

## CES students at Jr Iron Chef

*Team Wicked WildCats won for the middle school category Lively Local*

This year, Cambridge Elementary School (CES) participated for its second year in a row in the VT Jr Iron Chef competition. The CES students who participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Jr Iron Chef VT competition were on two teams.

Team Wicked Wildcats created a recipe called *Falafel Waffle*, a vegetarian spin on chicken and waffles and aquafaba whip on top. On this team were Sophie Pinault, Oliver Herman, Kannon Gerisimof, Shyanne Wright, and Aubrey Wells. Team Wicked WildCats won for the middle school category *Lively Local* for displaying their Vermont local products in their dish. Local ingredients in both dishes were from McKnight's Family Maple, Knee Deep Farm, King Arthur, Cabot, and West Farm.

Team WildCooks created a recipe called *Indian Taco Surprise*, with sweet potato tortillas and mango salsa. On this team were Micah Edwards, Nikko Rodriguez, Madison Lesure, Liam Osborne, and Lily Seigrest.

Jr Iron Chef VT is a statewide culinary competition challenging teams of middle and high school students to engage in improving their own health and the health of their community by creating nutritious, local dishes to inspire school meal programs. The annual event invites teams of 3-5 students, coached by local educators, chefs, school nutrition staff, and parents, to gather in the spirit of friendly competition and cook up an original recipe in under 90 minutes. Every dish is judged by a panel of food system professionals and advocates, and awards are given out in three categories: taste, teamwork, and use of local ingredients. Teams practice for months to hone their recipes, and their dedication and skill is evident during the spring competition. (from <https://vtfeed.org/jr-iron-chef-vt>)

Teams had 90 minutes to complete their dishes to be judged by multiple judges. The following are the awards and judging criteria:

### Awards

**Crowd-Pleaser** — This award goes to the team that best incorporates color, texture, and taste for a true crowd-pleaser.

**Lively Local** — This award goes to the team that best highlights Vermont foods.

**Mise en Place** — (“Everything in its place”) This award goes to the team that shows exemplary teamwork, order, and professionalism.

### Judging criteria

**Execution** — Clean and presentable uniforms including hard-soled shoes, hats, aprons, and safe food handling practices.



**CES Jr Iron Chef team Wicked Wildcats (Sophie Pinault, Oliver Herman, Kannon Gerisimof, Shyanne Wright, and Aubrey Wells) and team Wild Cooks (Micah Edwards, Nikki Rodriguez, Madison Lesure, Liam Osborne, and Lily Seigrest) at the Jr Iron Chef competition with their coach Kelly Shortsleeve (top row, left).** PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Teamwork** — Evenly distributed workload, team cohesiveness & communication.

**Taste** — Subjective category based on judge's expertise.

**Creativity** — Ingenuity of the ingredients used, creative use of ingredients.

**Local** — Recipe highlights local, seasonal products (only for the Lively Local Award).

**Compliance** — Meets all Jr. Iron Chef VT Guidelines and Rules.” (<https://vtfeed.org/jr-iron-chef-vt>)

Cambridge Elementary had 20 students in their own Iron Chef program this year, which focused on skills, safety, teamwork, and leadership. Students practiced from September-March, once a week. Students then chose whether they wanted to compete or not, but all students still participated in the after-school program led by Kelly Shortsleeve and assisted by Santha Dahlin, Courtney Leitz and Lisa Glover.

## Bolton Pet Mayor results are in

By Leslie Pelch, Bolton

221 Bolton residents (of all ages) voted for Pet Mayor! Bolton's New Pet Mayor is Carl the Goat, who got 54 votes. It was a very competitive but civil race, and every candidate got votes. Smilie School was awash in posters supporting different candidates and supporters posted messages on social media and Front Porch Forum. The field of eight candidates included cats, dogs, and one goat.



In case anyone was wondering WHY there was a vote for Pet Mayor: a young member of our community (Juniper, age 10) wrote a letter and sent it to the Selectboard suggesting, “We think Bolton should have an honorary Pet Mayor. Here are some pros:

- pets are fun;
- they are light-hearted;
- they make you happy;
- pets are \*adorable!\*
- gets kids interested in politics;
- can help with fundraising;
- unite the community;
- budget and politically neutral;
- stands out = more tourists = more money {for the town}”

She went on to explain how it could work and what the Pet Mayor might do.

The Selectboard passed this letter along to me when I proposed the Citizens Fair, and my young neighbor and I worked together (along with Savanna Philips, a Smilie School staffer and key member of the Pet Mayor voting team!) to flesh out the idea.

More to come on what the Pet Mayor will be up to and how you can meet him!

## TOWN MEETING RESULTS

### Primaries, Town Meeting results in Underhill

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

(with additional information from the webpage she cited)

Here is a quick overview of our Annual Town Meeting results. Please visit <https://www.underhillvt.gov/town-meeting-information/page/town-meeting-day-results> for further results of the articles and Presidential Primary.

Town Officers and School Directors: Daniel Steinbauer 642; David Demarest 204; Margaret “Pegs” Gibson 780; Kim Spaulding 769. MMMU Director — vacant. No one person received enough write-in votes to win.

More specifically, results for **warned articles for Town Meeting:**

Article 1 To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year: *Dan Manz*.  
Article 3 Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,655,573 of which \$1,396,103 shall be raised by taxes, \$259,470 by non-tax revenues, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664? *Amended budget to \$1,657,573, which increases taxes to be raised by \$2000.*

Article 4 Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$1,687,971 of which \$1,572,971 shall be raised by taxes, \$115,000 by non-tax revenue pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664? *Passed as presented.*

### Australian ballot questions

Article 6 To elect all Town Officers and School Directors: Daniel Steinbauer 642; David Demarest 204; Margaret “Pegs” Gibson 780; Kim Spaulding 769. MMMU Director — vacant. No one person received enough write-in votes to win.

Article 7 Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a dump truck and borrow an amount not to exceed \$290,000 for a term not to exceed five years, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1786 a(b)? *YES 662 NO 231*

Article 8 Shall the voters allocate \$100,000 that the town receives, for State Aid to Highways, into the Highway Capital Reserve for the next 5 years? *YES 782 NO 111*

Article 9 Shall the voters exempt the property of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department from taxation for municipal and school purposes for a period of 5 years, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §3840? *YES 719 NO 172*

Article 10 Shall the voters allocate an additional \$485 to support Steps to End Domestic Violence? *YES 712 NO 183*

Article 11 Shall the voters allocate an additional \$1000 to support The Jericho Farmers' Market? *YES 661 NO 240*

Article 12 Shall the voters allocate an additional \$600 to Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV)? *YES 593 NO 286*

Article 13 Shall the voters approve expanding the Selectboard

from three members to five members? *YES 686 NO 208*

### Presidential primary results

President of the U.S., Democratic Primary: Joe Biden 351; Mark Greenstein 2; Jason Palmer 1; Dean Phillips 11; Cenk Uygur 2; Marianne Williamson 13.

President of the U.S., Republican Primary: Ryan Binkley 4; Chris Christie 3; Ron DeSantis 8; Nikki Haley 307; Vivek Ramaswamy 0; Donald Trump 146.

### Jericho Town Meeting results and information

Information from <https://jerichovt.org/jericho-town-meeting>

Of 4401 registered voters on Jericho's checklist, 1430 cast votes on Town Meeting Day, including 342 returned absentee ballots.

David Barrington (Moderator), Jessica Alexander (Town Clerk), Selectboard members Peter Booth, Joseph Flynn, and Erik Johnson all won reelection, with “blank votes” being a distant second, a pattern that repeated for many of the positions being voted.

Voters approved Article XIII, which authorized issuance of a bond for \$4,150,000 to construct “certain improvements to the Town Maintenance Facility.” The vote was 831-469, with 130 ballots left blank on this article.

Voters present for Town Meeting at Mount Mansfield Union High School took action on several warned articles:

• Article I, the town budget totaling \$3,456,999, after approving a motion from the floor to add \$500 to revise the Town's road specs (to be used on “road striping, bike/ped indication to existing road specs”). Passed by counted vote, 86-85.

• Article II, to appropriate \$579,107 to fund the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (its total budget is \$965,748); passed by unanimous voice vote.

• Articles III, IV, and V — authorization for the Town to conduct normal business — all passed by unanimous voice vote.

• Article VI, “Shall the Town adopt all budget articles by Australian Ballot?” was amended to add “with the Selectboard directed to hold a hybrid format budget review meeting to allow citizens to adjust the budget proposal.” There was a call for a paper ballot, which was granted. After voting was complete, the motion had passed 102-62.

• Article VII, “Shall the Town adopt all public questions by Australian Ballot?” was amended to add “with the Selectboard directed to hold a hybrid format review meeting in order to allow citizens to provide amendments.” Motion passed by voice vote.

• Article VIII exempted the Underhill Jericho Fire Department station in Jericho Center from property taxation. Passed by voice vote.

• Articles IX (update on Old Red Mill property taxation), X (Food Hub Task Force update), and XI (other Town business) were discussion only, with no vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

### Bolton Town Meeting and presidential primary results

From <https://boltonvt.com/2024-elections/>

Full Bolton Town Meeting minutes can be viewed at <http://boltonvt.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Town-Meeting-Minutes-March-4-2024.pdf>.

The Town budget passed on a floor vote at Town Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024.

In Australian Ballot voting for the Presidential primaries: Republican voters placed Haley first (79 votes), Trump second (62), and all other candidates in the single digits (or zero); Democratic voters placed Biden first (129 votes), Williamson second (9), and all other candidates in the single digits (or zero).

In Australian Ballot voting for Bolton, here are the positions, candidates, and number of votes:

- Town Moderator — Leslie Pelch, 282;
- Select Board 2-year term — Mica Cassara, 155; Leanne Marguerite Deschenes, 126;
- Select Board 3-year term — Paula Gervia, 270;
- Town Treasurer — Michael Webber, 279;
- Town Clerk — Michael Webber, 281;
- School Board Director — Stephen Diglio, 253;
- Cemetery Commissioner — 2 years on 3-year term, 45 write-ins; no winner because no individual received the minimum number of votes.
- Cemetery Commissioner 3 years, 39 write-ins; no winner because no individual received the minimum number of votes.
- Article 5: “Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4 cent) addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund?” Passed, 198-88.

### Results for Westford Town Meeting

Information from <https://westfordvt.us/voting/town-meeting/>  
Westford has 1798 registered voters on its checklist; 842 voted on Town Meeting Day, including 603 absentee ballots.

Westford passed two warned items: Article 4 — Budget, 657-170; and Article 5 — Fire Department Tanker Bond, 641-187.

Town meeting results continued on page 2



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Spring reminder — don't forget the leash

Submitted by

Jennifer Silpe-Katz

Underhill Animal Control

- Everyone does not love dogs, and some people are scared of them.
- Everyone deserves to bike, walk, run, drive by your house without fear of your dog running out (friendly or not).
- Clean up after your dog – 100% of the time.
- Regular exercise is critical. A tired dog is a good dog.
- State law says you must register your dog by April 1 every year.
- Towns have ordinances too. know them. Find your town's rules below:
  - > Underhill: <https://www.underhillvt.gov/ordinance/domestic-pet-ordinance>
  - > Jericho: <https://jerichovt.org/2474/widgets/17190/documents/2949>
  - > Bolton: <https://boltonvt.com/wp-content/uploads/docs/AnimalControlOrdinance.pdf>
  - > Cambridge/Jeffersonville: <https://bit.ly/48V5axX> (an easier, short link to <https://cambridgetownvt.documents-on-demand.com/?l=75fee5f65c93e911a2cd000c29a59557&d=ba4eb87e5d93e911a2cd000c29a59557>)
  - > Westford: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Dog-Ordinance.pdf>.

Warnings and fines may be issued. Keep pets safe. Be good neighbors. Thank you.



Selectboard to amend the budget before it is put to all voters via Australian Ballot.

At Thursday night's Selectboard meeting (March 7) we discussed this change and are excited to move forward with the suggested idea of a community event and budget meeting. Several residents have already expressed interest in developing this event. If you are interested in serving on an ad-hoc group tasked with developing a meeting proposal for the Selectboard to consider, please reach out to SB Chair Catherine McMains at [catherine.mcmains@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.mcmains@gmail.com). — Catherine McMains, Erik Johnson, Peter Booth

## Eagle Scout bottle drive March 30 at UJFD Underhill

I am Xavier Richardson, an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 627 Jericho/Underhill. I am working on my Eagle Service project to replace picnic tables, update signage, and do general trail work at Mills Riverside Park. To support this project, I am holding a Bottle Drop Fundraiser.

Please consider holding your bottles and cans and donating them to this cause on Saturday, March 30 at the Underhill Jericho Fire Department, VT Rt. 15, from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Mills Riverside Park Board of Trustees opening

By David Williamson, MRSP Board, Underhill

After many, many years of sage wisdom, parliamentary advice, and dedication to the Jericho Underhill Park District, we said farewell to Jim Massingham from the Mills Riverside Park (MRSP) Board of Trustees. As Jim has stepped away from the Park District, the Board of Trustees is now looking to fill his position representing the town of Underhill.

Present board members bring a variety of skills and knowledge to help manage the many facets of running and maintaining MRSP, a "shared gem" within the towns of Jericho and Underhill. The board meets twice a month on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library.

Whether you are a regular visitor to the park, or someone who might have an interest in the workings of the park (and you are a resident of Underhill), please feel free to contact me ([dbwilly555@aol.com](mailto:dbwilly555@aol.com)) with any questions you might have. Also, please feel free to attend our board meeting at the times listed above and meet board members.

Thank you for your interest in our park.

## 2024 Westford Farmers' Market survey asks what residents want

By Kristin LeClair and Kirsten Tyler  
Westford Farmers' Market

The Westford Farmers' Market is returning this summer — at a new time and place — and we need your input to help make it our best year yet!

We will operate July-September at the Westford Country Store, across from the Town Common where it has been held in

the past.

Whether you'll attend as a customer, vendor, or entertainment, we'd like to know what our community really wants for this event. Please fill out this quick survey to help us determine the best fit for everyone: <https://forms.gle/eYBQM7tRw6hQYcv38>.

A vendor application will be available soon; feel free to reach out with any questions in the meantime — [westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com](mailto:westfordfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com).

## Subscribe to Cambridge Recreation email list

By Leslie Realander, Cambridge Recreation Board

We know that social media isn't for everyone, but our recreation programming is. To reach as many folks in the community and surrounding areas as possible, we're building an email database to reach those who prefer to learn about our events, activities, and community news right from their inbox.

Stay in touch. Find out more. Be the first to know. Sign up to receive email communications from the Town of Cambridge Recreation Board at: <https://mailchi.mp/8520a2478227/cambridge-vt-recreation>.

## Underhill Ice Rink closed for the season

The Underhill Ice Rink, located at Moore Park in Underhill Center, was officially closed for the season on Tuesday, March 5. Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the skating, as well as to the folks who shoveled snow and helped to maintain the ice.

A short season, but a fun one!

## Licenses for Westford dogs due April 1

By Callie Hamdy, Westford Town Clerk

Dog licenses are due April 1 in Westford!

Dogs in Westford are required to be vaccinated against rabies and licensed with the town by Monday, April 1. This is required legally by the State of Vermont.

The fee for spayed/neutered dogs is \$11; for intact dogs, \$13. After April 1, late fees will begin being assessed.

## Cambridge-Jeffersonville village beautification project

It is that time of the year! This summer marks the 11<sup>th</sup> year your contributions have helped beautify our villages with flowers. Your financial support and willingness to volunteer have helped make our villages beautiful places to live and to visit.

We need your help once again to match our funding from the Town for this project. Please consider supporting this project, every dollar counts. There are two ways to give:

- online at <http://givebutter.com/villageflowers>; and
- by check, made out to *The Village Beautification Project* and sent to The Village Beautification Project, 1500 VT Rt. 108N, Jeffersonville, VT 05464.

Thank you so very much!

## Town Meeting Day I inks from MMCTV

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Thanks to the town and school staff and volunteers for helping us capture annual discussions and voting. Also a shout out to our excellent Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) crew — Derek, Erin, Jesse, Jim, Ruth, Tegan, Tom, Madeline, and Verity — for a job well done.

Here's a short (four minute) video offering a snapshot of the day: <https://youtu.be/aa7p2Zt4nCA>.

And the (rather longer) videos of each town's meeting:

- Jericho: <https://youtu.be/hmDYnUFegac>;
- Richmond: <https://youtu.be/zO1d5HeVaRw>;
- Underhill: <https://youtu.be/IWWtLzKX150>.

If you want to support our work in an easy way, please make sure to "subscribe" on YouTube when you check out these videos. Thanks!

## MMU ballots available for Underhill voters

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

March 15

MMU ballots have arrived.

If you voted absentee or early for Town Meeting, a ballot will automatically be sent to you. If you'd like to vote absentee, please call the Town Hall, 802-899-4434, ext.1

## Future of budget voting and Australian ballot in Jericho

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator  
on behalf of the Jericho Selectboard

At Town Meeting (Tuesday, March 5) the resolutions to move the town's budget and "public questions" to Australian ballot were proposed, amended, and approved by the voters present. This was an incredibly challenging topic with well-intended, passionate advocacy on both sides of the debate.

The amendment that was offered and passed directed the Selectboard to create a Town-Meeting-like event where the citizens of Jericho can gather to be both "be in community together" and also discuss, debate, and cast votes advising the

### Town meeting results continued from page 1

View the full minutes for the in-person Town Meeting at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Annual-Town-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>.

Specific voting results for Town offices:

For Town Moderator (1 year): Lee McClenny, 697 of 709 votes cast, with 12 write-ins for other candidates.

For Selectboard (3 years): Patrick Haller, 434; Basil V Panattu, 334.

For Selectboard (3 yrs, 2 years remaining): Casey Mathieu, 661.

For Selectboard (2 years): Greg Bemis, 295; Deb Sawyer Jorschick, 455; 5 write-ins.

For Selectboard (1 year): Robert L Bancroft, 383; Wendy Doane, 401.

For Library Trustee (5 years): Helen Sterling, 672.

For Library Trustee (5 years, 4 years remaining): Marianne Bassford, 663.

For Library Trustee (5 years, 1year remaining): Becky Roy, 663.

## Cambridge presidential primary results, Town Meeting video

There are 2835 registered voters in Cambridge; 718 participated in the vote, of which 99 were absentee ballots (one was defective and not counted).

Results for the presidential primaries: for the 343 Democratic Primary ballots, voters chose Biden (294), Williamson second (11), Phillips third (10); for the 374 Republican Primary ballots, voters chose Haley over Trump, 222-135. In both primaries, all other candidates received a single-digit number of votes.

A full video of the Cambridge Town Meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQn0RljXxg0>.

## COMING EVENTS

### Spring at the Birds of Vermont Museum

Explore mixed art, follow the progression of early spring wildflowers, try a sketching program, let a kid be Eggstatic, or enjoy a bird monitoring walk in April at the Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. The Museum is open by appointment November through April. The trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

April events at the museum include:

- Sunday, April 21: Spring Wildflower Progression I, 10:30 AM – 12:30 AM. 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/>
- Wednesday, April 24: Eggstatic! (for kids), 10:00 – 11:30 AM. 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 8 participants; cost, \$15-\$35. Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/eggstatic-april/>.
- Wednesday, April 24: See It, Sketch It, Bird It! 1:00 PM. 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/>.
- Saturday, April 27: April Bird Monitoring Walk, 7:30 AM. 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/>.
- Saturday, April 27: Spring Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 AM. 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/>.

In addition to events at the Museum, April is Citizen/Community Science Month, and has special events like Eclipse Day, Draw A Bird Day, Earth Day, and National Go Birding Day! Find out more at our website, <https://birdsofvermont.org/events/>.

Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington; 802-434-2167 or [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org); <https://www.birdsofvermont.org>

### 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). Eagles Auxiliary thanks all players for supporting our Auxiliary Bingo that supports our many charities, donations, and scholarships, we make in our community throughout each year. Doors open at 5:00 PM, with bingo refreshments available. Please purchase your 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. Pull tabs may also be available prior to games starting. There is a 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

Coming events continued on page 3



# It's Mud Season!

TRAILS  
CLOSED

## To Riding – Bikes and Horses Until Memorial Day

JUPD  
<https://www.millsriversidepark.org/>

*Mud season has arrived at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. Please — to protect recent trail improvements, we kindly ask visitors to avoid horseback riding and mountain biking on the upper trails until Memorial Day to give our fragile trails time to dry. Thank you!*  
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



## Coming events continued from page 2

number” of balls called. If not won, the cover-all game continues for a consolation payout. All players must purchase a minimum of three cards. Each games’ payouts are split between the winner(s) for that game. Children attending must play a minimum of three cards and be under supervision by an adult (any payouts to children will be paid to the adult supervising them). No card splitting. Please view our game rules posted at the Eagles Club for additional information. Inquiries can be made by calling the Eagles Club on Friday nights, 802-644-5333 after 5:00 PM (you can leave a message on this phone during the week and someone will call you back on Friday when the bingo opens). Come join us and enjoy our Eagles Auxiliary Friday Night Bingo!

**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 (April 11) 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 (March 21, April 4, 18), 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](mailto:atowerinv@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or [juliehehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehehir@comcast.net).

**Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper**, on the last Thursday of the month (March 28), 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 (April 4). 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. March donations will go to the Johnson Food Shelf. For information contact Susan Schill or Kim Pitt, [watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com](mailto:watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com). Ask about delivery to shut-ins!

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

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

**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](mailto:leslie@healthyhabitsvt.com), or call 802 234-1277.

## Coming Events

### Wednesday, March 20

**Conversational Soup Supper & Soulful Silence, 5:30 – 7:00 PM**, Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Begin (5:30 – 6:15 PM) with a simple soup supper and convivial communal conversation in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Continue (6:30 – 7:00 PM) by finding a comfortable place to be in quiet and still your spirit in the Sanctuary and Parlor upstairs. You can sit in silence, light a candle, read a book, pray, meditate, knit, color, etc. Silence will begin and end with ringing the church bell. This free event is open to the whole community. You can join for just dinner, or silence, or both. Please contact Rev. Katelyn Macrae, [katelyn@rcucc.org](mailto:katelyn@rcucc.org) or 802-434-2053, if you have questions or would like to help provide soup and bread for one of the evening meals.

### Saturday, March 23

**Vermont Genealogy Library Open House**, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Vermont Genealogy Library, Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Rd. (VT Rt. 117), Essex Junction. The Vermont Genealogy Library is moving its Open House to spring — so if you have been working on your genealogy or thinking of starting, come visit us. We will be giving tours of our facility along with 30-minute demonstrations. Chat with other researchers while enjoying refreshments. There will also be many new, as well as gently used, books for sale. Free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

**Lake Champlain Longbeards annual wild game dinner**, 4:00 – 6:30 PM, Waterbury Fire Department, South Main Street, Waterbury Village Historic District, Waterbury. Enjoy wild game in some of our favorite recipes — venison, moose, bear, rabbit. Your \$15 per person donation includes drink and dessert. All proceeds go for our annual youth Turkey Day. Takeout available. For reservations contact Ron Lafreniere, 802-434-4274 or [ronlafreniere@outdrs.net](mailto:ronlafreniere@outdrs.net).

**Drive-Thru Lasagna Dinner**, 5:00 – 5:30 PM, Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington (Please enter from the Upper or South parking entrance). Join us for this 5<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser to support Machia Wilderness Camp, a non-profit summer camp that inspires youth to be responsible stewards of the earth through hands-on, nature-focused skill building and leadership development. The menu for this to-go meal: fresh homemade lasagna (meat or vegetable), bread sticks, tossed salad, and a generous slice of maple fudge and chocolate fudge. Minimum suggested donation of \$15

per meal. 100% of the proceeds going directly to the camp. Reservations required, RSVP to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DAAAE29A31-47898488-drivethru> or [events@faithsbvt.org](mailto:events@faithsbvt.org), or call 802-863-6764 with the number and type of meals you’d like to reserve. Your order can be picked up at 5:00, 5:15, or 5:30 PM. In addition, please bring non-perishable food items for our Feeding Chittenden and SB Food Shelf collection. Learn more about Machia Wilderness Camp at <https://www.machiacamp.org/about>.

### Wednesday, March 27

**International Fly Fishing Film Festival (“IF4”)**, 6:30 – 9:00 PM, Essex Cinema, Essex Way, Essex Junction. Presented by your neighbor members of Champlain Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU), this exclusive one-night will screen exciting short films/features by leading independent filmmakers, featuring magnificent fishing adventures set in breathtaking natural surroundings that will fascinate everyone. All net proceeds support CVTU’s mission of conservation and education, including habitat restoration projects, the Trout in the Classroom program, Vermont Trout Camp scholarships, and more. Tickets (\$20) available online at <https://www.vtu.org/> and at the door (cash or check, please).

### Thursday, March 28

**Keeping the Lights on: Strategies for the Future**, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, online. Vermont Electric Cooperative hosts Dr. Jason Shafer, Chief Science Officer and weather expert at Disaster Tech, and VEC’s Chief Operating Officer Peter Rossi to discuss the impact that changing weather is having on our power system and take your questions. Joining them as moderator will be VEC’s Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Towne. The webinar will be recorded, so even if you aren’t sure you can make the live session, please register anyway — VEC will send the recording link to all registrants. For information and to register go online to <https://vermontelectric.coop/latest-news/join-us-03-12-24>.

**Climate Q&A**, 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. The Jericho Energy Task Force presents full-time meteorologist and part-time photographer Conor Lahiff will hold a Q&A on current trends in weather and the challenges of photographing the night sky. Discussion points will include identifying Jericho’s vulnerabilities, climate mitigation, and the chances of having clear skies for the eclipse. Lahiff has worked at the National Weather Service in Burlington for over two decades. His photographs have been displayed at a variety of local venues. Light refreshments will be served but this will be a waste-free event so please bring your own mugs and bowls.

**Waiting for Wildflowers: Spring’s Gifts**, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online. Late winter has all of us waiting and watching for the first wildflowers (<https://vlt.org/2022/04/08/identify-spring-wildflowers-in-vermont/>). By the end of March, we’ve seen pussy willows and maple flowers, alders and elms (<https://vlt.org/2023/02/08/wildflowers-in-winter/>), but the ground-dwelling wildflowers are yet to come. VT Land Trust presenter biologist Liz Thompson will help you learn about the woodland wildflowers that will appear in April and May — what they are, where they grow, and what they tell us about the woods. Bloodroot, blue cohosh, trout lily, and trillium are among the many wildflowers we’ll examine with beautiful photos of sunny woodland scenes. Please pre-register online at <https://vlt.org/events/waiting-for-wildflowers-springs-gifts/>.

### Saturday, March 30

**MMU’s Project Grad Casino Night**, 7:00 – 10:00 PM, Delta Hotels by Marriott Burlington, Williston Rd., S. Burlington (to join online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/casino-nightbenefiting-mmu-class-of-2024-project-graduation-tickets-819023099137?>). Join us for this 21+ event to raise money for MMU 2024 Project Graduation, a substance-free celebration for the graduates that takes place the night of graduation. Try your hand at Blackjack, Poker, Craps, or Roulette, at tables with special guest dealers! Exchange your chips for chances on great prizes at the end of the night, including gift certificates to Matt’s Wash and Wax, Hotel Vermont, Smugglers’ Notch, JCAT, Shelburne Vineyards, Foam Brewery, and more. Tickets, \$45, include 150 playing chips and appetizers. Cash bar. Purchase tickets at the link given above or at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>, search MMU Casino Night.

### Wednesday, April 3

**Red Cross Blood Drive in Richmond**, 12:00 – 6:00 PM, Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for more information and to make an appointment. Or, for assistance, please contact [dthomas@gmavt.net](mailto:dthomas@gmavt.net) or call 802-434-3654. As you may know, there is a critical need for blood. Ask a friend who has never donated, or a high school senior to join you in a groundbreaking, rewarding, and possibly life-saving experience.

### Saturday, April 6

**British Empire: Using FindMyPast.com**, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, on Zoom. The website [www.FindMyPast.com](http://www.FindMyPast.com) has an extensive collection of resources specific to the United Kingdom, plus Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Christine Cohen will explore resources including British and Irish newspapers, parish registers, workhouse and poor law records, military records, and census records including the just released 1921 schedules. Also, migration around the world by your ancestor throughout the British Empire. This class will be held online via Zoom from 10:30 to noon. Cost is \$10. Please visit [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) for additional details and for registration.

### Tuesday, April 9

**Vernal Pool Reptiles and Amphibians**, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, online. Many Vermont reptiles and amphibians rely on vernal pools for mating and breeding. These wet areas are critical habitat for the reproduction of species like frogs, salamanders, snakes, and turtles. Herpetologist Jim Andrews will discuss which reptiles and amphibians use Vermont vernal pools. He will give you tools to identify different reptiles and amphibians and discuss the natural history, distribution, and status of vernal pool-loving species. Allaire Diamond will discuss how these sensitive areas are handled in VT Land Trust’s conservation easements. Please pre-register at <https://vlt.org/events/vernal-pool-reptiles-and-amphibians/>.

### Saturday, April 13

**JETF Repair Café**, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Save the date! As it gets closer there will be a request for volunteers and the Café will open up for registration. An opportunity for those with experience in repairing everything from clothing and jewelry to

appliances to help those who need assistance. The goal is to keep as much as possible out of our landfills. For more information or to volunteer contact Phyl Newbeck, [vp172@gmail.com](mailto:vp172@gmail.com).

**St. Thomas Calcutta**, 4:30 PM doors open, 6:00 PM dinner, Mansfield Barn, 3 Irish Farm Road, Jericho. Looking for the perfect welcome to spring? Gather your friends and join us for a Calcutta hosted by St. Thomas Church of Underhill Center. A “Calcutta” is an elimination jackpot game coupled with dinner and entertainment. There will only be 100 balls sold for a chance to win the \$2000 cash grand prize. The event also features multiple other prizes, a silent auction, free photo booth, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$130 each which includes one (1) ball for the jackpot game and dinner for two, catered by Jericho Café and Tavern. For more details or to purchase tickets, email [stthomasvcalcutta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasvcalcutta@gmail.com) or visit the St. Thomas website, <https://stthomasvt.com/>.

**Cambridge Fire Department annual Calcutta fundraiser**, doors open 5:00 PM, dinner 6:00 PM with event following, Smugglers’ Notch Resort meeting house. A great opportunity to gather a group of friends to support a great cause and get to meet some of your local fire fighters. Only 98 tickets will be sold, each ticket (\$120) includes dinner for two and entry into the Calcutta raffle event. The final two tickets will be raffled off, \$10 per chance to win one of these two tickets, during the event. Every 10<sup>th</sup> draw is a prize; cash prizes up to \$1500 during raffle. Tickets 99 and 100 are guaranteed winners, not placed into the game until after draw #90. Mixture of cash prizes and raffle prizes throughout the event; the last five draws receive cash prizes. All proceeds go to Cambridge FD Fundraising account, which goes toward equipment purchases and maintenance, annual events, and more. For tickets, please call 802-760-9815.

**Bunco**, 6:00 PM, Cambridge Community Center, Jeffersonville. Cambridge Area Rotary presents BUNCO, the most fun you’ll have with a dice game! The idea is to roll as many sixes (6s) as possible as you move from table to table socializing with everyone who attends. But wait, there’s more... a silent auction, prizes, beverages (adult and otherwise), a Ronco Bottle and Jug Cutter, Ginsu knives, and snacks. 6:00 PM social hour, with the game beginning at 7:00 PM. \$15 per person at the door or buy tickets from a Rotarian. Don’t say “no dice” to this event!

### Monday, April 15

**Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast**, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108, Jeffersonville. The session begins with a light breakfast, followed by a short briefing by the legislators attending, and a Q&A session. Breakfast by Smugglers’ Notch Resort. Learn more and please register at <https://lamoilleeconomy.org/breakfast/>.

### Friday-Saturday, June 7-8

**Relay for Life of Chittenden County**, 6:30 PM Friday-6:30 AM Saturday, Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Junction. Join the American Cancer Society’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Relay For Life of Chittenden County, a high-energy community event to help end cancer as we know it, for everyone. This year’s theme will be *Star Light, Star Bright — Wish Upon a Cure Tonight*, and will celebrate and recognize survivors, thrivers, and caregivers. The funds raised by our passionate volunteers go towards cancer research, advocacy, and patient support, such as the HopeLodge in Burlington, a 24/7 hotline, and rides to treatment. To learn more or join, visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/chittendenvt>.



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## The Mountain Gazette

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## HEALTH NEWS

## Richmond blood drive April 3 — sign up now

The next Richmond blood drive is being held Wednesday, April 3, 12:00 – 6:00 PM at the Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for more information and to make an appointment. Or, for assistance, please contact [dthomas@gmavt.net](mailto:dthomas@gmavt.net) or call 802-434-3654.

There are many openings between 1:15 – 5:45 PM. Here's a chance to complete an early Spring action item. As you may know, there is a critical need for blood. Ask a friend who has never donated, or a high school senior to join you in a groundbreaking, rewarding, and possibly life-saving experience.

## Slow Flow Yoga for stress reduction in Westford

If you feel overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life, take a moment to breathe, unwind, and find your inner calms with practicing Slow Flow Yoga at the Red Brick Meeting House. In these classes, we will use physical exercise to release tension and grow stability, mobility, and balance in the body. While doing so, we will focus on our breath to quiet the mind and cultivate a sense of peace and present moment awareness.

The series of five classes at the Red Brick Meeting House began on Thursday, March 14, and continues Thursdays, March 28 and April 4 and 11, and on Wednesday, March 20, all classes from 5:30 – 6:30 PM(ish). The cost is \$50 for the whole series, or \$12 per class for walk-ins. For both, please sign up at the Recreation Department website, <https://westfordvt.us/recreation>, prior to attending your first class.

Open for adults 18+. No previous yoga experience required but because of the type of physical exercise, a certain degree of mobility is suggested. All classes will be different; options, modifications, and tools can make the practice accessible to every body. Bring a mat and give it a try.

If you are unsure whether this class is for you or if you have any yoga related questions, please reach out to Doris Bittruf, [info@happyat.yoga](mailto:info@happyat.yoga).

## Mental health is community health

On Wednesday, March 27, Howard Center's Marna and Stephen Wise Tulin Spring Community Education Series presents its first session, *Mental Health is Community Health*, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, online and in person at Dealer.com, Howard St., Burlington. Dr. Simha Ravven, Howard Center's Chief Medical Officer, will offer perspectives on mental health treatment and services within our community, including: Vermont mental health law; voluntary and involuntary psychiatric treatment in inpatient and hospital settings; mandated community treatment; and the limits of voluntary treatment. The session will also include a discussion about creating collaborative community responses that balance individual rights with community safety, followed by a Q&A.

All are encouraged to attend in-person or to livestream this ongoing community-wide conversation. To join online: <https://howardcenter.org/uncategorized/ces-2024-mental-health-is-community-health-registration/>.

For more info and to register, visit our website at <https://howardcenter.org/community-education/community-education-series>, or call 802-488-6912.

## Do your feet hurt?

Foot dysfunction causes symptoms most commonly in the knees, hips, low back, and neck. Collapsed arches can preload the knee, making injuries more likely. Also, inadequate arch support can cause low back pain. Even your neck and jaw can be influenced by the feet. In Italy, more orthotics are fitted by dentists than any other professional group because they know and address the relationship between the feet and jaw. If you consider that the average person walks 5000-10,000 steps per day and malfunction can cause structural problems, it is logical to conclude that optimizing foot function is important.

Buy good quality shoes that are neither too large nor too small and wide enough, especially at the toes and arches. They need a good heel cup to support your feet while walking. Some experts state that shoes are "shot" after 250 miles! Worn-out shoes provide no support and may even cause imbalance of the body if the heel is unlevel and/or the arch is collapsed.

Make sure your feet are properly aligned. This may involve manipulation of the feet, knee, pelvis, and/or other parts of the spine. They all move together. Once the joints are aligned, you may benefit from custom-made orthotics fitted by an experienced practitioner. Orthotics are particularly important if you are over 40 years old because ligaments of your feet become lax and your feet spread, causing the arches to collapse. (A symptom of this is needing a larger shoe size.)

Over time, the elastic tissue of the foot becomes permanently

stretched. People who spend much of their time on their feet and active people, such as skiers, hikers, and tennis players are at special risk. Specially fitted inserts for shoes (orthotics) can improve the body's structural balance. Orthotics are inserted into footwear to alter the way the foot hits the earth. Quality orthotics have good heel cups, are flexible enough to maintain normal foot dynamics, and support the arches of the feet. Five red flags that indicate the need to be evaluated for orthotics include: foot flare, excessive shoe wear, fallen arches, bowed Achilles tendons, and knees that roll inward.

If your feet are hurting I can help. I adjust feet, fit orthotics, and provide other supportive procedures. Take care of your feet and they will take care of you!

*Mary H. Kintner, D.C., R.N., is a chiropractor and nutritional consultant practicing in Jericho, VT.*

## Honey and babies

Parents have been seeking some sweet advice from me as to when it is safe to introduce honey into their infant or toddler's diet. Let me "bee" sure to provide some information on this topic.

Honey is a natural sweetener, and some people think it is healthier than sugar with its vitamins, minerals, and other metabolites. To get the benefits of these nutrients, however, you need to eat far more honey than is recommended due to honey intake being very high in calories.

*Honey is not for babies*

Please do not give honey or processed foods that contain honey to an infant under one year of age. Why is this so important? Because honey may contain spores of a certain type of germ or bacteria called *clostridium botulinum* that can also be found in soil or dust and gets into honey.

If honey is eaten by an infant and it contains the *clostridium*

spores, these bacteria can release a poison or toxin in the baby's digestive system that can result in a disorder called *botulism*. This is characterized by muscle weakness, a weak cry, constipation, and trouble breathing to the point where it can be life-threatening.

Older children over one have more mature digestive systems to move these toxins through their body before they can cause harm, which is why it is safe to give honey to children from toddlerhood on up to adulthood.

Treatment of infant botulism requires hospitalization to support a baby's breathing and overall weakness. This usually takes place in an ICU until the effects of the toxin wear off, which may take weeks to months.

Be aware that even jars that say the honey has been pasteurized may still be contaminated with the *clostridium* bacteria. Even other liquid sweeteners like molasses and corn syrup may carry a risk for botulism, so avoid these in babies under one year of age as well.

If your child is over a year of age they can eat honey and unlike some raw foods, raw as well as pasteurized honey is safe to eat in moderation.

*Are there benefits to honey in older children?*

There are some studies that say honey can be an effective cough suppressant in children over the age of two with a cold or upper respiratory infection.

Honey has also been shown to be effective in treating some wounds and burns, but more research is needed in both areas.

Hopefully, tips like these will not sting when it comes to "believing" the importance of not giving your baby honey in their first year of life.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Thanks Lions for Underhill Town Meeting luncheon

**To the Editor,**

I wanted to send a short message to the members of the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club for organizing today's potluck meal. I am happy to see so many people sitting down after today's Town Meeting (Tuesday, March 5) enjoying a delicious meal and enjoying each other's fellowship and company. These events are special, and I hope that they continue. It makes Underhill a special place that many call home.

Thank you so much for all the behind-the-scenes support and all the support today in particular that you provided to our community.

**Bob Stone  
Selectboard member  
Underhill**

## Cambridge Town Meeting — a reflection

**To the Editor,**

Well, this year's Town Meeting is a wrap up. I'd first like to thank Jerry for his 43 years as Moderator and congratulate Joel on stepping in admirably.

But of course, that's not my only reason for writing. Since yesterday I've been reflecting on the discussion and outcomes regarding Articles 8, 9, and 10, about the use of Australian ballots to conduct town business.

And I see in this morning's *VT Digger* that Jericho also tackled these issues and chose to adopt Australian ballots. I applaud them and also our citizens who spoke favorably in this regard.

Traditions are to be valued until they outlive their appropriateness. UVM's once-beloved "Kake Walk" tradition was done away with 50 or so years ago. The school lives on and today's students still celebrate a winter festival without "walkin' fo de kake."

Yesterday, I heard comments about 'holding power' by being present at the meeting and about 'not being informed' by being absent. While the first comment is unfortunately correct, the second is based on an unproven assumption.

The Cambridge voter rolls tally 2819 taxpaying citizens, according to our Town Clerk. About 120 (just over 4%) participated in yesterday's discussion on the three subject articles. This is exclusionary "democracy" at best and rule by oligarchy at worst.

Fellow taxpaying citizens who can't attend Town Meeting should not be excluded by beloved but outmoded traditions.

I want to challenge the Select Board to bring these articles to Town Meeting again next year, but also to think over the next twelve months how to keep and foster the best of Town Meeting culture, the sense of community, the sociability, and initiating timely actions resulting in an informed electorate with an option for amendments to articles, a few days before casting Australian ballots. Other towns are inventing new traditions. Please look at and learn from them.

Town Meeting with floor balloting is a slowly dying tradition which should be put to rest in the interest of inclusionary democracy.

**Gary Chicoine  
Jeffersonville**

## RIP for Jericho's traditional Town Meeting Day?

**To the Editor,**

Has Jericho's Traditional Town Meeting Day now gone the way of the buffalo!?

Was yesterday the end of this long-honored Vermont tradition in Jericho?

Today in Jericho some will celebrate that, for all intents, the Australian Ballot will rule the day going forward and now a new "hybrid" Town Meeting will likely take place in January (to possibly discuss and debate) and then all key votes will be decided primarily by the Australian Ballot.

Valid arguments that there may be greater voter participation

and your vote can be cast with a greater degree of privacy, away from any friction or rancor by those that could possibly have a small minority debate or speak the loudest to push an agenda?

But, we not only eliminate a time-honored tradition in Vermont, but do we risk more a personal disconnect in Jericho in not having the time-honored give and take at Town Meeting; to see and get to know your neighbors a bit better?

Yes, the new "hybrid same" type meeting may take place (now likely in January?) but depending on the day of the week and time of day and possible weather woes, the "incentive" to draw voters out when most of us are in near full hibernation mode this could work — or not?

Kudos to Moderator David Barrington in doing his usual exceptional job in overseeing Town Meeting — and stepping up when needed to keep it civil.

I do salute others that were far more eloquent, in speaking on both sides of this issue.

(I wish I had the names of the gentlemen — tall, beard, glasses — who spoke eloquently to keep the Town Meeting Day tradition, and the woman in the wheelchair, a proponent for the Australian Ballot.)

Do we celebrate such a profound loss? No!

**Robert (Bob) Devost  
Jericho**

## Jericho Town Meeting... not the last

**To the Editor,**

I was at what is being called our last Jericho Town Meeting. I listened as people spoke for and against Article VI, amended the article, voted a second amendment to the first, and then voted down the second amendment, and final vote by paper — all of this was done with 170 people left in the room. Note: the debate on the actual budget really ended up with a \$500 increase and as in past years, we voiced our opinions, voted on a budget that closely matched the purposed warned version.

So did we finally have our last Town Meeting, did we end the people's chances to vote changes to the budget, have we lost the in-person ability to have a civil debate on our budget?

My answer would be No.

First — We can voice our recommend changes to our Select Board in a January hybrid meeting. The Select Board will then publish a proposed warned version for March via Australian Ballot through a Town Report. When you receive your Town Report, if you feel that the Select Board did not produce a budget that matched the January hybrid meeting (where we the citizens give direction) then you will have the opportunity to vote yes/no on the budget (I'm sure Front Porch will be seeing a lot more posts during this time). Our vote (hopefully more voters due to the new change) if not passed, would then require the Select Board to make a revised budget which would go back again to the voters. (How this would be done was left open, as this would be a new to the Town.)

Second — Is the Australian Ballot set in stone, and the answer is No. This question was asked at the meeting and if we the voters want to go back to our current way of operating or change to a different format, we have a path to do so; i.e., get your change together, have it in the warning and vote by Australian Ballot in March (if I understand Article VII, public question). It was noted that approximately 75 towns have gone to Australian Ballot which is less than one-third of the total towns in Vermont (237 towns and 10 cities). With the new Australian Ballot, more of the voters (more than the 170 who made this change) could create a yet newer version of a Town Meeting (so if you didn't like what happened this year, you have options to make changes, you just need to come up with a plan that would pass in an Australian Ballot vote).

To wrap up, I enjoyed the Town Meeting, getting out and watching the debate (Dave, my hat's off to you for the job you had as Moderator), hearing people's pros and cons, but in the end seeing that my vote does (or didn't) make a change is not lost. We the citizens still have the final vote and can make changes if we follow the new way.

**Steven Haupt  
Jericho**

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## Update from the Vermont House

By Theresa Wood, State Representative  
Washington-Chittenden

March 4

The Legislature is off during Town Meeting week, and I look forward to catching up with folks at all three town meetings this week. A couple of quick updates:

**Education and property taxes** — after unprecedented proposed budget increases in schools across the state as a result of unintended consequences of Act 127 and many other factors, the Legislature passed (and the Governor signed) H.850. The intent of Act 127 was to provide a more equitable “weighting” of factors that contribute to the cost of education (e.g., English language learners, more rural school districts, poverty, etc.). This resulted in changes for both Harwood Union and Mount Mansfield Unified Union (MMUUSD) school districts.

The bill also gave a five-year off ramp to help districts manage

their budgets to the “new normal.” Unfortunately, almost every school district in the state took advantage of this ramp, which was not the intention. So the Legislature changed the method, implementing a defined “cents off” the tax rate for five years was enacted only for those school districts impacted. H.850 also enabled school districts to reopen their budgets to reduce expenditures and provided funds for the towns to access due to the extra vote. The two school districts in this legislative district (MMUUSD and Harwood Union) took opposite approaches. MMUUSD reopened its budget and reduced expenditures; Harwood Union decided to stay with its original budget.

The future of education financing is a topic being hotly debated at the State House. It is complicated and our current system is overdue for an overhaul. The Legislature does not approve spending, local voters do. After that happens, the Legislature must finance those expenditures. You might be surprised to learn that homestead property tax is not the only revenue source — another major source of education funding is all of the sales and

use tax. One thing is sure, this topic will continue to be a hot one in the coming weeks.

**Waterbury Armory shelter proposal** — I was on the conference committee, one of three members representing the House, to decide the fiscal year 2024 budget adjustment act. Part of that process included addressing the continuing homelessness of thousands of Vermonters. With regard to the Armory shelter proposal, all of the individuals that the Department for Children and Families originally cited as being sheltered at the Armory will now be able to continue their shelter in the hotels at least through June 30. What this means is that there is *no* April 1 looming deadline, and the State can use this time to put forward a more planned out and thoughtful proposal for the use of the Armory building. As I stated at the public meetings, the Department for Children and Families has not included any operating funds for a shelter in Waterbury in its budget that starts July 1.

I’ll provide other updates on bills of interest, etc. in an update later this week.

## 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](mailto:info@mmuuf.org) or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

## Jericho United Methodist Church

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

## United Church of Underhill

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

## Waterville Union Church

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

## 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

Palm Sunday Service, March 24, 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday Service, March 31, 10:00 AM

802-899-4911; [officejcc@comcast.net](mailto:officejcc@comcast.net); [www.jcvt.org](http://www.jcvt.org)

## All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

## 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.

Our artist for the month of March is Beverly Doyle.

Saturday, March 23, 11:00 AM: Solar Eclipse Science and Safety [all ages] Join Vermont Astronomical Society member Scott Turnbull for information on how to safely observe the upcoming eclipse and the science behind it.

## Adult programs

Thursdays, March 21, April 4, 18, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters Group. Join us at DRML in the fireplace room 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! Any questions — please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM: Board of Trustees meeting, in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly ([drawingmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:drawingmemlib@gmail.com)) to receive the link to attend.

Mondays, March 25 and April 1, and Wednesdays, March 27 and April 1, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention. Age Well and DRML are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Falls 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 at DRML, or ZOOM from the comfort of your own home. Zoom link will be provided. Registration required, please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne at [joannosborne2@gmail.com](mailto:joannosborne2@gmail.com).

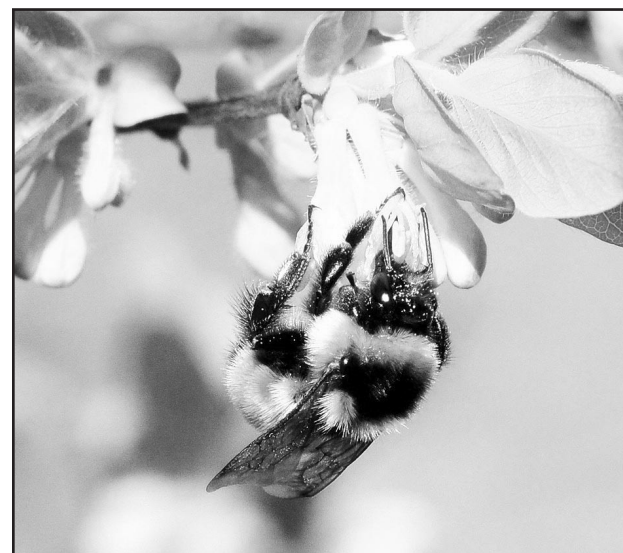
Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Club. Discussing *A Distant Grave* by Sarah Stewart Taylor. If you need a copy, call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. We meet in-person in the program room. A Zoom link is available. Email Holly at [drawingmemlib@yahoo.com](mailto:drawingmemlib@yahoo.com) for a link.

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 PM: Romance Book Club. Join us for the first meeting of the Romance Book Club, as we discuss our favorite literary declarations, miscommunications, and reconciliations. Everyone and every book is welcome! We will meet in the Fireplace Room, and a Zoom link is available upon request. Please email [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org) with any questions.

Thursday, March 28, 10:30 AM: Mah Jongg is back! 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!

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM: Climate Q&A, from JETF. Full-time meteorologist and part-time photographer Conor Lahiff

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS



Keep a keen eye out for Vermont bees emerging now and throughout March, like this Tricolored Bumble Bee (*Bombus ternarius*) on a budding apple blossom spotted and photographed in Bernie’s yard last March.

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

## Bee on the lookout for VT bees in March

By Bernie Paquette, Jericho

There are over 350 bee species known to be in Vermont. These bees are a few of those species likely to be flying, and therefore available for observation, during March in Vermont:

Frigid Mining Bee, *Andrena frigida*; Tricolored Bumble Bee, *Bombus ternarius*; Yellow-banded Bumble Bee, *Bombus terricola*; Unequal Cellophane Bee, *Colletes inaequalis*; and Bristle Sweat Bee, *Lasioglossum imitatum*.

What will you see in your backyard? Here are some local programs for interacting with nature:

1. JFiN (Jericho Families in Nature) — <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2023/08/jfin-aquatic-observations-at-mills.html>;
2. Backyard Bug Safari program — <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/08/bug-safari-on-nashville-road.html>;
3. JUSL (Jericho/Underhill Life Search) — <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/05/jericho-underhill-vt-life-search-game-on.html>;
4. iNaturalist - how to get started (to post your photos - observations) — <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started>;
5. Nature-inspired single-panel comics, new comic every Saturday — <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2024/01/nature-inspired-single-panel-cartoons.html>;
6. Six Word Insect Memoirs — <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/12/six-word-insect-memoirs-by-bernie.html>;
7. New this year: JURBIC (Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, Bolton Inverting Club) — <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2024/01/jurbic-jericho-underhill-richmond.html>;
8. Read the Vermont Entomological Society Newsletter. See Bernie’s article in the Winter/Spring 2024 edition — <https://www.vermontinsects.org/newsletter>.

will hold a Q&A on current trends in weather and the challenges of photographing the night sky. The Jericho Energy Task Force is presenting this open-ended forum. Discussion points will include identifying Jericho’s vulnerabilities, climate mitigation, and the chances of having clear skies for the eclipse. Lahiff has worked at the National Weather Service in Burlington for over two decades. His photographs have been displayed at a variety of local venues. Light refreshments will be served but this will be a waste-free event so please bring your own mugs and bowls.

Tuesday, April 2, 10:30 AM – 12:00 or whenever you would like to leave: Underhill/Jericho Cribbage Group. Meet in the program room on the first Tuesday of the month. 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.

Sunday, April 7, 2:00 PM: Sunday Music Series: *The Beeline Ramblers* with Graham and Katie. DRML invites you to join our 24<sup>th</sup> annual music series! Since 2007, we have been featuring talented songwriters in April for recognition of National Poetry Month. *The Beeline Ramblers* were part of the initial program and it is our pleasure to welcome them back with guest performers Graham and Katie. *The Beeline Ramblers*, Fran Mandeville and Lisa Mandeville have been reviewed as “being created to create.” Both Lisa and Fran are multi-talented musicians and songwriters.

Library news continued on page 6



## Library news continued from page 5

Lisa has been writing and singing songs since being introduced to music as a child, performing in festivals and concerts, tours in Africa and in Geneva, Switzerland for a conference with women world leaders. Fran has been writing and performing songs as he traveled and worked from Colorado to Maine and in between. Their repertoire includes blues, folk, and old-time music. In addition to their beautiful vocal harmonies they each bring expertise on instruments including guitar, slide guitar, dulcimer, mandolin, banjo, and limberjacks. We hope that you can join us for what promises to be a delightful performance.

**Youth programs**

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

**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, 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!

**Wednesday, March 20, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt** [all ages] Cozy up to therapy dog Wyatt and read him a story. He loves *Elephant and Piggie*, but is happy to listen to anything you want to read. Sign up for a 15-minute spot when you call, email or visit the library.

**Thursdays, March 21, April 4, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club** [ages 8+] There will be time to work on your own animations, as well as secret project for the library. Please sign up for this very popular program when you call, visit or email the library.

**Saturday, March 23, 11:00 AM: Solar Eclipse Science and Safety** [all ages] Join Vermont Astronomical Society member Scott Turnbull for information on how to safely observe the upcoming eclipse and the science behind it.

**Tuesday, March 26, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: STEM Stations** [ages 8+] Join us as the program room is transformed into a science lab! We'll have stations for Makey Makey simple circuit boards, a 3D Doodle pen, and some LEGO Education STEM kits. Each visitor will get about 20 minutes at each station before we switch.

**Thursday, March 28, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Minecraft Social** [ages 8+] Come hang out at the library and play Minecraft. Make new friends, or find old ones. Since this is getting so popular please sign up! Please bring your device if you have one. The library only has a few to borrow.

**Friday, March 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club** [ages 6+] Build a snowflake, a snowman or a ski slope! Use a challenge card for inspiration or flip through the LEGO Ideas book. Any way you look at it, there's no wrong way to LEGO! Please sign up for this very popular program when you call, visit or email the library.

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: New Baby Social** — save the date! We'll host a New Baby Social for all the little ones in Jericho and Underhill born in 2023. We'll have a short

story time around 10:30 AM, and there will be plenty of time to select a picture book to put a dedication plate in.

Please visit [drml.org](http://drml.org) or call 802-899-4962 for the most up-to-date information. Contact information: [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org); [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org); 802-899-4962.

**JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY**

New hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Our annual Bake and Book Sale at Town Meeting was a great success. We appreciate the wonderful response from everyone! We received many donations to support our day. Special thanks to: Jolley's of Jericho; Ale & Bean; Jericho Cafe and Tavern; Chittenden Mills; Hannaford's of Essex; Poorhouse Pies; and many local Jericho neighbors. Thank you! All proceeds will directly benefit the library.

Please join us for the following weekly programs and special events at Jericho Town Library in Jericho, VT. Building accessibility note: we are working hard on a project to make our historic building accessible to all Vermonters, 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.

**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).

In March, we will be launching a Speculative Fiction Book Club for adults who love science fiction, fantasy, alternate histories, dystopian novels, and anything just a little bit weird! Please check our website for details.

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

**VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE**

There may be a few AARP Tax appointments available with IRS certified volunteers, just call to make the reservation: AARP TaxAide is providing free in-person help by appointment at the Varnum on Monday, March 25. The program is open to taxpayers of all ages; AARP membership is not required. Contact the

library to set up an appointment: 802-644-2117.

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. Our regular weekly offerings this month:

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

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

**Wednesdays, March 20, 27, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Crafternoon.**

**Thursday, March 21, 3:30 – 4:00 PM: Afternoon Story Time.**

**Thursday, March 21, 4:30 – 5:30 PM: Adult Crafting with Patty.**

**Saturday, March 23, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Teen Advisory Board.**

**Tuesday, March 26, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Board Games for All.**

**Thursday, March 28, 4:30 – 6:00 PM: Boundless Book Club.**

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](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com)) and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

We are so proud to be the inaugural episode of the fantastic new library podcast, *Where The Books Are Now*. This was a fun interview and I bet even the most seasoned Westford Public Library patrons will learn something new about your library! To listen to the podcast: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2292143/14420707-wtbanow-episode-1-westford-public-library>.

New art at the Library: *Over Time*, a multimedia exhibition. Long-time Westford resident Janet Jaffe will display selected artworks from her diverse personal collection at the Westford Public Library from mid March-June. Primarily recognized as an improvisational art quilter, Janet has long maintained her primary form of creative expression is doodling. She finds inspiration everywhere. 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. Opening Reception Friday, March 22, 6:30 – 8:00 PM to meet the artist. Refreshments served.

Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 – 8:00 PM:

Library news continued on page 7

**SUMMER CAMPS****Girl Scout day and overnight camps in Vermont**

Registrations are open for Girl Scout day 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.

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/content/dam/girlscoutsgwm-redesign/documents/2017\\_camp/2024-camp/2024-Twin-Hills-Day-Camp-flyer-final.pdf](https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/content/dam/girlscoutsgwm-redesign/documents/2017_camp/2024-camp/2024-Twin-Hills-Day-Camp-flyer-final.pdf).

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/content/dam/girlscoutsgwm-redesign/documents/2017\\_camp/2024-camp/2024-Camp-Farnsworth-flyer-final.pdf](https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/content/dam/girlscoutsgwm-redesign/documents/2017_camp/2024-camp/2024-Camp-Farnsworth-flyer-final.pdf).

**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> and click on 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>.

**Pleasant Valley Porter Farm Summer Camp**

We are pleased to announce openings for our summer camp for children ages 4-12. Join us on the farm for some great summer fun! Camps operate 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Monday-Friday, July 15-August 9:

- Farm Adventure: ages 4-5;
- Navigation and Exploration: ages 6-8;
- The Woods We Live In: ages 9-12.

We offer campers a variety of summer activities, creative play, art, exploring and swimming, and handwork on a farm setting along the Seymour River in Pleasant Valley, Cambridge.

For more information about the summer schedule, camp details, or registration, please visit our website <https://www.maryelizabethfarmschool.com/programs>.

**Registration open for summer camps at Poker Hill Arts**

Summer dreamin' on a cold winter's day! 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 [tdthomas0712@gmail.com](mailto:tdthomas0712@gmail.com); and Music Rocks camps from Mondays, August 12 and 19, contact [timbolandusa@gmail.com](mailto:timbolandusa@gmail.com).

**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](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 [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

For more information, contact [FWGMCC@vermont.gov](mailto:FWGMCC@vermont.gov) or call 802-522-2925.



**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 [gbymca.org/programs/camp-koda](http://gbymca.org/programs/camp-koda)

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



Library news continued from page 6

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. March 21: Bunnies; March 28: Eggs.

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group reads *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. An astounding novel of decadence, debauchery, and secrecy from one of Ireland's greatest writers. Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray makes a Faustian bargain to sell his soul in exchange for eternal youth and beauty. Under the influence of Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, where he is able to indulge his desires while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only Dorian's picture bears the traces of his decadence. A knowing account of a secret life and an analysis of the darker side of late Victorian society, the novel offers a disturbing portrait of an individual coming face to face with the reality of his soul. Shocking in its suggestion of unspeakable sin, this novel was later used as evidence against Wilde when he was tried for indecency in 1895. Print and audio copies available at the library; ebook and audio books available on Libby.

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Table Top Game Night. Hosted by avid table top gamers Bill and Martha McClintock who will bring games from their extensive home game collection to share with those who come. This is a new group, so we will see how it goes. Please come to make things like this possible. Snacks provided. Bring your own beverages.

Friday, March 22, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Opening Reception to meet the artist Janet Jaffe. Refreshments served.

Tuesday, March 26, 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.

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: Zentangle for adults. Come relax and have fun with other adults! All supplies and snacks provided. Signup required. Zentangle is a relaxing and forgiving drawing art form, taught by Zentangle certified instructor Julia Davenport. We work on a small scale with minimal tools. If you can write your name, you can do this art form. It is a great brain break and calms the nervous system, and you will be amazed at what you can create.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (April 3), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (April 20), 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](http://www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/westfordVTpl](http://www.twitter.com/westfordVTpl)). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; [www.westfordpubliclibrary.org](http://www.westfordpubliclibrary.org); [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com).

**Youth events**

Wednesdays, March 20, 27, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Monday, March 25, 3:00 PM: Chess Club. Chess Club is starting up again! Learning chess has been proven to have many benefits: such as building creativity, problem solving and concentration! Ages 7+. Space is limited, so email [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) to sign up!

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 PM: D&D Club. Dragons! Danger! Dice! The library is now hosting a middle school Dungeons&Dragons (D&D) club. Join our DM, Nic, and create a character to take on exciting magical adventures! No prior D&D knowledge is necessary, and players of all experience levels are

**Easter Week services**

**Jericho Congregational Church**, on the Green in Jericho Center, will hold Palm Sunday Service, March 24, 10:00 AM; Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 7:00 PM; Easter Sunday Service, March 31, 10:00 AM. For information: 802-899-4911; [officejcc@comcast.net](mailto:officejcc@comcast.net); [www.jccvt.org](http://www.jccvt.org).

**Calvary Episcopal Church**, located on VT Rt. 15 in Jericho, invites you to Palm Sunday service, Sunday, March 24, 9:30 AM; Maundy Thursday service, March 28 following a monthly Soup/Supper (start time approximately 7:00 PM); Good Friday Walk, Friday, March 29, starts at 12:30 PM with a stop at Calvary Episcopal Church; and Easter Sunday service with communion, Sunday, March 31, 9:30 AM. All are warmly welcome! For information: [calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com](mailto:calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com) or 802-899-0453.

The community is invited to Holy Week and Easter Services at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. The building is accessible, and all are welcome! Palm Sunday, March 24, 9:00 AM service with communion; Monday-Friday, 6:45 – 7:00 AM, Ecumenical Morning Prayer led by area clergy, followed by light continental breakfast; Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM, service with communion; Good Friday, March 29, 4:00 PM, virtual service — to receive Zoom link, subscribe to the ebulletin by Tuesday, March 26 at [www.goodshepherdjericho.org](http://www.goodshepherdjericho.org) (you can unsubscribe at any time); Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 PM, in-person service (Tenebrae, or "Shadows," with gradually extinguished candlelight on a cross); Easter Sunday Worship, March 31, 9:00 AM, festive service with communion, potluck brunch and egg hunt for children follows. For information: [www.goodshepherdjericho.org](http://www.goodshepherdjericho.org).

welcome. Materials provided. Grades 5-8. Club meets every other Tuesday. Please email [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 20, 1:00 PM: Perler Bead Crafternoon. Spend some time making designs with Perler beads! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 PM: Bead Pins and Jewelry. Learn how to make pins and jewelry from safety pins and beads! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or call 802-849-2420 to register!

**Adult events**

Tuesdays, March 19, 26, 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](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Thursday, March 28, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is *The Road from Coorain* by Jill K. Conway. 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 email [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or call 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

**Family events**

March 1-31: Marshmallow Peeps Pageant! Make a book-themed diorama with marshmallow peeps — the sillier the better! For some inspiration, check out the board of ideas the library has curated, at <https://www.pinterest.com/fairfax/peep-pageant-inspiration/>. We will have both a physical display in the library and a virtual gallery online, so feel free to bring in your peep creations yourself, or send a picture of it to [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com). The cutoff date is Sunday, March 31, so make sure to submit your dioramas before then!

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.

Useful links: website, <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org>; 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**

Free stuff: Pause in the entryway and browse the bins. Everything is free! There are many adult DVDs featuring great movies and TV shows and adult fiction and nonfiction audiobooks on CD. See something you like? Take it!

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](mailto:library@richmondvt.gov) or 802-434-3036.

Covid tests: once again, we've got them! Pick up your free tests at the circulation desk. It is wise to have them on hand prior to needing them, so stock up.

Tuesday mornings, through April 9: AARP Volunteer Tax Preparers in the Community Room. Volunteers working with AARP are meeting with seniors to prepare tax returns in the library community room on. Call the library, 802-434-3036, to schedule an appointment.

Throughout March: Solar Eclipse Scavenger Hunt. To help our young library patrons understand and prepare for Vermont's total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, we will have a scavenger hunt set up throughout the library during the month of March. Curious kids can hunt for images of the sun in all phases of the eclipse and take note of what time the sun will appear in our sky like that on Eclipse Day. The hunt begins and ends at the Youth Desk on the second floor.

Saturday, March 23, 11:00 AM: Are you ready for the April 8 eclipse? NASA Solar System Ambassador Bridget Kimsey will be at the library on to get us ready for the total solar eclipse with *Eclipse 101*. Get to know what to look for, how to look for it, and how to keep your eyes and animals safe! Friends and families of all ages are welcome. No registration necessary.

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](mailto:library@richmondvt.gov) or call us at 802-434-3036.

Tuesdays through April 16, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. We have loads of LEGOs. Periodically we offer multi-week sessions of after-school LEGO Club fun for ages 4-12. LEGO enthusiasts work together or separately to build amazing projects. No registration is necessary, just come play!

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group in the Mezzanine Lounge. *Atlas of the Human Heart* by Brene Brown. Contact Gwen Landis (802-434-5012 or [gwenie1972@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenie1972@yahoo.com)) for information on joining this group.

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group in the Mezzanine Lounge. *Wild Justice* by Phillip Margolin. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055 or [mparent@gmavt.net](mailto:mparent@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.

Children's Art from the Ukraine: On loan from The Fermata Arts Foundation in Avon, CT, we will be displaying sixteen drawings done by students of the Vasylykivskyi Children's Art School in Izyum, Kharkiv region, Ukraine. Ranging in age from 9-14, students created a piece in support of Fermata's mission of promoting peace through arts and culture.

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.

Saturday, April 13, 10:30 AM: Local Children's Author Book Reading/Storytime in the Community Room. Do you love sharing the outdoors with the young people in your life? Join us for this interactive book reading suited for ages 2-6. Debut children's author and local musician Rusty Charpentier will be singing songs, leading games, and reading *It's Beautiful Outside Today*. In this story, two kitties venture outside to enjoy the weather no matter the season, reminding us that any day is a beautiful day with exciting and fun things to do. This book is full of positivity and excitement for spending the day together with loved ones and enjoying nature.

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, March 16, 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 (April 8) via Zoom until further notice. All meetings are 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](mailto:rfl@gmavt.net).

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**Call to Artists!**

The Jeffersonville Farmers market is under new management this year after a tumultuous flood season. Operating with a passionate board of directors the market is looking to become a vibrant, reputable community event. To achieve our goals of renewal and revitalization we must create a well respected meaningful brand. We are calling to local artists to help us create a logo that represents our core values of agriculture and the local community. Anyone interested in generating samples for the board to review at the next meeting on March 23rd will be considered first. The logo the board chooses will offer artist compensation as free advertising signage at the market table, special thanks for sponsorship in front porch forum postings, newsletters and social media postings. It truly takes a village to create thriving systems, we ask our neighbors for thoughtful contributions that capture the iconic beauty we all love in this town.

Please submit to [jeffersonvillemarketmanager@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonvillemarketmanager@gmail.com) by 3 28 24

Shares are appreciated!

The MMU Theatre Department Presents

The 50's Rock Musical

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

Fri. & Sat. April 5 & 6 at 7:30  
& Sun. April 7 - at 2:00

Tickets on sale at school starting April 1st  
Available NOW Online at GoFun

\$7 STUDENTS & STAFF  
\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION

For More Info.  
(802) 858-1715

SOME YOUNG CHILDREN MAY FIND THE PUPPETRY SCARY

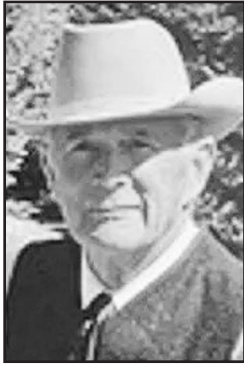
This play contains the portrayal of domestic abuse



## OBITUARIES



**Janna Kaye Smith**, 82 of Jericho, VT passed away peacefully on Monday, March 4, 2024. Daughter of the late Ethel Adair and Ernest Smith, she was born in Cincinnati, OH on April 10, 1941. Kaye grew up in Montgomery, AL and moved to Vermont in 1969. She held numerous jobs in restaurant service, including The Rathskellar, The Old Board, and Kohala Mauna. She then worked at McAuliffe/North Star Leasing until her retirement in 2006, when she traveled and enjoyed spending time with her growing family and grandchildren. A strong, stubborn, outspoken, and fiercely independent single mother, Kaye worked hard to support her family and also played hard. She was known for her raunchy joke telling, followed by her deep, boisterous laugh, and her lively, sparkling green eyes. Her loss will be felt deeply by her surviving family members, including her children Deborah (Nectar) Rorris of S. Burlington, VT, Alan (Kristi) Dean of Camden, AR, and Cecile (Mark) Desmarais of S. Glastonbury, CT; her grandchildren Nicholas, Kelsey, Allison, Zachary, Jack, and Karson; her great-grandchildren Kalynne, Caiden, and Axl; her brother Howard (Carol) Smith; several stepchildren and step-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members. She is predeceased by her parents and her brothers Malcolm C. Smith and Edward W. Smith. Burial and celebration of life services to be held in the spring/summer 2024. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to [stepsvt.org](https://www.stepsvt.org/donate), (<https://www.stepsvt.org/donate>) a local support and advocacy group taking steps to end domestic violence. Arrangements are in the care of the Ready Funeral and Cremation Services. To send online condolences please visit [www.readyfuneral.com](http://www.readyfuneral.com).



Having lived a joy-filled life in which every opportunity to dance was taken and the smallest act of joy or kindness was consistently and readily given, **William Baldwin Skiff**, age 91, left us on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 for his next great adventure. A seventh-generation Vermonter from Jeffersonville, VT, Bill's family history stretches from the first sheriff in the tiny hamlet of Hinesburg, VT to a community-minded sponsor of the old Mary Fletcher Hospital, thus cementing his love of all things Western and a lifelong commitment to personally and professionally making others' lives better. Bill attended Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT), where selling homemade donuts and milk to the guys in the dorms helped 'this old farm-boy' settle in. With a master's in physical education from Springfield College (Springfield, MA), he returned to Stowe, VT to teach PE, mentoring future Olympic skier Billy Kidd. He devoted his professional life to helping others, serving as an Army psychiatric social worker, the administrator of wilderness camps for justice-involved youth in New York state, and as a high school guidance professional at Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU, Jericho, VT). One of his greatest joys, years after retiring from MMU, was to be joyfully greeted by a former student, now happy and with a family of their own, and hear the words "Hey, Mr. Skiff! You sure saved my a&\$ in high school!" Together with his wife Ruth, Bill raised four children, who agree their childhood was a blast. From towing them through snow-covered neighborhood streets behind his Datsun pickup on an old toboggan, to organizing raucous Western-themed barn dances complete with square dancing for their high school graduations, the memories are many. With an irrepressible energy, Bill created occasions that brought people together,

including the Williston (VT) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Frog Jumping Contest, the Williston/Richmond Rotary, the 'old timer' — a humorous character he'd portray at special events — and transformed his and Ruth's farmhouse into a 1920s speakeasy and a mobster den for parties. Essentially a non-musician, he nevertheless played in a Dixieland band and was a standout at wash-tub bass at local "kitchen tunks," often organized by him to provide fellowship and highlight the talent of neighbors and friends. Bill did not let the boundaries of family and work contain him. To the last he was a fully present and integral part of the Williston community, the Bolton Valley (Bolton, VT) staff team, the Butternut Road neighborhood family, and the Residence at Shelburne Bay (Shelburne, VT); a spreader of joy and connection wherever he was. Fortunate to have a caring team of professionals at Birchwood Terrace (Burlington, VT) in the last weeks of his life, he directed the delivery of several Valentine's flowers from his bed and made connections with staff in those short weeks close enough to garner tears upon his passing. Bill joins his wife Ruth and beloved grandson Silas. He leaves behind a legion of friends and family to carry on his legacy of joy, compassion, and service to others, including his children Robyn, Bill, Nan, and Todd and their spouses; five grandchildren, his sister Carol Young, brother Robert, their spouses and children, and about a million daffodils he and Ruth spent years planting along Butternut Road, a perennial reminder of the hope and joy that is always there for the taking. A celebration of Bill's life will take place at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Williston Federated Church, 44 North Williston Rd., Williston, VT. A private ceremony will take place at the Williston East Cemetery, where he will join Ruth at their family bench overlooking the trees. Donations in Bill's honor can be made to the Youth Leadership or Post-High School Trade School/College Scholarship funds at the Williston-Richmond Rotary Charities, P.O. Box 114, Williston, VT, 05495. Arrangements are by Stephen C. Gregory and Son Cremation Service, South Burlington VT.

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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**

March all month: Brownell Writers Challenge. A roller coaster transports you to the past. Write a 3-5 sentence story about when and where you go and what you do there. All youth patrons (children or teens) can participate in this writing challenge! Your story will be entered into a drawing for a \$15 Phoenix Books gift card and may be included in our next 'zine. The winning story may also be published in the *Essex Reporter*.

March all month: Celestial Scavenger Hunt. Find all the celestial orbs in the library and receive some Galaxy Slime! Available while supplies last.

March all month: Solar Eclipse Glasses Kits. Pick up your kit today! Includes two solar eclipse glasses and a NASA safety/activity sheet. Keep your glasses somewhere they won't get damaged.

March all month: Exploration Station. Explore a topographic moon lamp and learn the science behind a solar eclipse with moon and earth models and a flashlight.

March all month: KCR Display: Mae Juniper Stokes: Portals  
March all month: Main Reading Room Community Puzzle. Help put together a puzzle! Found in the main reading room. Puzzles rotate out as they are completed.

March all month: Puzzle Swap. Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle. Adult and kid friendly puzzles welcome! Only puzzles that have all the pieces. Drop your puzzle off on the table next to the main desk.

Thursdays-Fridays, March 21-22 and 28-29, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: AARP Tax-Aide. AARP Foundation provides in-person assistance free of charge with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low-to-moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are located nationwide and are trained and IRS-certified every year. Taxpayers must bring all information and documents that have been received that apply to their 2023 income taxes. Appointments required. Please call 802-878-6955, in advance, to book a 60-minute appointment. The schedule fills up quickly!

Thursdays, March 21, 28, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Story Time. Picture books, songs, rhymes, and crafts. Come read and play with us. In the picture book area.

Friday, March 22-Saturday, March 30, Art Lab: Collage Faces. Explore shape and color while making collage faces, then stop by the youth desk to show us your creation for possible inclusion in our next 'zine. Available while supplies last at the youth non-fiction table. Recommended for all ages.

Friday, March 22, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: D&D (FULL). Dungeons & Dragons players embark on imaginary adventures. The current campaign is full, please email [youth@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:youth@brownelllibrary.org) to check availability. All ages.

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Saturday Stories. Meet in the picture book area for stories, rhymes, and fun!

Saturday, March 23, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Mosaic. Create your own mosaic. We will give you small colored pieces to create your own masterpiece with.

Monday, March 25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Tech Help with Cliff. Offering one-on-one technology help. Reservation required. Please call 802-878-6955 at least 48 hours in advance.

Monday, March 25, 6:30-7:30 PM: Must Read Mondays: *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Tuesday, March 26, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Current Events Discussion Group, in-person and online. This discussion group will attempt to look at, reflect on, and analyze daily events and try to discern trends and understand the national picture and the larger world, basing the discussion on factual information in a non-judgmental framework. Please fill out the online form to receive information on joining this program via GoToMeeting.

Tuesday, March 26, 5:00 – 6:00 PM: Crochet and Knitting Circle. Come hang out in the main reading room with other fiber artists! Bring a project to work on and chat in front of the

fireplace. For the month of March, the crochet/knitting instructor will not be present.

Wednesday, March 27, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Play Time. Read one story together and play! We have giant blocks and other creative play materials. Recommended for families with children ages 1-4.

Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Comics Club. Perfect for all third through sixth grade comic book/graphic novel/manga fans! This month we'll make action figures out of sculptey clay. We will be meeting at Brownell and walking over to the Teen Center together.

Friday, March 29, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Switch. Newcomers and pros alike are invited to take turns playing collaborative and multi-player games on the library's new SWITCH. Recommended for grades 3-8.

Friday, March 29, 5:00 – 8:00 PM: Dungeons & Dragons: One-shot for Adults. Want to give playing Dungeons and Dragons a chance? Come and participate in a one-shot adventure! There will be pre-made character sheets available, or you can build your own beforehand. They should be level 3, any race and class from the base rules. Spaces are limited. First come, first serve. For adults.

Saturday, March 30, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Teen Paint & Sip. Teens in grades 6-12, come make homemade Italian sodas and paint along with a popular *YouTube* tutorial.

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

**ESSEX FREE LIBRARY**

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

*Eclipse events - save the dates!*

Monday, April 1, 9:00 AM: Eclipse glasses distribution begins. Stop by the front desk for yours! Available while supplies last. Patrons may ask for up to three pairs. Reservations not accepted.

Saturday, April 6, 10:00 AM, Memorial Hall: Eclipse Information. Presented by Scott Turnbull, member of the Vermont Astronomical Society. In anticipation of the Total Solar Eclipse coming to our skies on April 8, this informational presentation will explain how a solar eclipse happens. More importantly, methods to safely view an eclipse will be described. A video of a previous total solar eclipse will be presented so that you will know what to expect on the big day. 250 pairs of eclipse glasses will be distributed to participants at the end of the program.

Monday, April 8, 2:00 – 4:30 PM: Viewing Party in the Back Garden. 250 pairs of eclipse glasses will be available. Cloudy day? No worries! We'll be live-streaming NASA's website throughout the library. There will also be an eclipse-themed Storywalk®!

*For all ages*

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

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!

*Children's area*

Through Saturday, March 30: Bear Bingo. Bears have decided that the library is the place to spend the winter! Can you find them all? Grab a bear bingo sheet and search the library for as many as you can find. When you find one, grab a sticker and put it on the matching bear on your sheet. Each completed row earns you a raffle ticket. Tickets can be entered into the raffle box in the children's room for a chance to win a copy of a bear themed picture book! Happy Hunting (but don't wake the bears!)

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

Storywalk® along the back garden fence.

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*

Wednesdays through March 27, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: French Club for Adults. Voulez-vous pratiquer le français ensemble? (Do you want to practice French together?). Designed for adults with some basic (Level 1) French skills who want to improve their French conversation skills and expand their French vocabulary. Meets in the Mezzanine.

Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Evening Zentangle for adults with Julia Davenport. For adults. Enjoy this beautiful art form that welcomes slowing down and tapping into your creativity. No prior art experience needed. Register through the website.

Thursday, April 4, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group. *The Glass Universe* by Dava Sobel. The little-known true story of the unexpected and remarkable contributions to astronomy made by a group of women working in the Harvard College Observatory from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s.

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.

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](mailto:@essexfreelibrary); website <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/>.

## BACKYARD BURNING RULES

PROHIBITED	OKAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garbage</li> <li>• Tires</li> <li>• Rubber</li> <li>• Plastic</li> <li>• Waste Oil</li> <li>• Asphalt Materials</li> <li>• Asbestos</li> <li>• Pressure-treated Wood</li> <li>• Plywood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Wood- timber, logs, boles, trunks, branches, limbs, stumps, untreated lumber</li> <li>• Clean Wood Pallets</li> <li>• Leaves</li> <li>• Brush</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHY NOT BURN?</b></p> <p>Burning trash and debris is illegal and releases many harmful pollutants including:</p> <p><b>Dioxin</b> – causes cancer, birth defects, and enters the food chain.</p> <p><b>HCB</b> – Persistent toxin that enters the food chain and is a probable carcinogen.</p> <p><b>Formaldehyde</b> – causes burning in eyes and throat, nausea, and difficult breathing.</p> <p><b>Hydrogen Chloride Gas</b> – causes fluid buildup in the lungs and possible ulceration of the respiratory tract.</p> <p><b>Particulates</b> – causes respiratory infection.</p> <p><b>Carbon Monoxide</b> – Prevents oxygen from being absorbed by the heart and lungs.</p>	
<p><b>QUESTIONS?</b></p> <p>Please call your local fire warden prior to burning for a permit. Feel free to contact the Vermont DEC Air Quality and Climate Division at (802) 828-1288 with any questions or concerns.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: green;">Recycle, Reuse, Respect</p>	

VERMONT  
 Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation



## ART / MUSIC / THEATER

**Intermediate Watercolor Classes with Artist Kathleen Berry Bergeron** will be offered in Richmond beginning Friday, April 12 for six weeks on Fridays, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Contact [paint78@hotmail.com](mailto:paint78@hotmail.com) ASAP if interested.

**The Impossible, A Telling of Cinderella's Story** will be performed at Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho on Saturday, April 13 at 1:30 and 6:30 PM, and on Sunday, April 14 at 1:30 PM. Ticket information can be found at <https://vermontyouthdancers.org/>. *Cinderella* is a story of inner strength, self-discovery and perseverance. Though they lead very different lives, both Prince Edward and Cinderella must stay true to themselves, while struggling under the scrutiny of family expectations. While Ella survives the tragic loss of her parents and forced servitude in a family in which she never really belongs, Edward must establish his role in the royal family, insisting on his own choices — contrary to tradition. Both wish to be seen for who they are, maintaining their kind and gentle nature, forgiving those who were most harsh, and finding each other and true friendships along the way.

Vermont Youth Dancers is a local dance company founded in 2006, by Jericho resident Mia Groff, and co-directed with Theresa Robinson. VYD's cast of 37 includes dozens of local talented dancers ages 8-18 from Jericho, Underhill, Essex, West Bolton, and Williston. This nonprofit organization focuses on offering performance opportunities and leadership development to local dancers while also giving back to other local nonprofit agencies.

"This production is a full circle moment for our company as 2010's production of *Cinderella Unwritten* was Vermont Youth Dancers' very first production," says Mia Groff, founding artistic director. "We are so proud of our growth and continued success, and are grateful to all the families past and present who have believed in what seemed an 'Impossible' dream."

With this show, Vermont Youth Dancers highlights the work of *Reframe*, a thrift shop for teens in Jericho ("threads for the true you!"). *Reframe* is an up-scale nonprofit teen thrift boutique run entirely by donations and volunteers — providing gently used and new clothing, room decor, school supplies, and personal hygiene products. This unique shop serves all teens in our community, including those experiencing hardships, and strives to provide a unique and fun experience for teens to shop affordably in a supportive, welcoming, and respectful environment. Thank you for helping us support their work!

**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](mailto:info@nereadersandwriters.com). Our next author is Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison and we are reading *Song of Solomon* and *Jazz*, as follows: *Jazz*: March 19, chapter beginning with "The hat, pushed back on her forehead," through "Golden Gray watched and he thought he was ready for those deer eyes to open;" March 26, chapter beginning with "A thing like that could harm you" to end. Upcoming authors include László Krasznahorkai, Patrick Modiano, Iris Murdoch, David Foster Wallace, Colum McCann, Saul Bellow, and Thomas Pynchon.

**Artistry in Underhill Town Hall** — A collection of varied and unique art is viewable throughout Underhill Town Hall! Come see the latest creative showing by your neighbors, friends, and fellow townspeople. Thanks to those who have freely offered their work. Thanks to community energy and the leadership of the Underhill Arts Council, which is committed to inspiring the community by highlighting local art and craft. Our goal is to bring forward all forms of creative expression. All ages are welcome! Have something you'd like to share? Please contact John Connell, [jc6greenmont@gmail.com](mailto:jc6greenmont@gmail.com), or Mary Hill, [maryhillstudios@gmail.com](mailto:maryhillstudios@gmail.com).

**The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville in their 40<sup>th</sup> season** presents three 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 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. Third, the Gallery continues to collaborate with Lamoille Union High School, displaying the most recent Student Art Exhibition in the Middle

Gallery through Sunday, March 24. Always intriguing, this exhibit provides a glimpse into the work being created at the high school art level. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or [info@bryangallery.org](mailto:info@bryangallery.org) or [www.bryangallery.org](http://www.bryangallery.org).

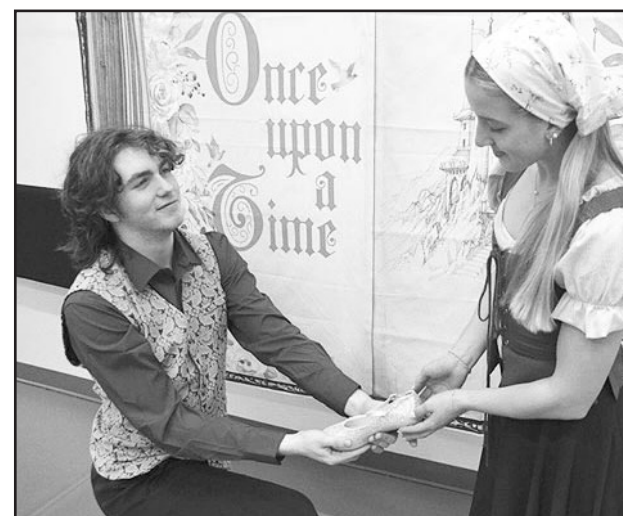
**At Bryan Fine Art Gallery in Stowe** through Sunday, July 14: *Evoking Vermont's Landscape*. Six talented Vermont artists showcase their original interpretations of the state's diverse scenery, celebrating Vermont's natural surroundings in works that capture the spirit of Vermont, each artist bringing 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](http://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](mailto:info@bryangallery.org).

**CASAN seeking sponsors for virtual arts fundraiser** — Would you like to receive a poem in your inbox every day in April? Or a sketch or photo weekly? Enliven your April and help new neighbors as they navigate the legal process of seeking asylum by being an Arts for Asylum Seekers sponsor. How it works: the Chittenden Asylum Seekers Association (CASAN) has recruited a talented group of art creators who will be producing original work (poetry, photography, crafts, videos, and more) throughout the month of April. You can sponsor their participation in Arts for Asylum Seekers by making a donation to CASAN. You will then receive their creative work daily or weekly through email or another online method. To see the full list of participating art creators and to sign up to sponsor, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/casan-vermont/arts-for-asylum-seekers/information-for-sponsors> on CASAN's website <https://sites.google.com/view/casan-vermont>. Questions? Write to [artsforasylumseekers@gmail.com](mailto:artsforasylumseekers@gmail.com). CASAN assists people who have come to Chittenden County in pursuit of the legal process of seeking asylum. Asylum seekers are not eligible for work permits until well into their legal process, and do not qualify for many kinds of government assistance, in contrast to those with refugee status. CASAN is a registered 501(c)(3) organization; all donations are tax deductible.

**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 — April 4: Annelein Boekenkamp, a Vermont watercolorist, speaks on her process and journey; 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 (March 20, April 17), 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. It's a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. 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 [CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityJamJUVT@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 (March 27, April 11, 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@](mailto:lar.2436@)



**The Impossible, A Telling of Cinderella's Story** will be performed at Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho on Saturday, April 13 at 1:30 and 6:30 PM, and on Sunday, April 14 at 1:30 PM. Pictured above are Cinderella (Summer Clough), Prince Edward (Beck Samuelsen), and the slipper. Ticket information can be found at <https://vermontyouthdancers.org/>. *Cinderella* is a story of inner strength, self-discovery and perseverance. Though they lead very different lives, both Prince Edward and Cinderella must stay true to themselves, while struggling under the scrutiny of family expectations. While Ella survives the tragic loss of her parents and forced servitude in a family in which she never really belongs, Edward must establish his role in the royal family, insisting on his own choices — contrary to tradition. Both wish to be seen for who they are, maintaining their kind and gentle nature, forgiving those who were most harsh, and finding each other and true friendships along the way. This story is told in a full-length production, with an unexpected blend of rousing hip-hop and inspiring lyrical choreography, with modern song choices that "tell" the story. Dance itself is infused with drama as the cast brings characters to life through movement and acting, with imaginative staging, beautiful costumes, and brilliant set pieces and lighting.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

[gmail.com](mailto:gmail.com), or Doug Varney, 802-343-4513 or [vhockeyman@gmail.com](mailto:vhockeyman@gmail.com), or just show up!

**The Westford Music Series** concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. The lineup for the rest of the 2023-2024 season: March 24, *Dale and Darcy Trio*; April 7: *Heliand*; May 5, *Howling Waters*.

**News from Burlington City Arts (BCA; <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/>):** In the lower-level and first-floor galleries, *Here Now: Art and Migration* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/here-now-art-and-migration>) features a group of international and national artists exploring concepts of borders, movement, and migration across local urban centers and global geographies. Sajjad Abbas (Baghdad, Iraq), Teresa Baker (Los Angeles, CA), Lydia Nakashima Degarrod (Oakland, CA), Verónica Gaona (Houston, TX), Paula Higa (Burlington, VT), Matthew Schrader (Middlebury, VT), and Edra Soto (Chicago, IL) boldly reimagine borders as sites of historical investigation, social reckoning, and conduits of an emerging aesthetic. On the second floor, *Margaret Jacobs: Kinship* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/margaret-jacobs-kinship>) explores the tensions and harmonies between the man-made and natural worlds through steel sculptures and finely crafted jewelry. Jacobs is an enrolled member of the Akwesasne Mohawk tribe and cultural histories and identity inform her belief that materials have their own distinct narratives.

**The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for its annual Creation Grant**, which supports artists or artist groups in creating new work. Grant funds may be used to compensate artists for time spent creating new work, to purchase materials, or to rent equipment or space for the process. This highly competitive program is reviewed by an independent panel of practicing artists and arts professionals. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Examples of fundable projects: a multimedia artist creating a new video series; a writer completing the first draft of a novel; a dance ensemble developing choreography for a new piece; a visual artist creating art for exhibition that explores new subjects and techniques; and a musician composing music for a new album. Application deadline: Tuesday, April 9. Learn more and apply at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/artists/creation/>.

## SENIOR NEWS

## 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 — April 10 — 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](mailto:rpecor@hotmail.com), by the Friday before the meal is to be delivered.

## It's March for Meals in Lamoille County

By Leanne Hoppe, Central Vermont Council on Aging

We want our community to know we're here for you, now and in the future, offering programs, services, and support to you and your family members.

This month, we're sharing the great work of the nutrition program in Lamoille County that provides home-delivered, Grab'n'Go, and community meals throughout the week.

Nutrition programs rely on an amazing collective of dedicated volunteers and community partners to get over 200,000 meals

out annually throughout Central Vermont.

Thank you Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County for all you do!

Here are three diverse ways you can contribute to the effort:

1. Attend a local meal and donate to your local nutrition program (<https://cvcoa.org/nutrition-programs>).

2. Submit your family's favorite recipe to [recipes@cvcoa.org](mailto:recipes@cvcoa.org) for inclusion in a database for nutrition programs to use in their menus.

3. If you enjoy fitness classes and would like to help others learn and socialize together, sign up for a free training to become a certified exercise class leader and teach a free class at your local senior center (<https://cvcoa.org/blog/upcoming-exercise-class-leader-training-opportunities>).

Or, contact Anne Greshin ([agreshin@cvcoa.org](mailto:agreshin@cvcoa.org)) for more information.

## Feeling stretched as a caregiver? Age Well has a class to help

Age Well is offering a *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* class beginning this April.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series

designed to provide you with the tools you need to take care of yourself. This program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, improve communication, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions, and locate helpful resources.

The caregiver class consists of six sessions held once a week for 90 minutes. Two experienced Class Leaders conduct the series (many are experienced caregivers themselves, who have successfully applied the techniques they teach). Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the "tools" you choose and put them into action for your life.

Participants will receive a book, *The Caregiver Helpbook*, free of charge.

For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Harbison and Emily Raymond at [ptc@agewellvt.org](mailto:ptc@agewellvt.org). You can also call Age Well's Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 and ask to speak with someone about the upcoming *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* class. Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required.

Classes will be held the Age Well Colchester Office, 875 Roosevelt Hwy, Ste 210. Sessions are held for six Thursdays in a row and will run from April 4-May 9. Classes will take place from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.



## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



The Champlain Hills Vermont Master Naturalist (VMN) chapter is centered where the towns of Underhill, Cambridge, Fletcher, Fairfax, and Westford meet. We welcome participants from across a broader area, but the geological story and the natural communities we visit will be most relevant to residents of the region outlined in green. (Map created with layers from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources).

PHOTOS AND MAP BY SOPHIE MAZOWITA

## Vermont Master Naturalist class beginning in April

Join a community of naturalists and learn to read the local landscape over a series of five place-based field trips, from geology and glacial history to plants and wildlife, human land use history, and more.

This new "Champlain Hills" Vermont Master Naturalist program (Underhill, Cambridge, Fletcher, Fairfax and Westford) runs on Saturdays, April 13, May 11, June 15, September 28, and December 7. For applications and more information, go online to <http://www.vermontmasternaturalist.org/champlain-hills>.

## Clutter Barn opening for donations May 4

The Clutter Barn at United Church of Underhill is gearing up for another season. Although it started as Crocker's Clutter 50 years ago when the only sale was Harvest Market weekend, this summer we will be having sales at the end of every month from May through September. Watch the next issues of the *Mountain Gazette* for a complete summer schedule of donation days and Tag Sale dates.

This poem, written by Betty Wilson, is a reminder to start gathering up your donations. We start the season accepting the clothing people need now, which is spring and summer clothing. So, tuck away your fall and winter clothing until August. We will happily accept them then... but not now.

If you happen to see  
Some activity  
Around UCU CLUTTER BARN  
We're airing it out  
So have not a doubt  
The door will be opening soon.

Start gathering up  
Unused dishes and cups,  
Toys and puzzles and books;  
All gently used stuff  
You've had long enough —  
Check drawers and closets and nooks.

Knick-knacks and games,  
Pictures and frames,  
Spring/summer clothes long outgrown  
Linens, pot holders,  
Office goods, folders,  
Fabric from things you have sewn.

Then a circle affix  
Around May the 4<sup>th</sup>  
And bring all your treasures in,  
Thanks for your help  
In filling our shelves!  
Now the CLUTTER BARN season can begin!

## CSWD spring Rover dates

By Alise Certa,

CSWD Marketing & Communications Manager

The Rover, CSWD's mobile household hazardous waste collection unit, accepts a wide variety of household hazardous waste at no charge from Chittenden County residents. (Note, business waste is not accepted.) CSWD provides the Rover as a service to residents who cannot make the trip to the Environmental Depot, our permanent hazardous waste collection facility located in South Burlington.

There are three dates this spring:

- Saturday, April 20: Colchester (Mallets Bay School);
- Saturday, May 18: Milton (CSWD Drop-Off Center);
- Saturday, June 8: Essex (CSWD Drop-Off Center).

For times and information on what the Rover accepts, please visit our website, <https://cswd.net/hazardous-waste/rover/>.

Can't make it to the Rover? Avoid the lines and schedule an appointment year 'round at the Environmental Depot! The Environmental Depot accepts more materials than the Rover does, and is always the best place to take your hazardous waste. Making an appointment is easy — just visit our Depot page (<https://cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/environmental-depot/>) and click the "make an appointment" button.

## Bears are waking up — take steps now to prevent bear conflicts

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VTF&W) has begun, as of March 8 or sooner, to receive reports of bears coming out of their dens, and is urging Vermonters to take steps now to prevent conflicts with bears over the spring and summer.

"Vermonters need to act to prevent bear conflicts now, even if they have never had a bear visit their property before," said Jaclyn Comeau, the VTF&W's bear biologist. "Do not wait to take down your bird feeders and bear-proof your yard until a bear comes to visit."

Bear incidents have been on the rise over the past several years. Officials believe this trend is a result of Vermont's healthy black bear population learning to associate people and food over multiple generations.

Shorter winters also mean that bears are emerging from their dens earlier in the spring. In recent years bear activity has begun in mid-March, roughly two weeks earlier than what is typically thought of as the start of bear-aware season in northern New England.

"Mid-March is the time for Vermonters to take down our bird feeders, make sure our garbage is secure, and protect our backyard chickens and bees with an electric fence," said Comeau. "This helps teach bears that our yards and neighborhoods are not good places to search for food. But, it will only work if everyone does their part."

VTF&W asks Vermonters to take the following proactive steps for coexisting with bears:

- take down bird feeders between mid-March and December;
- store garbage in bear-resistant containers or structures — trash cans alone are not enough;
- follow the steps on our web page for composting in bear country (<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears/composting-in-bear-country#:~:text=Bears%20can%20smell%20bird%20seed,speeds%20up%20the%20composting%20process>);
- use electric fences to keep chickens and honeybees safe (<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears/protect-your-property-with-a-zap>);
- request a bear-resistant dumpster from your waste hauler;
- feed your pets indoors;
- never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.

"Preventing bears from having access to human-related foods is key to successful coexistence with these long-lived and intelligent animals," said Comeau.

VTF&W also asks Vermonters to submit reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting bird feeders and garbage, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds. Reports can be submitted on the department's Living with Black Bears webpage, <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears#:~:text=Vermonters%20must%20take%20reasonable%20measures,feed%20bears%20deliberately%20or%20accidentally>. The data help biologists keep track of bear incidents and provide early interventions to head off conflicts.

"At the end of the day, purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear," said Comeau. "It is also dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it is illegal. If bears are finding food on your property it is your responsibility to remove that attractant and report a problem before the situation escalates."

## Heat pumps: rebates, tax credits, and financing

From Efficiency Vermont

There are multiple ways to save on new heat pump technology. Start with a rebate from Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with your electric utility.

- Save thousands on an air-to-water or ground-source heat pump installed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor.
- Instant discounts start at \$350 for qualifying ductless heat pumps and \$1000 for ducted units.
- If you're income-qualified, you may be eligible for an additional bonus — even free upgrades!

Paying for your project monthly is fast, easy, and flexible. Look to Efficiency Vermont for a Home Energy Loan which starts at 0% interest. Or, pay for your project right on your monthly utility bill when combined with a weatherization project, through the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP).

And don't forget tax time! The federal government is offering a tax credit of 30% (up to \$2000) on heat pumps and heat pump water heaters for tax years 2023-2032. This credit, as well as other home efficiency incentives, is available to qualifying parties.

These systems can handle Vermont's cold winters, and work alongside your existing heating system for the very coldest days of the year. Plus, you'll also stay more comfortable year-round with air conditioning through the same system.

Start saving today at <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/heat-pumps>.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Training offered April 6 for new hunter education instructors

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is offering a New Instructor Training Course for people interested in volunteering to teach Hunter Education courses in Vermont.

The training will take place Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the R.E.C. Zone, 94 Harvest Lane, Williston, VT 05495.

All applicants must complete their instructor paperwork and online homework before attending the course. Instructor application paperwork can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/2pfr7c44](http://www.tinyurl.com/2pfr7c44), or call 802-828-1193 prior to the course date.

Policies and procedures, field techniques, and teaching methods will be covered to give instructors the tools to teach future hunters how to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Lunch will be provided. Be prepared to be outside for at least part of the day.

Applicants are required to pass a background check with a Vermont State Game Warden and apprentice-teach with a chief instructor before they will receive their full State of Vermont Hunter Education Instructor certification.

"Our hunter education instructors are all volunteers, donating their time to pass on a cherished Vermont tradition," said Hunter Education Training Coordinator Nathan Lafont. "The hours our instructors put in will leverage federal dollars that enable the Hunter Education Program to function."

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available for free upon request. Requests should be made as early as possible; please call the office staff at 802-828-1193 (voice) or 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

### Fly Fishing Film Festival March 27

Catch the International Fly Fishing Film Festival ("IF4") at the Essex Cinema, Essex Way, Essex Junction on Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 – 9:00 PM! Presented by your neighbor members of Champlain Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU), this exclusive one-night will screen exciting short films features by leading independent filmmakers. The films feature magnificent fishing adventures set in breathtaking natural surroundings that will fascinate fishing fanatics and non-anglers alike!

All net proceeds support CVTU's mission of conservation and education, including habitat restoration projects, the Trout in the Classroom program, Vermont Trout Camp scholarships, and more.

You won't find these fantastic films anywhere else! Tickets (\$20) are available online at <https://www.vtu.org/> and at the door (cash or check, please). See you at IF4 March 27!

### Girls on the Run Cambridge registration open

Registration is open now for Girls on the Run in Cambridge! Find details and register online at <https://www.gotrvt.org/>. Space is limited!

Our 10-week program is for Cambridge and Waterville students in grades 3-6. Our season begins Tuesday, March 19. Our team will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM at the Cambridge Elementary School gym.

The registration fee is \$95. GOTRVT provides financial assistance directly on the registration form for qualifying families as well as a payment plan. GOTRVT is committed to being accessible to any student who wants to participate and is dedicated to ensuring that program cost is not a barrier. Please contact GOTRVT directly at 802- 871-5664 regarding financial assistance options.

### GOTR underway this week

With trained coaches ready to empower these participants, Girls on the Run (grades 3-5) and Heart & Sole (grades 6-8) is currently set to take place at the following schools: Cambridge Elementary School, Jericho Elementary School, Richmond Elementary School, Underhill Central School, and Westford Elementary School. Browns River Middle School is still in need of coaches.

Girls on the Run VT (GOTR) is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires students in grades 3-8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The ten-week

Sports news continued on page 12

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### HANDYMAN/CONSTRUCTION

Jay and Jeremy

# HANDYMAN

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## SCHOOL NEWS

## Learn more about the EWSD budget online

By Ben Dickie, Communications/Public Relations Coordinator, EWSD

Visit the new and improved Essex Westford School District (EWSD) budget website — it's your one-stop shop for:

- presentations and videos from Board meetings;
- budget line item details;
- news stories on the school budgeting process in Vermont;
- annual meeting warning;
- budget archives and more.

Check it out online at <http://www.ewsd.org/budget>.

## MMU Project Grad Casino Night fundraiser

Please join MMU's Project Grad on Saturday, March 30 for Casino Night! The event will take place at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Burlington, Williston Rd., S. Burlington, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (to join online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/casino-nightbenefiting-mmuclass-of-2024-project-graduation-tickets-819023099137?>).

Let's not gamble with our kids, instead join us for this 21+ event to raise money for MMU 2024 Project Graduation, a substance-free celebration for the graduates that takes place the night of graduation. It's a safe and fun way for the graduates to celebrate the end of one era and the beginning of their next.

Join us and try your hand at Blackjack, Poker, Craps, or Roulette. Have fun at the tables with special guest dealers! Exchange your chips for chances on great prizes at the end of the night, including gift certificates to Matt's Wash and Wax, Hotel Vermont, Smugglers' Notch, JCAT, Shelburne Vineyards, Foam Brewery, and more!

Tickets are \$45 and include 150 playing chips and appetizers. Cash bar. To purchase tickets, please go to the link given above or to <https://www.eventbrite.com/> and search MMU Casino Night!

## JES Seed Sale benefits Farm to School program

Jericho Elementary Farm to School is partnering with High Mowing Seeds to fundraise for the Jericho Elementary School (JES) Farm to School program. If you order your seeds through this fundraiser, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to our JES Farm to School program.

Please note — when an item is out of stock or on backorder, we will substitute it with a similar variety so that your order ships complete. Orders must be placed with JES and not with High Mowing directly.

Orders are due by Thursday, March 28. Order online at <https://high-mowing-seed-fundraiser.cheddarup.com>.

Seeds will be sent home with students before April break. If you do not have a student at JES, you will need to make arrangements to pick them up from the school. An email will be sent at a later date with pickup information.

For growing information, please visit <http://highmowingseeds.com>.

You may also order by sending the paper form and payment back to the school with your child.

## MMUUSD's last day of school June 18

From John Alberghini, MMUUSD Superintendent

Planning for summer care and camps has become increasingly difficult for families over the past several years as school cancellations due to weather, flooding, and other emergencies have extended the school year. In an effort to support families in effectively planning for the summer, we are setting the last student day for this year on Tuesday, June 18.

Based on the number of emergency school closures so far this year, we will meet our traditional number of 178 school days. The state requires 175 student days. Therefore, if we have additional school closures, MMUUSD will repurpose the student days for staff professional development and set the last student day on Tuesday, June 18. This is a practice that will continue in subsequent school years.

## Saxon Hill School registration open for 2024-2025

Registration is now open to new families for the 2024-2025 school year! Come join Saxon Hill School (SHS), a family-cooperative preschool offering three NAEYC accredited programs, including kindergarten, for children ages 3-6. Our school is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy and is a unique and wonderful place for young children and their families. Saxon Hill is located in Jericho, where it has been serving Jericho and the surrounding communities since 1964.

Our mission: Saxon Hill School is committed to working in partnership with families and communities to educate and support children while heeding their individual needs for growth and development.

For more information please visit <https://saxonhillschool.org/registration.html> or email [Registrar@SaxonHillSchool.org](mailto:Registrar@SaxonHillSchool.org).

## UVM-4H Showcase explores range of STEM topics

STEM Showcase 6.0, presented by University of Vermont (UVM) STEM Ambassadors, offers a fun, hands-on learning opportunity for students in grades 3-9 who are interested in exploring science, technology, and engineering.

The Saturday, March 23 event will be held on the UVM campus in Burlington, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Although free, registration is required as space is limited. Registrations will be accepted until Wednesday, March 20 or until the showcase is filled.

To register, go to <https://go.uvm.edu/stem6>. A confirmation email with address and parking information will be sent to all registered participants.

Students may sign up for two workshops, which include:

- 3...2...1...Blast Off! Recyclable Rockets;

- Lift and Force: Paper-Plane Olympics;
- Biomimicry: Where Nature Inspires Invention;
- Robo Dance Off: Robots Groove;
- Slime Defenders: The Power of Antibodies; and
- Digestive Power and Medicine Coating: Exploring Engineering and Anatomy.

The STEM Ambassadors program is a collaboration between the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and UVM Extension 4-H. UVM students majoring in sciences, technology, engineering, or math may apply to be an ambassador and receive training to lead hands-on, experiential learning activities for youths in Vermont.

## Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities now open

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service.

Applications, due on Wednesday, May 1 for three \$2000 scholarships, which will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher. Applications can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails>. Students need to submit two essays (500 words), one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required, <https://bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec>.

The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on Saturday, June 1.

Questions can be directed to Becky Miller, [lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com](mailto:lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com).

School news continued on page 12

## Her

By Kimberly Madura

She used to compare herself to a butterfly. Before she disappeared she said she was in the chrysalis phase. Didn't she know all butterflies are lost and Madame Butterfly dies in the end.

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\*Subject to availability and eligibility.



Learn More



Sports News continued from page 10

program incorporates movement to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others. Volunteer coaches utilize a research-based curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons that foster the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of participants.

The spring season began the week of March 18 statewide. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all teams participating in one of two noncompetitive, celebratory 5K events in Essex at the Champlain Valley Expo on Saturday, June 1. The event brings together family, friends, and community members to celebrate the participants' growth throughout the season.

The program fee for the spring 2024 season is \$130 and financial aid is available to those who need it. The program fee includes registration and activities for the end-of-season 5K event, a program t-shirt, personal journal to use throughout the season, cinch sack, water bottle, and more. Information about the program and registration can be found on the Girls on the Run Vermont's website: <http://www.gotrvt.org/register-now>.

### Westford Girls spring basketball

Westford Parks & Recreation Girls Youth Basketball program runs this year on Tuesdays only, March 12-May 14, all sessions 6:30 – 8:00 or 8:30 PM at the Westford School Gym. The program is free, but girls must register to participate.

This program is designed to help the girls build confidence and self-esteem through the great game of basketball. Whether your daughter is a beginner or experienced, we will match the instruction to the player.

The girls will work on basic skills, shooting, and ball handling through potential game-like situations. We will focus on proper shooting techniques with multiple drills to encourage good habits.

If you want to register your child or have questions, please contact Westford Parks & Recreation at [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us).

### Browns River Little League needs umpires

The Browns River Little League, which serves Jericho and Underhill children, is looking for volunteer umpires to join our crew this season! We strive for the highest level of sportsmanship in a friendly environment — coaches, parents, kids, and umpires. Little League is committed to volunteer staff leading by example with good humor. You don't need to be a baseball or softball expert or an athlete to learn the rules of the game and make sure that children and their families enjoy a season of play and learning together.

Over the years, the League has had women coaching and girls playing, but we've never had a woman behind the plate and we'd love to change that. Umpiring is first and foremost about fairness and safety, not about being the judge who's always right. Those of us who have done this for a while can give you plenty of examples of the times we got it wrong. If you're not sure and just want to learn more, there will be an informational meeting at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho on Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 PM. The League offers support, training and equipment, and a flexible commitment; no in-depth knowledge is required, just an interest in baseball and helping local kids and their families. Teens and adults, men and women are all welcome.

If you're interested or want more information contact Bob Robbins, [rjrobbins802@gmail.com](mailto:rjrobbins802@gmail.com) or 802-899-2436. Our short season runs early May to mid-June. Come out, learn a new skill, and join our local families in the spring sunshine. (Weather subject to change!)

### Mount Mansfield Girls Lacrosse Club – 2024 registration

Welcome to the 2024 season of middle school Girls' Lacrosse. This program is for girls in grades 4-8. The season starts at the end of March (depending on snow) and runs through first week of June.

Practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, at Browns River Middle School on River Road, Jericho. Games are Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June.

Please email [melissamutolo@live.com](mailto:melissamutolo@live.com) for registration.

### Cambridge Little League registration open

Sign up for the spring season of baseball and softball with Cambridge Little League! Registration is open through March 31, online at <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/cambridgellvt>. On the website, create an account and profile for your child, and select the appropriate baseball or softball program.

Coaches and volunteers with all levels of experience are also needed — opportunities are available during registration.

For more information or with questions, contact [cambridgeyouthbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgeyouthbaseball@gmail.com) or check out our Facebook page *Cambridge Youth Baseball and Softball*.

School news continued from page 11

### Help with child care costs in Vermont

**From the Vermont Department for Children and Families**  
Does your family need help paying for child care, preschool, or afterschool services? The Child Care Financial Assistance Program helps Vermont children access quality child care by covering some or all child care costs for eligible families.

- To be eligible for financial assistance, families must:
- have child(ren) age 6 weeks to 13 years (19 years for those with special needs);
- have an approved reason for needing child care, like work or training;
- meet Vermont's income guidelines (even a family of four making \$105,000 qualifies);
- be a Vermont resident;
- have less than \$1 million in assets; and
- have child(ren) with an eligible citizenship status (not required starting Monday, July 1).

Does this sound like your family? Visit the program's webpage (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap>) to learn more.

If you have questions, you can contact your local Community Child Care Support Agency (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/contacts/partners/cccsa>). Agency staff can also help you find child care, preschool, or afterschool services.

Change is coming! If you don't meet the income guidelines now, you may on Sunday, April 7. New guidelines will expand eligibility based on family size and income. More families may qualify for assistance; for example, a family of four making \$124,800 will qualify. Subscribe to receive news/updates on our homepage at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>.

The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is a service of the Child Development Division, a part of the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

### Orange Salvation

By Kimberly Madura

Climbing the cool white marble spiral staircase, sun and color tumbling down through the stained glass windows. A purifying feeling comes over me. Bursts of orange and blue strike me the most, and keep me mesmerized in a daydream of lunar caustics and crayola light. I hold on until I lose the warmth.



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