;
- Boys and Girls Volleyball Camp, Monday-Thursday, June 24-27, day only;
- Boys and Girls Soccer Camp, day only, three sessions, all

Monday-Friday: July 8-12 (session 1), July 15-19 (session 2), July 22-26 (session 3);

- Girls Softball Camp, Sunday-Thursday July 14-18, day and overnight;
- Girls Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday August 11-15, day and overnight.

Girl Scout day and overnight camps in Vermont

Registrations are open for Girl Scout day camps and overnight camps for this summer! Our nearest day camp is located in Richmond on a lovely parcel in the woods, and our overnight camp is in Thetford, VT. If that's your jam, come join us!

Here are the postings from Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains:

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Twin Hills! Camp Twin Hills is located in Richmond, VT and offers one-week and two-week sessions for campers in kindergarten through grade 10. Visit the link to learn more about our programs and bus routes: <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/activities/camp-and-outdoors/twin-hills.html>.

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Farnsworth! Camp Farnsworth is located in Thetford, VT on Lake Abenaki and offers sessions ranging from four days to two weeks for campers in grades 1-12. Visit the link to learn more about our programs: <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/activities/camp-and-outdoors/farnsworth.html>.

Lake Champlain Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Camps

Lake Champlain Yacht Club's (LCYC's) Junior Sailing camps are open to children ages 8-17. Our program creates a love of sailing. Your child will learn safe on-water practices while having fun and gaining a sense of stewardship for Lake Champlain.

Registration is open for the 2024 season. Don't miss out on all the summer fun! Sessions are week-long half-day and full-day for new and experienced sailors. LCYC's program builds confidence and independence. Instructors are U.S. Sailing certified and maintain Red Cross First Aid and CPR qualifications.

For more information go to <https://lcyf.info/junior-sailing>.

Summer camp registration open at Saxon Hill School

Register today for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho!

Weekly camps at Saxon Hill School provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. Saxon Hill School camps engage children with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun.

Our camps are designed for children ages 3-6. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure, counselors will aim to focus each week on children's interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open!

Camps run weekly from June 10-August 12, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

Chittenden County Soccer School 2024

By Eric Barker

Registration is open until Saturday, June 22 for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2024, Monday-Friday, July 8-12 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-day and full-day camp options, and age groups range from 5-16+.

Please email barkereric15@gmail.com, with any questions. Or visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/chittendencountysoccerschool/home>.

Registration open for summer camps at Poker Hill Arts

Registration is open for two camps: Art from Nature, Monday-Wednesday, July 1-3; and Fairy Camps, from Mondays, July 8 or 15. See Poker Hill Arts summer camps online at <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/summer-camps>.

Poker Hill Arts will also offer Musical Theater camps from Mondays, July 22 and 29, contact <http://dthomas0712@gmail.com>; and Music Rocks camps from Mondays, August 12 and 19, contact timbolandusa@gmail.com.

As of the end of March the camps are mostly full but we do maintain a wait list for when space opens up.

BCA Summer Camps open for registration

Secure a summertime filled with creative fun for the young artists in your life — Burlington City Arts' (BCA's) summer camp registration is now open. With an abundance of unique offerings for ages 6-17, half-day options to combine to create a full-day camp (see catalog at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog>) and an Aftercare Art Club that goes until 5:00 PM, you can create a custom camp experience that supports your whole family.

Spaces are limited and they go fast, so be ready and browse the options, submit a scholarship application (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/form/apply-for-a-youth-scholarship>), create an account or locate your login at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog> and be ready with your camper's full information for checkout. You can also peruse our camp registration FAQs (https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Camp_2024_FAQ_edited.pdf) to get all the tips and tricks that will make registering a breeze.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration 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 Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps (GMCC) 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 at 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 Sunday, June 16 and continue until Friday, August 16. 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.

Vermont summer programs at Smugglers for kids ages 7-15

This summer, dive into the adventure that awaits at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville. Smuggers Camp is your ticket to extraordinary summer memories, filled with unique experiences you won't find anywhere else. Transportation is available for \$10 per day, per child round trip to and from Burlington, Jericho, and Essex. The cost is \$119 (one program is \$129) per day, per child, for programs available Monday-Friday, June 17-August 30: High Adventure Mountain Bike; STEM Projects, Problems, and Puzzles; Wilderness and Survival Skills, Arts and Crafts, and Discovery Camp.

For more information and to register: <https://www.smuggers.com/pages/summer/kids/vermonter-camp.php>.

Home and Garden 2024

Special section
in The Mountain Gazette
Appearing May 2, 2024

Deadline April
29, 2024

the Y
YMCA

Camp Koda, Underhill

- Co-ed summer camp for kids that have completed K through age 12
- Nine sessions, M-F, 8:00am – 5:30pm
- Campers have fun playing, learning, and growing in a safe environment
- State subsidy and /or financial assistance may be available

Register at gbyymca.org/programs/camp-koda

The Y's Community Partner
NORTH COUNTRY
Your community credit union

Library news continued from page 5

app. The library has what you need to get started animating your very own videos. Please sign up when you call, email, or visit the library.

Friday, April 19, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Taylor Swift Poetry Club [ages 8+] Celebrate the release of Taylor Swift’s newest album Tortured Poets’ Department with us! We’ll make T. Swift friendship bracelets, talk about her lyrics as poetry and write some of our own.

Thursday, April 25, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Poetry Workshop [ages 6+] Celebrate National Poetry Month when you drop in and create black out poetry, acrostics, haiku, free verse and more. We will talk a little bit about what makes a poem, write some and read some too.

Friday, April 26, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+] Build a flower, a tractor or an alien spaceship! Anything you build will be on display in the kids’ room until the next LEGO club. Please sign up when you call, email or visit the library.

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

New hours as of April 12: 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.

The Community Center in Jericho and Jericho Town Library will be hosting a Family Game Day (all ages welcome) on Wednesday, April 24, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and a Game Night (adults and teens) on Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. More details will be coming soon, but we are currently looking for volunteers to help out with both of these events. Do you love to play board games or card games? Do you want to share this love with your neighbors? If so, sign up to teach a game that you already know how to play at Family Game Day or Game Night! For more information or to volunteer, contact catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

Building accessibility note: we are working hard on a project to make our historic building accessible to all Vermonter, but visitors must currently use a set of stairs to get to the front entrance of the building and a longer staircase to reach the second floor. We are committed to serving all members of our community; if you cannot enter our current building and would like to attend one of our programs, please reach out so that we can try to modify our plans.

Saturdays, 8:00 – 9:00 AM: Community Yoga at Jericho Town Library. Join Deanna Bartlett, 200HR, Trauma-Informed, Accessible Yoga School Certified Yoga Teacher for in-person community yoga designed for all levels. Includes a gentle slow-flow style sequence with plenty of space to modify and adapt shapes, to get out of the head and into the body. Please bring your own mat and any props you like for your practice. Suggested donation \$14; all donations optional and go directly to the instructor (cash and Venmo accepted at the time of class, please reach out to catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686 if you have questions about why we are offering these classes on a donation-based model). Drop-ins welcome; pre-registration encouraged at the Jericho Town Library website. For more information contact deannabartlett0703@gmail.com.

Please join us for the following weekly programs and special events at Jericho Town Library.

Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:00 AM: Storytime Yoga. This interactive, movement-based storytime is designed for kids ages 6 and under (with an accompanying adult).

Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Playgroup. Make new friends and enjoy our second floor play area for two hours of unstructured play. Kids 6 and under (with an accompanying adult).

Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Romp & Rhyme. Drop in for a short storytime, followed by unstructured play on the second floor of the library. Babies and toddlers (with an accompanying adult).

Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Lasagna Gardening with Laura Oliver. Lasagna gardening, an easy no-till method of soil building, is a great way to recycle organic materials,

and a simple way to create a thriving garden. Join us to learn this low cost, low maintenance method for creating nutrient dense garden beds.

Wednesday, April 24, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Family Game Day at the Community Center. Drop in anytime to learn a new card or board game or to play an old favorite. Please reach out if you’d like to volunteer for this event, and feel free to bring some of your own games with you!

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Game Night for adults and teens at the Community Center. Drop in anytime to learn a new card or board game or to play an old favorite. Please reach out if you’d like to volunteer for this event, and feel free to bring some of your own games with you!

Thursday, April 25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Around the World in 2024, a monthly geography program for homeschooling kids (every fourth Thursday). Each month, we will learn about a new place through stories, music, mapmaking, and other activities. All ages are welcome, but the activities will be designed with kids 8-12 in mind. Children are welcome to stay unattended for this program. This month: Italy, Part 2! Please register in advance, online at <https://forms.gle/JrNL3ZfoMqJ3xJFc9>.

Thursday, April 25, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Speculative Fiction Book Club discusses Revelation Space by Alastair Reynolds. Contact the library for help locating a copy of the book. We have a few here at the library!

Friday, May 3, 3:30 PM: Come meet Tracey West, author of the incredibly popular *Dragon Masters* series! Tracey will read a chapter from the latest *Dragon Masters* book (out in April) and then be available to sign autographs. Phoenix Books will have some of Tracey’s books for sale at the event. Due to space constraints, registration is required. Register online at <https://forms.gle/cixr942GXzqVNet9>.

Library news continued on page 8

*The Apartments.
The Dining.
The Amenities.
The Choices.*



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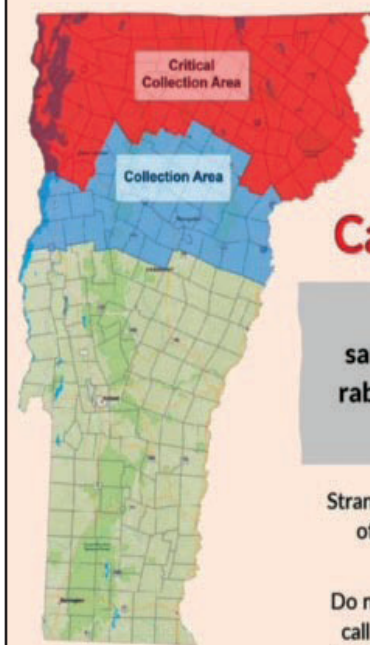
MansfieldPlaceVT.com

18 Carmichael Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Uniform Consumer Disclosure is available upon request.

RABIES ALERT!

YOU are critical to the success of rabies surveillance in Vermont!



If you see raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, or bobcats:

- ▶ Acting strange
- ▶ Found dead

Call (802) 223-8697

Wildlife Services is collecting samples to directly monitor wildlife rabies in Vermont. You are critical to the success of this project!

Strange acting includes aggression, loss of fear of humans, excessive salivating, circling, lethargy, or paralysis.

Do not touch wild animals, alive or dead. Please call the Vermont Rabies Hotline to report the location and species. Samples will only be taken within the collection areas.

Rabies is in our communities — a raccoon tested positive in Jericho in late March, according to Underhill Animal Control.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Library news continued from page 7

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum is the grateful recipient of the Community Readers Grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) and will host a special event with Vermont author Natalie Kinsey-Warnock on Wednesday, April 17, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Cambridge Elementary School gym. Everyone is invited! All youth who attend will leave with two new books of their own selection. We hope that everyone who wants to attend (adults included!) will be able to make it.

We are still waiting for confirmation regarding a couple of regularly scheduled programs, so please be sure to call or check back with our website, <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>. Program descriptions can be found on the website, as well.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 (ish) AM: Story Time for all ages.

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: Games with Patty.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

Wednesday, April 17, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Coloring Club for all ages. Join us for some quiet (or not!) coloring with community. Coloring materials for every age provided. Come meet someone new and maybe find your new favorite shade.

Thursday, April 18, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Adult Crafting (Mosaics). Please note that due to the expense of the materials, registration is required and is capped at six participants, so call to reserve your spot if you are able to commit to the twice-monthly class.

Friday, April 19, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Birding for Beginners. Join area expert Annette, as she guides you on foot in the basics of birding. This is a rain/shine/endlessly cloudy event. Annette will teach the skills to navigate various apps and apparatus (such as binoculars) to enhance your self-education. Bring your questions and enthusiasm!

Saturday, April 20, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Rambling Repair Workshop. Join us for a special textile repairing workshop with Elena a senior from the University of the Atlantic who is riding her bike from Vermont to Maine is stopping at selected libraries along the way to teach textile repairs. You don't want to miss this! Bring your favorite, worn-out clothing and learn to how to give it new life. No registration required. Call the library for more details.

Sunday, April 21, 12:00 – 1:30 PM: Teens Teaching Technology. Feel free to join this program of the Cambridge Area Rotary. Bring a charged device and attend their presentation.

Tuesdays, April 23, 30, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: Open Game Time. Come choose from our selection of games to maybe find someone to play with! We'll provide the popcorn and hot cocoa, you bring the enthusiasm.

Wednesday, April 24, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Crafternoon. Patty will lead the way to a creative, engaging experience. Younger participants will require the assistance of an adult to help them through certain steps of the process, so please plan to join in the fun! All patrons under age 13 must be accompanied by an adult remaining within the building.

Thursday, April 25, 4:30 – 5:45 PM: BoundLess Book Club. Do you need a reason to get out of the house? Do you like to read and recommend books to others or hear the recommendation from others? Come check out our not so average book club! Bring what you are currently reading (yes, all of them) or find a new book while you're here. There's guaranteed to be a good selection. We will discuss, share and have time to just sit and read. And of course, we'll provide the snacks and warm liquids to sip.

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 – 10:30 AM: Teens Teaching Technology. Come with your charged devices and questions! You will be helped individually. We will also be fielding general questions as a group.

The Varnum Library, Jeffersonville; <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>, 802-644-2117

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday/Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday unless otherwise noted.

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.

Art at the Library: *Over Time*, a multimedia exhibition. Long-time Westford resident Janet Jaffe will display selected artworks from her diverse personal collection, through June. Primarily an improvisational art quilter, Janet has long maintained her primary form of creative expression is doodling. Viewers will see a collection of wall quilts and pen drawings as well as assorted works assembled with recycled components, items found in nature, acquired at flea markets, and found in her world travels.

The Westford Public Library soon will be accepting donations for our Fourth of July Book Sale. Please, stick to these times only: Saturdays May 4, June 1, 15, 29, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. ACCEPTING: books, DVDs, and audiobooks in good condition. NOT ACCEPTING: VHS tapes, cassettes, CDs, textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, and moldy or damaged books. Ask yourself, "Would I lend this to a friend?" If the answer is no, then keep it out of the book sale. Do not use the book drop for donations as it damages the library books.

Save the date: Saturday, June 8, for a Welcome Baby Tea! We are celebrating all children born from March 2023-March 2024. If your child was born in Westford, you will receive an invitation in the mail in the beginning of May. If you have moved into town and your child fits into that age category, you are invited too! Please contact the library with your child's information. We can't wait to celebrate our littlest patrons!

Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Crafting with Marianne.

Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: LEGO Club. Grades 1-4, signup required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. More information on bussing to those who sign up. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun! Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early. Priority will be giving to kids who did not get in the first session.

Thursdays, 11:30 AM, inside the library: Early Literacy Storytime. We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. April 18: Plants; April 25: No storytime (school break).

Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, on the Common: Special "Spring" Four Winds Nature Storytime. Join the Westford School Kindergarteners and FWNI educators for a fun, hands-on storytime about Spring. This is OUTSIDE, so dress accordingly (we might get muddy!) and bring a blanket for sitting. All welcome to join in.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group, reading *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister. One book. Nine readers. Ten changed lives. Alice has always wanted to be a writer. Her talent is innate, but her stories remain safe and detached until a devastating event breaks her heart open, and she creates a stunning debut novel. Her words, in turn, find their way to readers — each drawn into Alice's novel; each discovers something that alters their perspective and presents new pathways forward for their lives. Print copies available at the library, ebook and audiobook available on Libby.

Tuesday, April 30, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Whatever your game, we will play it. Meet 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, especially looking to connect with seniors. Please be prompt so we can include all in play.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (May 1), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (April 20, May 16), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Please sign up at least one week before the program date — all events are free unless noted. Where pre-registration is required, please call 802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org>, where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

Children's events

Wednesdays, April 17, 24, 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!

Wednesday, April 17, 3:00 PM: Titanic Escape Room. The library is hosting an escape room! Can you find the treasure and escape the Titanic in time? Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Wednesday, April 24, 3:00 PM: Alcohol Ink Bookmarks. Repurpose old transparency sheets into pretty new bookmarks! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Adult events

Tuesdays, April 16, 23, 30, 5:30 PM: Mandarin Club with Keyuan Xiang. Interested in learning Mandarin, or just want to know more about Chinese culture? Join Keyuan Xiang at the library for lessons! You don't need to come to each club meeting, but registration is required for the day or days you would like to attend. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Thursday, April 25, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is *The Lioness of Boston* by Emily Franklin. Book club will meet in the library. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or call us at 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

Useful links: VTGrandpa, <http://www.vtgrandpa.com/>; Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fairfax-Community-Library/160431583972368>; Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/fairfaxcommunitylibrary/>.

Fairfax Community Library, 75 Hunt Street, Fairfax; 802-849-2420; <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org>; 802-849-2420.

Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Friday, 1:00 – 4:15 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Seeking artists and collectors: We are currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2024. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, contact us to choose your month. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of thimbles, old books, feathers, nut crackers or anything else that would fit in our case that you would be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Contact the library at library@richmondvt.gov or 802-434-3036.

Vermont Reads: *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*. Join libraries and community groups around Vermont in a big community discussion of *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo. The book is suited for teens and adults and focuses on a Chinese-American young woman coming of age in 1950s San Francisco. Copies of the book are available to take home (to keep or to borrow) now. We're following up our book discussion with a free swing dancing lesson on Friday, April 5 at 6:00 PM and a paper lantern making project with Radiate Art Space on Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 PM. Register for either or both activities by emailing library@richmondvt.gov or call us at 802-434-3036.

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Book Group in the Mezzanine Lounge. *Wild Justice* by Phillip Margolin. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055 or msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 PM: Climate Action Book Discussion. In collaboration with Richmond Climate Action Committee, we will be discussing *The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth* by Elizabeth Rush. Copies of the book will be available in early April.

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

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup.

The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant through five years and their grownups are invited to join the fun!

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

Saturdays, April 20, May 18, 10:30 – 11:00 AM, Community Room: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime): Join native Spanish speakers Chichi and Eva for picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us on the third Saturday of every month, September-May.

Trustees Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (May 13) via Zoom until further notice. Open to the public.

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. 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

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.

We'd love your feedback! The Library is currently working on its Strategic Plan for 2025-30. Your responses will help us enhance and improve the services we offer to the community. Thank you for taking the time to lend your voice as we look to the future! The survey is posted on our website and paper copies are available at the library.

Seeking volunteer garden hosts for the 2024 Essex Vermont Garden Tour on Saturday, June 22, 12:00 – 4:00 PM. The Friends of the Essex Free Library is pleased to announce the 2024 Essex Garden Tour, a collaborative effort between Essex Town and Essex Junction gardeners and The Friends of the Library. The Garden Tour seeks diversity in types of gardens and features. If you would like your garden, big or small, to be included, please email your interest to Jan Ferris, mookieferris@me.com.

COVID Test Kits are back, thanks to our friends at Vermont Center for Independent Living. You may take up to four kits per person in your household. Available while supplies last.

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 textbooks, magazines, VHS, encyclopedias, multi-volume sets, technology or travel books over five years old, mildewed, stained or smoky items please. Thank you so much!

Have a short-term need for electronics? The library loans wifi hotspots, Chromebooks, binoculars, Bluetooth speakers, webcams, LightSound devices, Happy lamps, DVD players, a mic, a telescope, and more!

For all ages

In the display case: Turn mud season into sugaring season with these vintage Maple sugaring supplies!

Children's area

Storywalk® along the back garden fence. New: *A Few Beautiful Minutes* by Kate Fox.

Exploration Station: Ongoing. See the blue table for this week's challenge.

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

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

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Come and check out our great collection of LEGOs! No pre-registration necessary. Best for ages 9 and up, or 6 and up with an adult helper.

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Pokemon Club. Open to grades 4-8. Pokemon decks available for kids to play the card games, as well as some themed crafts available. Participants are invited to bring their own handheld video game devices or tablets to play their own Pokemon games or Pokemon Go.

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

Adult area

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.

Tuesday, April 23, 2:00 – 3:30 PM and 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Noreen's Creative Card Classes for adults. Make two cards using different techniques. Limited class size. Register online.

Thursday, April 25, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Stacked Poetry Workshop. Celebrate Poetry Month by creating stacked poetry! Build a poem using book titles printed on the spines. We'll spend 30 minutes creating poems and share them with the group.

Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Zentangle for adults with Julia Davenport. Enjoy this beautiful art form that welcomes slowing down and tapping into your creativity. No prior art experience needed. Register through the website.

Thursday, May 2, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group, *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. McCann unfurls the story of two fathers, one Palestinian and one Israeli, who have both lost their daughters to the violence that surrounds them. Over the course of the day, these two men's lives intertwine as they attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace. A novel based on actual events.

Museum Passes are available for year 'round fun!

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; website <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/>.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

United Way Volunteer Connection

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

• **TEEN CENTER** — Essex CHIPS Teen Center is a welcoming, substance-free space for young people in grades 4-9 in the Essex-Westford School District. They are looking for volunteers to help supervise free time and planned activities and to help prepare healthy snacks. Contact christina@essexchips.org.

• **LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** — Fletcher Free Library has a number of varied opportunities available for volunteers age 14 and up including shelving library materials and maintaining the tidiness of shelves, assisting with their play-based early learning program on Saturday mornings, monitoring the Teen Space when the Teen Librarian is out, preparing art/picture book kits to deliver to home child-cares, and assisting with events, marketing, and other projects. Some positions require a background check. Contact ffvolunteer@burlingtonvt.gov.

• **COMFORT AND SUPPORT** — VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region provides support to patients and their families facing terminal illness. Hospice volunteer training will be held on Friday, May 17, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM in St. Albans. After completing the training, volunteers can provide respite for caregivers, offer companionship for the patients, run errands, and provide support in many other meaningful ways. For information and to pre-register for the training, contact Mary Pleasant, 802-442-0540 or mary.pleasant@vnahtsr.org.

• **JUSTICE FOR ALL** — Burlington Community Justice Center is seeking volunteers for its Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) program. A COSA team provides weekly support to individuals reentering the community that have been deemed to be high-risk or high need by the Department of Corrections. No specialized experience is needed, and all training is provided. A one hour a week/one year commitment is desired. Contact Rachel Lawler, rlawler@burlingtonvt.gov.

• **PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER** — Spectrum Youth & Family Services receives lots of clothing donations for the youth they serve. They are looking for volunteers to help organize donations so that the young people can find what they need. Contact dropin@spectrumvt.org.

• **YOUTH GROUP FACILITATOR NEEDED** — Steps to End Domestic Violence provides numerous groups in their Youth Program to children who have been exposed to domestic violence and are navigating a time of traumatic transition in their lives. The Facilitator will work with staff to set up and co-facilitate children's playgroups, interact compassionately and professionally with children of various ages from different backgrounds, and abide by confidentiality and mandated reporter requirements. Volunteers will receive Community Advocate Training and Reporter Training and will receive a Vermont Victim and Crisis Worker Privilege. They are asked to commit to assisting with at least one group a month, usually between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged to be creative and to add new group activities to the current offerings. Contact Izzy, izzyl@stepsvt.org.

• **A YEAR OF SERVICE in NORTHWEST VERMONT** — Join United Way of Northwest Vermont as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. We have four full-time positions starting August 2024 including working as a coordinator for one of our programs: the Prevention Network, Common Good Vermont, or Volunteer Engagement. VISTA positions provide the unique opportunity to build professional skills while helping to expand programs designed to empower individuals and communities. Contact Dillon Boisvert, dillon@unitedwaynwvt.org, or go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.org/get-involved/join-our-team/>.

Steps to End Domestic Violence to offer community training

Want to learn more about domestic violence, how it impacts our community, and how you can be an advocate for change? Join Steps to End Domestic Violence at our spring Community Advocate Training starting Wednesday, April 24.

This comprehensive training will give you the necessary tools to support folks experiencing domestic violence in your life and community. We will explore the ways in which we are all capable of perpetrating power-based violence, and we will provide you with the language to educate your loved ones about the intersections of domestic violence, racism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, xenophobia, and poverty.

This 20-hour training consists of at-home, self-paced pre-work followed by in-person meetings for community processing and conversation. At the end of this training, you will gain Vermont's statewide Crisis Worker Privilege.

For training dates and registration information, go online to <https://www.stepsvt.org/community-advocate-training>.

Vermont's trout season open

Vermont's trout fishing season opened on Saturday, April 13.

Despite lingering snow cover in some areas of the state, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says anglers can still have fun and be successful early in the season if they keep a few strategies in mind.

"Just like any other time of year, anglers fishing early in the spring should adjust their tactics based on conditions," said State Fisheries Biologist Shawn Good. "Trout will become more active with warmer water temperatures. If you can find a good location and present your bait or lure without spooking the trout, you'll have a good chance of catching a few fish, and enjoy a nice day outside."

Good adds that finding a small to medium low-elevation river or stream that is not too murky from spring runoff can be key. Trout are coldblooded and may be slow to bite especially with low water temperatures, so it is important that they can also see your bait, lure, or fly.

Larger baits can often be more effective for enticing early-season trout into biting. Spin-anglers should try nightcrawlers, egg imitations, or bright colored spoons and spinners. Fly anglers may find success in the early season by drifting large, more visible flies such as wooly buggers, streamers, or San Juan

worms along the bottom in slower pools and runs.

Trout will often hold close to the bottom in the deeper areas of streams during high flow conditions to conserve energy. Choose locations and tactics that allow you to fish using a slow retrieval right along the bottom. Focus on deep holes behind current breaks created by big boulders, downed trees, or logjams where trout may be resting. If possible, approach the hole from downstream as trout will often orient themselves facing the current.

While Vermont offers excellent and diverse fishing opportunities for wild trout, stocking also occurs in many lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers where wild trout populations are low or absent. This generally happens each year once the ice has melted and following spring runoff.

"Early in the season, like on opening weekend, you'll probably have more success if you focus on waters known to hold wild trout," said Good. "Despite unpredictable weather during early spring, each year anglers report catching impressive trout during opening weekend."

Good also reminds anglers to check the department's website <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/fish> frequently as updates are made to the Trout Stocking page. "This is a great tool for anglers to see what nearby waters have been stocked, as the page gets updated several times per week," said Good. Visit this link <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/FishStockingSchedule.aspx> and click the "See What's Been Stocked" button to stay informed as the spring progresses.

Anglers who like to fish and release their catch don't need to wait for opening day. Nearly all waterbodies are now open year-round to catch-and-release fishing for trout in Vermont. Check the 2024 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations which is available free from license agents, and it is on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website at this link: <https://www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/>.

A helpful overview of the fishing regulations can be found at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/updated-fishing-regulations-overview>.

The department reminds anglers that in almost all cases regulations have been simplified. For any river, stream, lake, or pond not listed in the Index of Rivers and Streams, <https://www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/index-of-rivers-streams>, or Index of Lakes and Ponds, <https://www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/index-of-lakes-ponds>, go to General Fishing Regulations, page 52., <https://www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/table-1-general-fishing-regulations>.

Two VTrans projects — Richmond and Bolton

Richmond-Bolton U.S. Rt. 2 Rehabilitation

April 4

Traffic impact: Traffic Control with one lane of alternating travel. Motorists can expect extended traffic interruptions between 7:00 – 11:00 PM, Tuesday-Thursday. Please follow the posted speed limits.

Project update: Work resumed with the contractor remobilizing to the project.

The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning April 8:

Monday: no work due to the anticipated influx of motorists in Vermont for the Solar Eclipse.

Tuesday-Thursday, 7:00 PM – 7:00 AM (nighttime work): begin installation of a new traffic infrastructure at the intersection of U.S. Rt. 2 and Jericho/Bridge Street intersection.

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference US-2 Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: July 2024

April 11

Traffic impact: Traffic Control with one lane of alternating travel. Motorists can expect extended traffic interruptions between 7:00 – 11:00 PM, Sunday-Thursday. Please follow the posted speed limits.

Project update: A temporary pedestrian crossing was installed; installation of a new mass pole foundation.

The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Friday, April 12:

Friday, Sunday-Thursday, 7:00 PM – 7:00 AM (nighttime work): continue installation of a new traffic signal infrastructure at the intersection of U.S. Rt. 2 and Jericho/Bridge Street.

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference US-2 Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: July 2024

Richmond U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 Replacement

April 4

Traffic impact:

• U.S. Rt. 2: Traffic control will be present allowing for one lane of alternating travel.

• I-89: motorists may encounter a lane closure for both northbound and southbound travel from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Wednesday-Friday.

Project update: Contractor has remobilized to the project. Installed construction approach signage; began installing and upgrading erosion control measures.

The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning April 8:

Monday: no work due to the anticipated influx of motorists in Vermont for the Solar Eclipse.

Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM: continue construction of bridge abutment 2 and its support wall on the east side of the project site.

Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits.

Project type: complete bridge replacement.

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: September 2025

April 11

Traffic impact, Monday-Friday:

• U.S. Rt. 2: Traffic control will be present allowing for 1-lane of alternating travel.

• I-89 motorists will encounter a lane closure for both northbound and southbound passing lanes from 6:00 AM – 3:00

PM.

Project update: Work resumed on Abutment 2.

The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning April 15, 2024:

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM:

• installation of a temporary crossover on I-89 within the vicinity of the bridge project area;

• continue construction of bridge Abutment 2 and its support wall on the east side of the project site.

Project type: Complete bridge replacement

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: September 2025

EV rebates, chargers from GMP

From Green Mountain Power

Green Mountain Power (GMP) rebates can help you save when you drive electric. Depending on your income, you can get a rebate up to \$3200 from GMP when you buy or lease an all-electric vehicle. This can be combined for bigger savings with up to \$4000 in rebates from the state of Vermont, and up to \$7500 in federal tax credits available for some vehicles. Learn more about GMP's EV rebates at <https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/ev-rebate/>.

Once you become an EV driver, GMP will give you a Level 2 charger to install and use while you're enrolled in GMP's home charging program. This gives you access to discount home charging rates, which are like paying about \$1.20/gallon for gas! Save on "fueling up" and leave home fully charged and ready for the day!

Do you have questions? Email EnergyInnovationTeam@greenmountainpower.com or call 888-835-4672. And, as always, all of GMP rebates and programs are designed so that they help cut costs for all GMP customers.

Businesses, nonprofits have unclaimed property

From the Office of the State Treasurer

Unclaimed Property Division

Vermont businesses and nonprofit organizations have money waiting to be claimed. That's right, even businesses and nonprofits can have unclaimed property — unclaimed property includes uncashed checks, forgotten security deposits, investments, and more.

The VT State Treasurer encourages you to visit <http://missingmoney.com> today to check if you, your local business, or favorite nonprofit have unclaimed property. You can then contact our office to submit a claim and we'll work with you to get your money back.

Returning these funds will support organizations who are the fabric of our communities and often support Vermont's most vulnerable. These dollars will make a difference in Vermonters' lives.

You can search online at <http://missingmoney.com> or call the Unclaimed Property Division at 802-828-2407 or toll-free in Vermont at 1-800-642-3191.

Legislative continued from page 4

H.721 — is an act to expand access to Dr. Dynasaur and provide assistance to older Vermonters eligible for Medicare;

H.829 — is a bill related to setting out an action plan for long term housing solutions;

H.873 — is a bill the pauses requirements to test for the presence of PCBs in schools;

H.880 — is a bill that increases access to the judicial system by the reducing backlog of cases;

H.871 — is an act that establishes a Facilities Master Plan Grant Program to aid in the development of State aid to school construction;

H.874 — is a bill that makes miscellaneous changes to education laws;

H.875 — is a bill that enacts requirements for a State Code of Ethics;

S.278 — is an act relating to a defense to a sexual act or sexual conduct;

H.876 — provides miscellaneous amendments to corrections laws;

H.879 — is a bill that establishes the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program (this bill was created in my committee);

H.882 — this bill makes changes to capital construction and State bonding;

H.883 — this is an act making appropriations for State government (this is the House version of the State's budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024).

Thanks for taking the time to read my updates, and as always, I can be reached at twood@leg.state.vt.us

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at 802-453-6354

or email to

mtngazette@gmavt.net

SENIOR NEWS



James Daniel MacDonald, of Williston, VT and formerly of Underhill, VT, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 25, 2024 at age 86. Dan was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada on January 19, 1938, the third child of Hugh and Anne MacDonald. He moved to Bedford, MA at age 15 to help his aunt and uncle manage their farm. In Bedford he met the love of his life and future wife, Elizabeth Siekman. Dan graduated from Concord (MA) High School in 1956 and married Elizabeth in 1962. Dan worked as a foundry manager,

was a member of the National Guard Reserves, and spent most of his career with IBM, but at heart he was a farmer and horseman. Dan and Elizabeth settled in Underhill in 1973 and soon collected several cows, pigs, various poultry, and a goat. Dan purchased his first Standardbred racehorse in 1974 and was active in the Vermont harness racing circuit for many years. Following his racing years, he derived great pleasure from working with his Belgian draft horse, Nick. Dan was a lifelong Catholic and longtime parishioner at St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, VT, where he was a member of the Cemetery Commission. Dan is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth, of Williston; his son, Paul, and wife, Nancy Skarmeas, of Hopkinton, NH; and his daughter, Rita Rivers, and husband, Tom, of Essex Junction, VT. Dan was a devoted grandfather to Zachary Rivers (Clara), Emily Berger (Sage), Theia MacDonald, and Fiona MacDonald. His great-grandchildren Coralie and Henry Rivers brightened his later years. In addition to his parents, Dan was predeceased by his brother, Paul, and his sister, Mary Jane Biekens. A Mass of Christian burial was held on Monday April 1, 2024 at St. Thomas Church. Donations in Dan's memory may be made to the St. Thomas Cemetery Commission to help support long term maintenance of the cemetery. Dan's family would like to thank the staff at Bayada Home Health, UVM Home Health and Hospice, and Birchwood Terrace for their care and support.



William "Bill" Little, Jr., 85, of Huntington, VT passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 with his wife and sons by his side, after a short illness. He was born in Burlington, VT on June 8, 1938 to the late William Little, Sr. and Marion (Hallock) Little. Bill and his wife Delberta moved to Huntington in 1972 to raise their family. Bill worked for over 40 years as a plumber for New England Air Systems and Northeastern HVAC. He also served with the VT Army National Guard.

Bill was a jack of all trades and loved working on anything that someone asked him to help out with, from sugaring in the spring, to working on all types of vehicles, and anything in between. He enjoyed going to the tractor pulls with his son Bruce and watching NASCAR races on Sundays with his sons. He leaves behind his wife of 66 years, Delberta (Wheelock) Little; his sons Bruce and Heidi Little, Randy Little and Juanita Ratta, William "Billy" and Iris Little; his brothers Fred and Nancy Little, and Robert and Elaine (Cota) Little; brother-in-law Lee and Betty Wheelock; sisters-in-law Dorothy Little, Sadie Wheelock, and Dorothy Wheelock. Bill is also survived by his grandchildren Justin, Kyle, and Leslie Sprigg, Randy and Renee Little, and Lindsey and Michael Little; several great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son Scott, his sister Barbara Kenfield, his brother Roger Little, and his mother- and father-in-law Donald and Marion Wheelock. Bill's family extends a special thanks to family friend Donna Lewis for the friendship and care she provided Bill over the years. Per Bill's request there will be no funeral. There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Huntington Community Church, 4910 Main Rd., Huntington Center, VT.

Loyal Haldon Downing (Hal) of Richmond, VT passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT. Hal was born in Creston, IA to Loyal R. Downing and Helen A. Downing (Karns) on August 12, 1950. He graduated from Valley West High School in West Des Moines, IA in 1969 and attended Western Technical College until he enlisted in the Army. He was stationed at Fort Sill, OK, specializing in Pershing missiles. He married his wife Rebecca (Becky) on May 15, 1971, and after he was discharged from the Army, they moved to Des Moines, IA. They were blessed with three



children and in 1985, moved to Vermont. He was a heavy equipment operator and worked for Sundown Corporation in Stowe, VT where he designed and made beautiful natural-looking ponds and landscapes. He took pride in all this work and instilled that in his children. Later he worked for S.D. Ireland until he retired in 2007. He loved to scuba dive, and he became a certified Master Diver. He also loved riding motorcycles, woodworking, sailing, skiing, hunting, and fishing. He took joy in sharing these activities with his

family; in the summer they sailed Lake Champlain, in the winter they skied at Smugglers' Notch. He was a member of the Ski Patrol at Smugglers' Notch and was the director of the Mountain Guilds for Vermont Special Olympics Winter Games. His trip to Alaska for the World Special Olympics was something he was very proud of. He was preceded in death by his parents Loyal and Helen Downing. Hal is survived by his children Christian Loyal Downing and Hillary of Waitsfield, VT, Amanda June Downing of Richmond, VT, and Mark Lloyd Downing and Dijana of Colchester, VT. He leaves his sister Sharon and her husband Lenard Gosslink of Otley, IA, sister Barbara and her husband Larry Strong of Ankeny, IA, and brother Jim and his wife Etta of West Des Moines, IA. He also leaves his grandchildren Jocelyn, Brooke, Parker, and Zuri, and great-grandchildren Sheldon, Perth, and June. The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff of Baird 4, UVM Medical Center, McClure Miller Respite House, and Joy Drive Dialysis. Visiting hours were Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Gifford Funeral Home in Richmond, VT, with a memorial service following. The burial with Military Honors will be at a later date in Sanderson Corner Cemetery in Fairfax, VT.



Robert G. Westphal died peacefully on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at McClure-Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT from complications of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, after managing multiple health challenges for the last five years. He was a physician, scholar, teacher, musician, outdoorsman, writer, father, brother, grandfather, husband, and dear friend, and will be sorely missed. Bob was born on January 21, 1940 in Troy, OH to George and Virginia Westphal. At a young age he was tragically separated from Virginia for

50 years. He was then raised by his father and loving stepmother, Ruth. After spending his earliest years in Pennsylvania and Ohio, he attended and graduated from high school in Hagerstown, MD. During his time in Hagerstown he developed life-long friends and a love of choral, band, and classical music. He played the trumpet and carried it with him for decades before donating it for others to enjoy. Before attending college Bob joined the United States Navy and was trained and served as a Hospital Corpsman until 1961. Bob graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he majored in English, and then attended Western Reserve Medical School, receiving his M.D. in 1969. He completed a two-year internship and residency at what was then the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont in Burlington, VT, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in Hematology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1971. He later obtained his M.P.H. from the University of New York, Albany and completed his residency in Preventive Medicine at the University and NYS Department of Health. Bob poured his soul into his work and traveled far and wide to do it. He was an accomplished faculty member, professor, and researcher at UVM, with his work published in numerous peer-reviewed journals. The patients Bob cared for during this time — with hematologic diseases — would be remembered for their stories and their wins and losses for the rest of his life. Ever dedicated to improving the collection, quality, and appropriate use and supply of blood, Bob developed and directed the VT-NH Blood Services Center located in Burlington. In the early 1980s he volunteered for three months at L'Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Desjardines, Haiti, an experience that affected him deeply. In 1992 he accepted a position as Medical Advisor for the Blood Programme at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, Switzerland. For this he traveled the world to assist nations in improving their own blood

services operations. Returning to the United States in 1995, Bob worked for the American Red Cross Blood Services, New England Region, and then spent the rest of his career in public health in NYS. He was one of the lead physician administrators in Bioterrorism Preparedness at the NYS Department of Health on 9/11 and went on to become the first Director of the Center of Health Preparedness at the School of Public Health at the University of New York in Albany. After retirement Bob worked as a volunteer physician, providing primary care at the Capital City Rescue Mission in Albany, NY. Bob sought to balance the challenges of life as a physician with the help of his many beloved friends. Card games, fly fishing, hunting, playing his guitar, singing in a choir, golfing, and writing professionally and creatively each played a part. His time in a Grand Laker at Pierce Pond in Maine renewed his strengths and provided solace more than any other person or thing. For the last 27 years of his life his wife, Leslie, also softened life's blows and they spent their time together with good books, great food, time with family and friends, and the simplest things — listening for veeries, watching hummingbirds come to bee balm, taking long, quiet walks, and laughing at their many beloved but crazy dogs. Bob is survived by his wife, Leslie, of Jericho, VT; his daughters Kathryn Irish (Bruce) of Arnold, CA, Kristin Westphal of Arlington, VA, and stepdaughter Elisabeth Johnson (Daniel) of Jericho, VT; brothers George (Dex) of Palm Coast, FL and Christian of High Rolls, NM; and grandchildren Brendan Irish, and Frances and James Johnson. He is also survived by his first wife, and the mother of his daughters, Marjorie Westphal of South Burlington, VT. Bob generously donated his body to the Anatomical Gift Program at UVM. His family would like to thank the staff of the UVM Hospice, the entire staff of Maple Ridge Lodge in Essex, VT, the McLure-Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT, and his incredible friends for their help this last year. A celebration of Bob's life will be announced at a future date, likely sometime this summer. Arrangements are in care of Gifford Funeral Home. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.vtfuneralhomes.com. To remember Robert please listen for the redwings in spring, find a quiet place to watch a few mayflies rise up out of the water, or listen to the *Flower Duet*. Among his last words were, "find the things of beauty."



Gregory Douglas Edwards (75) of Jeffersonville, VT passed away quickly and unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 as he had always hoped for. Greg was born July 17, 1948, the first son of Douglas and Margaret (Lanphear) Edwards. Greg's father passed away unexpectedly in a tractor accident when Greg was nine years old. Greg was lucky enough to have three men step in as father figures, including his stepfather Guy Sweet as well as Irving Pollander and Earl Playful, both dear family friends.

After graduating from high school Greg went to work for IBM. He took a leave of absence to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. About this time on September 6, 1969, Greg married Phyllis Taylor. They moved to Germany where Greg served in the United States Army Motorpool. In 1971 after Greg had finished his commitment to the Army, they moved back to the Jeffersonville and Cambridge, VT area where they raised their family and continued his career at IBM. Greg retired from IBM after 25 years, then launched into a second career in the logging industry for over 30 years. His work in the logging industry evolved from being a logger to buying veneer logs for Charlie Lee, Commonwealth Plywood, and Michigan Veneer. Greg enjoyed a fun party or good time out to eat with family and friends, many hunting and fishing trips with a lot of close friends, as well as keeping track of Doug's logging and sugaring operations. Greg is survived by his daughter Stacey and David, his son Douglas and Norma-Jean (Tobi), his grandchildren Nicholas (fiancée Haylee), Caitlyn, Lillian, Taylor (fiancée Jordan) and Davey, and siblings-in-law Brenda, Frank, Bruce, Cheryl; and Diane; his many nieces and nephews, canine companion Annie, and many close friends. Greg was pre-deceased by his father, stepfather, mother, brother John, and wife. Family and friends were invited to attend a Celebration of Greg's Life on Saturday, April 6, 2024 Douglas' sugarhouse in Jeffersonville, to have a good time by having a beer and sharing a story.

SENIOR NEWS

Meals on Wheels Lamoille update

Lamoille County Meals on Wheels has a lot going on: Annual Pancake Breakfast Friday, April 26, 9:00 -10:00 AM. Pancakes, VT syrup, bacon, sausage, fruit, coffee, juice. RSVP to 802-888-5011 ext.1

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County seeks substitute volunteer drivers and volunteers to help package pet food each month. Did you know we also deliver pet food to over 40 pets monthly? Meal pick-up is at 10:30 AM at 21 Munson Ave., Morrisville, and coolers are returned at the end of the delivery route. Most routes take one to two hours to deliver. Meals on Wheels pays mileage, and you are welcome to enjoy a free lunch; deliver weekly, monthly, or seasonal, whichever works for you. The volunteer application is online at www.mowlc.org/volunteer, or you can stop by to fill one out. Call Nicole to find out more at 888-5011 ext.1

Age Well Grab'n'Go meals

Age Well provides services to individuals 60+ and their spouse or caregivers, and a disabled person(s) living with the senior, regardless of financial status. Suggested donation is \$5.

Bolton will now have Age Well Grab'n'Go meals delivered to the Bolton Fire Station on the second Wednesday of each month — May 8 — pick up times between 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. To order a meal, please contact Robin Pecor-Brunell, 802-434-3042 or rpecor@hotmail.com, by the Friday before the meal is to be delivered.

Underhill will have an Age Well Grab'n'Go meal on Wednesday, April 24, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center. Menu: meatloaf with brown sauce, garlic home fries, green beans, wheat roll with butter, pumpkin custard with cream, and milk. Please register by Friday, April 18 by contacting Teri, 802-899-4632 or office@stthomasvt.com.

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SPORTS NEWS

MMU Softball fundraiser

MMU Softball is once again doing their Calendar Raffle Fundraiser. We are still collecting donations, but will have at least one prize for each day of May to give away. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

You can purchase tickets online at https://forms.gle/JDFAc6Jp7Ze2bcVN9. The prize calendar will be updated as prizes are collected.

We are collecting donations if you would like to support MMU Softball through a prize donation. Thank you for supporting MMU Softball.

The best spring running races

By Liz Hollenbach, Jericho

The spring running season is here. These are a few of my favorite local running races that are coming up in the next couple months.

• Maple St. Park Six Week Race Series — Essex Junction Parks and Rec, Wednesdays at 6:00 PM, May 1-June 5. Every week is a different course on quiet neighborhood streets; 2.5-5 miles. Register online (https://www.ejrp.org/programs/adult-recreation-and-fitness) or on the day of race starting at 5:30 PM.

• Sleepy Hollow Mountain Race at Cochran's, Sunday, May 5. A 10km trail/mountain race, and free kids races. Part of the USA-TF Mountain Race Series. Information at https://sleepyhollowmtnrace.com/.

• GMAA Pump It Up 5 Miler! — Jericho, Saturday, May 11. Dirt road out and back. Information at https://gmaa.run/schedule/pump-it-up-5-miler/.

Boys Youth Lacrosse: registration open for grades 5-8

By Gregg Schmidt, Mount Mansfield Youth Lacrosse

Mount Mansfield Boys Youth Lacrosse: grades 5-8 registration is still open, with limited spots left. No experience is necessary at any level. All are welcome.

To register and get more information on the program(s), go online to https://bit.ly/3vHayNk (short for https://docs.google.com/document/d/1912N111HDv42XsG3ODefadjz2XqmNvE_YC4qHSuV28/edit?usp=sharing).

Note: our grades 3-4 program is full and we cannot accept more players. If your child is in Kindergarten through grade 2, Tiny Sticks is still open and will begin in May. You can register at the link above.

Vermont allocates moose hunting permits for 2024

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board voted on Wednesday, April 10 to have 80 either-sex moose hunting permits and 100 antlerless moose hunting permits available this year for a hunt limited to Vermont's Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) E in the northeastern corner of the state. The science-based hunt is expected to result in a harvest of about 94 moose, or about 10% of the current moose population in WMU E.

Permit applications are now available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website, https://vtfishandwildlife.com/.

The goal of the department's 2024 moose harvest recommendation is to improve the health of moose in WMU-E by reducing the number of moose, thereby reducing the abundance and impact of winter ticks.

"Moose are abundant in WMU E with significantly higher population density than in any other part of the state," said Nick Fortin, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's moose project leader. "Moose are the primary host for winter ticks, and higher moose densities support high numbers of winter ticks which negatively impact moose health and survival."

Lottery applications for moose permits are \$10 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, June 19. Lottery winners need to purchase resident moose permits for \$100 and nonresident moose permits for \$350. Lottery winners are also required to hold a current year Vermont hunting or combination hunting and fishing license.

Hunters who held a permit within the past five years are not eligible to apply for a permit or to buy a bonus point. Applicants must continue to annually submit a moose permit application if they wish to retain their past bonus permits and accumulate subsequent bonus points.

Five permits will be available to Vermont military veterans, three permits will be available for "Special Opportunity" recipients with life-threatening illnesses, and three permits will be auctioned in accordance with regulations.

The 2024 Moose Harvest Recommendation (https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Vermont%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife%20Board%20Meeting%20Documents/2024-proposals/2024-Moose-Harvest-Recommendation.pdf) and related information about moose research and management are available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website, https://vtfishandwildlife.com/.

Calling all Vermont youth grades 1-12! You're invited to Youth Chess Day on Saturday, April 20th at Vermont State University. JOIN SEN. SANDERS' SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH CHESS DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. 11:00am - 12:15 pm: Learn-To-Play Session (Grades 1-8) 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch (free for all participants) 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Recreational Tournament. JUDD HALL, VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY. To participate, register at: sanders.senate.gov/events. BERNIE SANDERS

COACH NEEDED CAMBRIDGE YOUTH BASEBALL. A head coach is needed for the Cambridge Youth Baseball Minors team (ages 8-10). There are 13 players and two parent helpers registered. Games start the week of Monday, April 29 and are scheduled for Saturday afternoons and/or Wednesday evenings. Practice days/time TBD. Interested? Email cambridgeyouthbaseball@gmail.com asap. A background check is required. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours. – Mark Twain

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ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Westford Music Series presents Howling Waters for its final session of the 2023-24 season on Sunday, May 5, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. If bluegrass is your thing, you will not want to miss this lively, entertaining, and fun band. The trio consists of Michael Kirick (a.k.a. Harpo) on harmonica, washboard, and vocals; Christopher Franchlyn on guitars, and keyboards; and Jim Street on bass. Well-known around the Burlington blues jam scene, they liberally play and interpret songs from the blues/folk/rock traditions of the 1920s-1970s. Their broad variety of styles and outstanding musicianship combined with dynamic performances will reward their audiences as they have come to expect. Promises to be a wonderful time for a spring day for music lovers of all ages! Free will donation. Pie raffle for additional fun. For more information call 802-363-0930.

At the Emile A Gruppe Gallery through Sunday, April 28, Emile A Gruppe Gallery has an exhibition titled Photography from a Meteorologist's Point of View by Conor Lahiff. For information about the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Rd., Jericho Center, contact 802-899-3211 or https://www.emilegruppegallery.com/.

Live Choral Music: Verdi's Requiem: On Saturday, April 20, 7:30 – 9:30 PM, the Burlington Choral Society (BCS) will perform Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem at the Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College, Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester, honoring the 150th anniversary year of its first performance at Milan's Church of San Marco on May 22, 1874. "The Verdi Requiem is one of the titans," says BCS Artistic Director Richard Riley. "Dramatic from the downbeat!" Verdi's original setting was for four soloists, double choir and large orchestra. In this performance, the Burlington Choral Society will be performing

a 2012 arrangement by the German choir director and music pedagogue Michael Betzner-Brandt, who arranged the work as a "chamber oratorio" for piano, horn, double bass, marimba, and percussion. The four vocal soloists will be soprano Helen Lyons, mezzo soprano Amber Smoke, tenor Joshua Collier, and bass Jeremiah Johnson. Richard Riley will conduct. The Verdi Requiem has become one of the most frequently performed major choral works in the United States and Europe. The Metropolitan Opera has performed it more than 50 times since 1901; during World War II it was performed 16 times by Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp. It was last performed in Burlington by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in 2010. In presenting this Requiem performance, the Burlington Choral Society honors the memories of past members and leaders Ann Curran, William Harwood and Maria Novas-Schmidt. Join online: http://www.bcsvermont.org.

Weekly Burlington Literature Group meets on Tuesdays, via Zoom: Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads this weekly virtual book group and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group met for years meeting in person, but since the has met via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages to 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. Upcoming authors include László Krasznahorkai, Patrick Modiano, Iris Murdoch, David Foster Wallace, Colum McCann, Saul Bellow, and Thomas Pynchon.

Artistry in Underhill Town Hall — The collection of varied and unique art viewable throughout Underhill Town Hall will finish on the last day of April. Thanks to those who have freely offered their work; many have expressed enthusiasm for the show. The Underhill Arts Council will take a break until January 2025. Thank you all for making this show of local talent possible.

The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville in their 40th season presents two unique exhibitions. First, the Legacy 2024 Collection (through December 22) features the works of 17 contemporary artists and includes selected works by Mary Bryan and Alden Bryan. The Legacy Collection continues to honor the tradition of artists who visit Vermont and New England specifically to paint. The Legacy Collection will be on display in the Main Gallery until Wednesday, May 15, after which the exhibit will be displayed in the East Gallery until December 22, 2024. An exhibition catalogue will be available. Second (and for the second year), the Gallery will exhibit the Small Members' Group Show [through May 12]. Entirely artist-curated, this exhibition features works in a variety of styles and mediums, selected from the collections of the participating artists. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org or www.bryangallery.org.

At Bryan Fine Art Gallery in Stowe through Sunday, July 14: Evoking Vermont's Landscape. Six talented Vermont artists showcase their original interpretations of the state's diverse scenery, celebrating Vermont's natural surroundings in works that capture the spirit of Vermont, each artist bringing their own flair and interpretation. Participating artists: Ken Rush, Danby; David Pound, Stowe; Steve Clark, Vergennes; Kate Follett, Jacksonville; James Rauchman, Morrisville; Mathew Pardue, N. Ferrisburgh. Free admission. For more information about this and other upcoming exhibitions and events: www.bryangallery.org. Bryan Fine Art Gallery, 64 S. Main St., Stowe. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday, Saturday 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more information contact 802-760-6474 or info@bryangallery.org.

Monthly Essex Art League meeting on the first Thursdays — Artists and art lovers are welcome to join Essex Art League (EAL) and participate in our year-round, weekly en Plein Air gatherings. We meet each Thursday to paint in a different and beautiful location in the area. Joining EAL also avails you of opportunities for field trips to shows and galleries as well as participating in workshops. The Essex Art League has been open to artists and art lovers from throughout Vermont for 50+ years. We meet the first Thursday of each month from

September-June. The topics for our upcoming meetings are as follows — May 2: metal artist Rebecca Nase Chomyn of Fairfield discusses her process; June 6: summer potluck kicks off EAL summer recess. Those looking for more information may go to our website http://essexartleague.com/.

SongFarmers, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (April 17, May 15), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments; no electronics except keyboard and bass. Everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just enjoy the gathering, are welcome. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJVT@gmail.com.

Weekly Community Choir — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join Mountainsong! We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on the second and fourth Thursdays (during the winter) of the month (April 25), 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Just bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way works here, where our aim is to sing for the joy it (no performances except a short one for family and friends at the end of the season). Come as often as you are able. Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Doug Varney, 802-343-4513 or vthockeyman@gmail.com, or just show up!

Burlington City Arts (BCA) will present Margaret Jacobs discussing her solo exhibition, Kinship, on Thursday, April 18, 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the BCA Center, second floor, Lorraine B. Good Room. Whether you are fascinated by the artist's exploration of cultural influences and histories, or by her metal smithing and fabrication techniques, Jacobs offers insights into her newest body of work. Register for the free virtual option online at https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/event/artist-talk-margaret-jacobs.

BCA's Family Art Saturday goes outside for Earth Day on Saturday, April 20 at the BCA Center, Outside on Church Street, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Celebrate Earth Day by making art together at a drop-in art-making activity inspired the metalwork and jewelry in our exhibition, Margaret Jacobs: Kinship. Participants will create decorative pins and wearable art that celebrate local plants from this region or the flora that inspires you. Free and open to the public.

BCA has opened applications for the 2024 BCA Community Fund, and will accept applications through Tuesday, May 28. The fund awards \$5000 grants to individual artists, artist groups, and arts organizations to support Burlington-based projects that promote a vibrant creative community and contribute to the greater public good. The fund was expanded this year thanks to a \$40,000 gift from Tito's Handmade Vodka along with other supporters and support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and BCA will be able to double the granting ability of the Community Fund in 2024. To apply for the 2024 Community Fund Grant, please visit: https://burlingtoncityarts.awardsplatform.com.

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