

News and notes from Westford

August Primary Election: The ballots for the Tuesday, August 9, 2022 Primary Election are now available. You can request an absentee ballot by filling out an absentee ballot request form (available in the Town Office), via email request to the Town Clerk, or by visiting the MyVoter page here: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Please note that to receive an absentee ballot for the August Primary you MUST request one to be sent to you.

The Town Office will be closed on August 9.

Property Tax Bills: You should receive your 2022 property tax bill no later than Friday, July 15. Please contact the Town Office if you do not receive your tax bill by that date.

The first of four installments is due Monday, August 15. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have an August 15 postmark (postal, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30 AM on Thursday, August 16. If your taxes are escrowed, it is your responsibility to forward a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage company in a timely manner while retaining a copy for your records.

Please note: If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark and therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office, not by the date on the check.

In July, the State will send notification to homeowners explaining the Education Tax Credit. If you are receiving a school tax adjustment, it will be reflected on your tax bill. You should compare the letter with your tax bill.

Westford Common Committee: With spring upon us and summer not far behind, the Westford Common Committee wants to remind residents that any major use of the Common requires a written request. This does not apply to small gatherings like parents and kids having a picnic. This policy has been implemented to avoid conflicts since there is more use of the Common. An application is especially necessary if you plan to use the Gazebo and will guarantee you the exclusive use of the Gazebo. We ask all town organizations to also follow this procedure so the calendar will reflect all plans. Here is a link to the application: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Westford-Common-Use-Application-Policy.pdf>. If you have any questions, please call the Town Office for assistance: 802-878-4587

Westford Common Hall: Would you like to use the Westford Common Hall building or grounds to host your next family gathering, display your art exhibit, or for a concert or public event? To request a date, contact info@westfordcommonhall.org.

Westford Conservation Commission notes: All trails are open. We ask that you continue to be cautious if any trails remain saturated. We know there are perpetual wet spots, and we're trying to remediate as many as we can. Please let us know of any large areas of standing water in a trail or other trouble spots, including downed trees or other required maintenance. Email westfordcc@googlegroups.com. Please respect private landowners whose property trails may run through. All users and their animals must stay within trail right-of-way limits.

Please clean up after your dog! Thank you to all those who answered the call to assist with dog-dooty duty at the school trails. Volunteers will empty the receptacles near both kiosks at the school trails, but dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs and disposing of the waste in the receptacles.

Tick awareness: Ticks are always around. Be sure to check your skin and clothing after spending time in the forest and fields of our trails.

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**Thank you
Nate Sullivan**



Congratulations Nate Sullivan! Your 20 years of service with the Town of Underhill Highway Department are a true testimony of your dedication to the organization, and you are truly valued for your contributions. We want to express our gratitude and appreciation for your efforts over the years as you realize this milestone. Dedicated employees like you are the foundation of any successful town. Please join the Town of Underhill in congratulating Nate when you see him.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Clark joins Underhill road crew

The Town of Underhill welcomes Russ Clark as the newest member of the Underhill Road Crew. Russ was born and raised in Underhill and was a member of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) for 18 years. Russ lives in Cambridge with his wife Kate and two sons Tyler and Ryan. When he's not working, he enjoys quality time with his family, hunting, and watching his boys play sports. Professionally, Russ worked with his family operating Clark's Truck Center in Jericho for 35 years. A few words from Russ about this big change: "The municipal world has always interested me and I look forward to working with the road crew to keep the town roads smooth in the summer and plowed and sanded in the winter. When you see us working, give us a wave and a thumbs up as I know we will all work well together keeping Underhill's roads safe." The Town of Underhill is excited to add a fourth full-time crew member to our team of capable and dedicated highway employees, and know that Russ's great smile and can-do attitude will help keep things positive during the long, cold winter days in Underhill. Welcome Russ!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



**Peter Armata receives
Land Stewards Award**

Peter Armata of Westford received a Land Stewards Award presented by the Vermont Land Trust, along with a check for \$300. Seven other students across the state also received awards. Armata says being outside in the forest is where he belongs. His experience and connection to the land has deepened as a student at The Center for Technology in Essex. His teacher Brian Japp nominated Peter for the award after watching him learn about the economic and ecological role of forestland. He said that through this learning, Peter discovered he wanted to build a career that supports the health working forestland. Peter's immediate goal is to start a small firewood business. He has ordered logs and is in the process of procuring a wood splitter. His hope is that his small business will be a launching point for a long career in our working forests "I hope to expand my firewood business into something I can do full time," said Peter. "With the decline in people working in the forest, I hope I can inspire younger people to enjoy the woods the way I do."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Heather Armata named
new executive director
Westford Town Hall**

The Westford Common Hall (WCH) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of Heather Armata as Executive Director to provide a leadership presence and to be a point person representing the WCH to the public. The primary focus of the position will be on fundraising development and working with appropriate WCH committees to establish a Development Plan. The WCH Board sees many new opportunities on the horizon, both with building improvements as well as expanding use for community activities, and we are excited to welcome Heather to help us bring these plans to fruition!

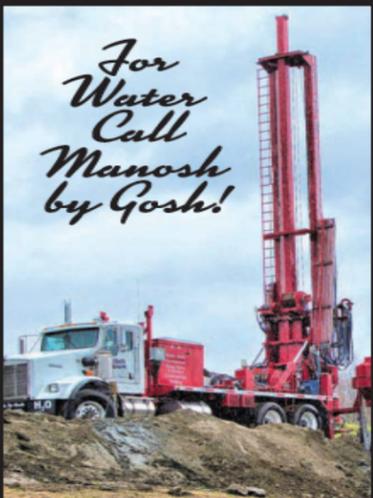
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NEWS BRIEFS



Follow the Ferns with UVM botanists and long-time Jericho residents Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington for an all-ages botanical ramble on Saturday, July 9, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Mills Riverside Park, Jericho to discover what's blooming in the Park at the height of summer. Cathy and Dave will share their knowledge of Vermont's fern flora and how to recognize some common species. PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Dorothy Smith Access Area update

By Laird MacDowell, CTC Chair

What started as a complaint about the poor condition of the picnic table shelter roof located at the Dorothy Smith Access Area located off VT Rt. 108 just north of the bridge over the Lamoille River, ended as a donation of both the shelter and picnic table to the Cambridge Trails Committee (CTC) from the Vermont Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

The CTC did offer to repair the roof if Vermont Fish and Wildlife would cover the material costs, but the plan is to remove the shelter and picnic table, as explained by Mike Wichrowski, Land and Facilities Administrator:

"Thanks for your note and your offer to coordinate repairing the pavilion. Unfortunately, this is not something we can support. As I'm sure you know, this land was acquired from VTrans and this picnic structure is an artifact of their ownership. Our fishing access area rules do not allow for picnicking at our sites as it can create competition for parking with our primary uses of fishing and/or boating. Additionally, we are planning on significantly reducing the parking lot footprint in an effort to reduce stormwater runoff on this parcel. Part of that plan will include removing the pavilion and much of the impervious surfaces like the asphalt. Following this work, we will likely work to plant the eroding riverbank with trees in an effort to stabilize it."

The positive side is that the CTC has already removed the shelter and picnic table and will rebuild the shelter with a metal roof on the side of the smaller parking lot off West Farm Road and include the picnic table, once repainted. This parking lot accesses the one mile long "Pond Loop" of the Vermont Land Trust Brewster River Uplands property. So the shelter and picnic table will be recycled instead of being disposed of.

Underhill Historical Society seeks Mountain Gazette back issues

The Underhill Historical Society is seeking copies of pre-2008 editions of the *Mountain Gazette* and the *Mountain Villager*. Can you help?

Please email Jean Archibald, jeanarchibald8@gmail.com, if you can help the Historical Society add to its archives.

Best wishes to Jericho Town Planner

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

A note of gratitude and to let our neighbors know that, after more than seven years of dedicated service and commitment, our invaluable colleague Katherine Sonnicks officially left the Town of Jericho on Friday, June 17. As the person responsible for working with the Planning Commission to develop our Town Plan and carry forward the vision for our community, we are incredibly grateful for her effort — and sad to see her go! Katherine's accomplishments have been numerous: creation of the *Join in Jericho* website, village center designations, sidewalks in Riverside, creation of natural resource overlay and recent zoning amendments, definition of commercial district, storm water planning in village centers, and recent work beginning the process of a Town Plan update and creation of an official map. What Katherine has found most inspiring during her time in Jericho, is the creativity, broad professional experience, and commitment of those who volunteer on local committees, commissions, and boards. She points to the incredible collaboration she experienced working with the Planning and Conservation Commissions, the State, and community members during the process of developing and adopting natural resource overlay districts, as a highlight of her time in Jericho... community engagement at it finest.

We will be working hard to identify our next Town Planner in coming weeks. In the meantime, a giant thank you to Katherine. She has approached everyone with openness, humility, integrity, and kindness. We wish her luck in her next endeavor!

Summer lunch program at Cambridge Food Shelf

The Cambridge Community Food Shelf is continuing the summer lunch program again this summer for students in area schools. The Food Shelf is located at the Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville.

Please stop by on Tuesdays, June 28, July 12 and 26, and August 9 and 23, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, to pick up two weeks worth of lunches. You do not need to sign up in advance. The last pickup date for this summer program August 23.

COLLEGE HONORS

Melina Morgan Brooks of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Spring 2022 Honors List at Husson University, Bangor, ME. Brooks is enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and Public Health/Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program.

Aidan Costello of Jericho, VT has been named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List at Bryant University, Smithfield, RI. Costello is a member of the class of 2023.

Samuel Grandfield of Waterbury, VT has earned a place on the President's List for the Spring 2022 semester at Dean College, Franklin, MA.

Aidan Woods of Jericho, VT has been named to the Spring 2022 President's List at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. Woods is majoring in Political Science.

JUWD water meter reading July 28

By Joe O'Brien, Trustee, JU Water District

The Jericho Underhill Water District (JUWD) in the Riverside area of Jericho and Underhill will have employees reading customers' water meters on Tuesday, July 28. Brian Picotte and Mike Johnson will briefly be on your property to electronically scan your meter.

U.S. Rt. 2 rehabilitation in Richmond, Bolton

On Monday, June 20, the VT Agency of Transportation in conjunction with Kubricky Construction Corporation began reconstruction of U.S. Rt. 2 from the Richmond-Williston town line, extending easterly for approximately 8.25 miles to approximately halfway between the Notch Road and the Bolton Valley Access Road in Bolton. The completion date for this work is July 2024.

This project will consist of a complete rehabilitation of the existing roadway sub-base, new traveling surface with modified shoulders to accommodate bicyclists (where feasible), limited storm drainage improvements, guardrail work, ditching, signage, and centerline rumble strip installations where criteria have been met. Additionally, there will be improvements on existing traffic signals and the installation of a new signal at the intersection of Bridge Street (Richmond).

During the construction period, motorists should expect traffic flow to be maintained at all times with one-way alternating traffic during construction hours, with control present. During the installation of a storm drain near east of the intersection of Jericho Road and Bridge Street, an overnight closure of U.S. Rt. 2 will be required. All work on U.S. Rt. 2 between VT Rt. 117 and Lemroy Court will be constructed during the hours of 7:00 PM – 6:00 AM. Motorists should also expect to be traveling on a gravel surface during construction.

The posted speed limit will be strictly enforced, as the safety of the workers along with the motorists is of the utmost importance. We ask motorists to use extreme caution while traveling through the zone. Please note the fines for speeding within the construction zone will be doubled.

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

For more information, contact Stephanie Barrett, 802-399-7847, sbarrett@coibsync.com, <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/US2-richmond-bolton>.

Westford Selectboard draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Administrator

Interested in knowing what was discussed at the Thursday, June 9 Westford Selectboard Meeting? The draft minutes of the meeting can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022-06-09-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Report turtle sightings to the VT Herp Atlas

If you see a turtle, or a nest with hatched eggs, consider reporting your sighting to the VT Herp Atlas.

"The ultimate goal of the Reptile and Amphibian Atlas is to gather and disseminate the data that are needed on the reptiles and amphibians of Vermont in a way that involves and informs Vermont individuals and organizations so that they can become more informed and effective stewards of wildlife habitat."

It's easy to report sightings and you can upload pictures, online at <https://www.vtherpatlas.org/>.

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Maple Shade Town Forest (MSTF) update: Trail improvement project will take place in MSTF this summer. Be aware that heavy machinery will be used during this time and some trails could be closed for periods of time. Thanks for your patience while we remediate the wonderful trails in MSTF.

We've partnered with the Westford Publicly library again to bring you more fun activities on the trails this summer. Poetry Walk: The Poetry Walk was installed in MSTF. See the pink arrows on the map below to find your way through the entire Poetry Walk. Suitable for all ages. Enjoy! Story walk: The story walk was installed behind Westford School in the MMTF. See the pink arrows on the map below to find your way through the story. Enjoy!

Planning Commission news: The Planning Commission (PC) has created a new website dedicated to providing information on the 1705 VT Route 128 Property project. The website link is: www.westford1705.com. In addition to FAQs, the website provides information about the history of the property and background about the planning process and our partners Vermont River Conservancy, Champlain Housing Trust, and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity.

This project is still in its initial stages. There are still many hurdles to overcome. The Town does not own or control the 1705

property. The Town has no contract to buy this property and the PC is not recommending that the Town use taxpayer funds to buy the property. Nor is the PC recommending that the Town be the developer of the property. The steps the PC has taken to get to where we are today are as follows: About three years ago, the Planning Commission learned that the owner of the 1705 property intended to put it on the market for sale. At that time, the PC discussed if it might be possible to work with the property owner to gain benefits and advantages for the Town. Specifically, could the Town acquire a portion of the 1705 property on which it could build a new or expanded Town Office. The property owner agreed to hold off listing the property for sale and to work with the Town to investigate if any such arrangement was possible. That investigation led the PC to the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). Website link: vhcb.org.

The VRC is a non-profit organization that acquires land with the goal of protecting public access to rivers and streams. One of its business models is to partner with other funding sources (like VHCB) to buy private land adjacent to Vermont rivers, establish permanent public access to the river, and then use the remaining land for public, municipal or other purposes, such as housing. In order to purchase the 1705 property, VRC will

seek funding from VHCB. Many entities and municipalities seek funding from VHCB for various housing and conservation projects. This creates a very competitive environment for the limited dollars VHCB has to distribute in any given year. So much so, that the likelihood of VHCB funding VRC's purchase of the 1705 Property if it only involved conservation, is very low. In order to increase the likelihood of VHCB funding the purchase, affordable housing units need to be included as part

of the conceptual plan, in addition to the permanent public river access. Neither VRC or VHCB will develop or build the housing. Rather, they will partner with other non-profits to provide those services, such as the Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity (GMHfH).

GMHfH and CHT are both non-profits. CHT is a community land trust that supports the people of Northwest Vermont and strengthens their communities through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable homes. Founded in 1984, it is the largest community land trust in the country. CHT also offers financing tools to prospective buyers including homebuyer education, pre-home purchase counseling, financial literacy education and mentoring, and foreclosure and delinquency intervention services.

GMHfH and CHT have created a partnership program that enables low and moderate income households to become homeowners. GMHfH physically constructs the homes. After construction is complete, CHT would purchase the homes from GMHfH and enroll the homes in the Shared Equity Program. After enrollment, the homes would be sold again to the low and moderate income households. Potential buyers must be income eligible and are required to assist with at least 200 hours of construction while their home is being built by GMHfH.

Sales within the Shared Equity Program do not require the homeowner to pay closing costs. This greatly reduces the cost of buying a home. As a standard term of the Shared Equity Program, all homes must be sold back to CHT. The equity gained at during the sale of the home is split between the original homeowner and CHT. CHT uses their funds to cover closing costs, and potentially reduce the sale price, for the next buyer of the home. The program ensures that homes in the Shared Equity Program remain perpetually affordable.

This particular proposal achieves many goals in the Town Plan including the creation of affordable housing; the creation of recreational opportunities; the acquisition of additional land which can be used for Town Office expansion; the clean-up of decades worth of soil contamination; and the improvement of stormwater runoff from the Town Common Area to the Browns River. All of this at little to no cost to the Town.

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COMING EVENTS

VT National Guard open house on September 11

The Vermont National Guard is hosting an open house at the 158th Fighter Wing, Vermont Air National Guard Base, S. Burlington on Sunday, September 11, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. After the open house, the public is welcome to remain for the final event of the day, a 9/11 Remembrance and Retreat Ceremony at the flagpole from 3:00 – 3:30 PM.

This free event will feature military and civilian aircraft, military vehicles and equipment, demonstrations, and interactive displays from both the Army and Air National Guard.

“Telling the Vermont National Guard story is one of my priorities,” said Maj. Gen. Greg Knight, the Adjutant General for the Vermont National Guard. “Informing and interacting with the community is a critical part of the National Guard. We live and work in our communities. We are Vermonters, and it’s important for us to showcase who we are and what we do. We all deserve this great opportunity to celebrate together.”

Scheduled demonstrations include the Norwich Silent Drill Team, military K-9 exhibitions, army band concerts, a fire department “jaws of life” extraction, and other patriotic musical performances.

In addition to the military displays and demonstrations, there will be both an education and job fair featuring local and regional educational institutions and employers.

“We realize that many community members have never had the opportunity to visit the air base and we don’t want to be the best kept secret in Vermont,” said Col. David Shevchik, 158th Fighter Wing commander. “This Open House welcomes the public on their Vermont Guard base to interact with our professionals who are neighbors, colleagues, fellow citizens, and learn about our diverse missions and many opportunities.”

This family-friendly event will occur rain or shine and will include a kid zone offering a variety of activities for children of all ages, many food vendors, and covered eating and rest areas.

There is limited parking on base so complimentary shuttle buses will be available from Essex High School. For additional details, including shuttle and event schedules and maps, please visit www.vtng22.com. For additional information or to participate in the job and education fairs, please contact Maj Meghan Smith at meghan.smith.5@us.af.mil.

Saturday, July 9

Following the Ferns, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Mills Riverside Park, Jericho. Join UVM botanists and long-time Jericho residents Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington for a casual, all-ages botanical ramble to discover what’s blooming in the Park at the height of summer. Cathy and Dave will share their knowledge

of Vermont’s fern flora, a group of special interest to them, and will teach us how to recognize some common species that grace our woodlands at this time of year.

Wednesday, July 13

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall (upstairs), Underhill Center. Gather your current craft project and join us for a couple of hours of socializing, and productivity of course! The group meets every two weeks. All are welcome. For questions or more information contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 14

Discover summer wildflowers, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online. Join Liz Thompson, Vermont Land Trust Director of Conservation Science, for an evening virtual ramble through Vermont’s lowlands and highlands to explore wetlands, river shores, lakeshores, upland woods, roadsides, and mountaintops and learn more about the native wildflowers of July and August. Learn about the ecology of these plants, their places in the ecosystem, how they reproduce, and how to identify and find them. The talk is richly illustrated with colorful photos from Thompson and her photographer friends. Free; find more information and pre-register at <https://vlt.org/events/midsummer-wildflowers/>.

Sunday, July 17

How to talk to young children about race, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Camp Meade, Middlesex. Join The Children’s Room and Waterbury Area Anti-Racism Coalition for an in-person workshop on how to talk to young children about race, racism, and anti-racism, with Emma Redden and Grace Aldrich of The Full Story School (<https://www.thefullstoryschool.org/>). This workshop is for early educators, care providers, parents, relatives... all adults with young children in their lives. Sliding fee scale, \$5-50 per person. Priority and free registration given to BIPOC. Professional development credits available for early educators and administrators. Email childrensroom@huusd.org for information and to register.

Wednesday, July 27

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall (upstairs), Underhill Center. Gather your current craft project and join us for a couple of hours of socializing, and productivity of course! The group meets every two weeks. All are welcome. For questions or more information contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com.

Monday, August 1

JULT Annual Meeting and Celebration, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Mills Riverside Park Pavilion, Jericho (if raining, Jericho Community Center, Jericho Center). Come celebrate an extraordinary year of land conservation with Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT)! Refreshments and a half hour social opportunity will begin at 6:00 PM. Our short business meeting will commence at 6:30 PM and be followed by our guest speaker



Strauzia longipennis might be in your backyard too

Its Latin name, Strauzia longipennis, is sure to get you snickering if you are 10, or chuckling no matter what age you are. Observed in our backyard, this insect is also known by its common name, Sunflower Maggot Fly. What is living in your backyard? More photos of the Strauzia longipennis online at <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/122476340>.

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

Craig Newman of Jericho, the current Director and co-founder of Outreach for Earth Stewardship (OFES). OFES offers unique educational programs that stimulate the mind and heart with the help of live raptors who serve as wild ambassadors. Founded in 1989, OFES’s mission is to strengthen respect and understanding for wildlife. OFES is licensed by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to rehabilitate wild birds and have them serve as animal ambassadors if they cannot be released.

Wednesday, August 10

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall (upstairs), Underhill Center. Gather your current craft project and join us for a couple of hours of socializing, and productivity of course! The group meets every two weeks. All are welcome. For questions or more information contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com.

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

MMU Lacrosse Camp for kids rising grades 2-8, August 15-19: Rising 2nd graders through rising 8th graders are invited to join the Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) Boys’ Lacrosse coaching staff and players this summer for a week of skill development and fun in the sun!

MMU head coach Brian Hamm and the high school lacrosse program members will be running a summer camp at Browns River Middle School (location might need to be adjusted if a conflict arises), 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Monday, August 15-Friday, August 19. The cost of the week is \$75 per camper and all the money brought in will help fund the MMU Boys’ Lacrosse program.

To register, please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/2NUdt8Gn9N5NZosw5>.

Campers will need:

- helmet;
- stick;
- gloves;
- shoulder pads (must meet NOCSAE ND200 certification);
- arm guards;
- protective cup;
- water bottle;
- cleats recommended.

Questions? Contact hammfam728@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

YMCA Summer Day Camp in Underhill: The YMCA’s Camp Koda offers one-week sessions for children who have completed kindergarten through age 12. Parents have three- or five-day options and, as a licensed program, eligible families can use state subsidy for this camp. Y financial assistance may also be available. Learn more and register at <https://www.gbymca.org/summer-camps/camp-koda>.

Each week has a different theme, so campers who come for multiple weeks remain engaged and develop skills, gain confidence, and build positive relationships with peers and adults through creative, age-appropriate, and safe activities through recreational play and hands-on activities. Learn more and register at <https://www.gbymca.org/summer-camps/camp-koda>.

Westford Recreation summer program sign up is open! View the Westford Recreation Summer Guide and registration form online at <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>. For information on the programs, contact Westford Recreation at recreation@westfordvt.us. The summer programs are all at Westford School, unless otherwise noted.

Cambridge CC Buck Lake Camp: The Cambridge

Conservation Commission (CCC) would like to help send your child to the VT Fish and Wildlife’s Green Mountain Conservation Camp at Buck Lake.

Camp runs in one-week sessions in July and August for boys and girls, ages 12-14. Please send an email to Conservation Commission Member Tim Larned, timlarned@myfairpoint.net, stating why you would like to go and what you love about the outdoors, to be considered for scholarship. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the number of applicants. Scholarships are awarded until funds are gone. Camp spots fill fast so please respond ASAP.

Campers will meet game wardens, foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, and others who work in the outdoors. Activities include learning about forestry, wetland ecology, orienteering, outdoor safety skills, fly fishing and spin casting, fly tying, archery, hiking and camping, canoeing, swimming, firearm safety, and more. Campers will receive State Hunter Education and Bow Hunter Certifications at the completion of the week.

For more information about the camp and specific dates, go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

New horseback riding camps in Underhill: Impulsion Riding School, previously Synchrony Dressage Riding School, has moved to Poker Hill Road in Underhill. We offer beginner through advanced lessons, camps, and horsemanship/show teams. There are single-day camps for kids ages 5-6, and multiple day camps for ages 7-12. All camps run 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM, and are limited to eight kids per day. Dates: Monday, August 8; Tuesday-Friday, August 9-12. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/11078630154541/posts/123045810319500/?d=n>.

Summer Camp at Green River Reservoir: *Water Wanderings*. On the first day, we pack up our canoes with gear and food and head out to a remote campsite with no electricity, running water, or buildings. We set up tents, tarps, and a cooking area, which becomes our home for the week. Explore Green River Reservoir State Park and learn about fire building, knot tying, canoeing, swimming, ecology, environmental justice, and

equity. Only 12 people per session including counselors. *Water Wanderings* offers one camp for 13-15 year olds Monday-Friday, July 11-15; a family camp for people of all ages Saturday-Tuesday, July 16-19; and two camps for young people ages 9-12 Monday-Friday, July 25-29 and August 1-5. Find out more and register at <http://waterwanderings.org> or reach out to us directly at waterwanderings@gmail.com or 802-730-9667. Spaces are limited. Secure your spot!

Musical Theater Camp for Kids at Poker Hill Arts — Two teachers will host a one-week musical theater day camp at Poker Hill Arts, Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, Monday-Friday, July 18-22, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, for children entering grade 2 or exiting grade 5 at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Read more online at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1McOkftOIImT0D7ZFjMcFMLw-xKUdleJ8lpnQRgVoXJE/edit> or email Dana, dthomas0712@gmail.com.

Lamoille Natural Resource Conservation Summer Camp: At the camp located on Cole Hill Road in Morrisville, kids will spend the days learning through hands-on exploration at our 40 acres forest reserve. Camp groups are capped at 10-12 kids and run from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The cost per camper: \$225 for LCCD members and \$275 for non-members; scholarships are available. This year we are offering: Layers of Life (5-8 year olds, July 11-14); Guardians of the Watershed (8-12 year olds, July 18-22); and Wild Art, a collaborative camp with River Arts (8-12 year olds, July 25-29). For more information and to register, go online to <https://lcnrcd.com/summer-camps/>.

Burlington City Arts will offer a summer camp, and registration is now open for their half- or full-day camps and aftercare; full and partial scholarships are available. For more information, see BCA’s digital summer camp catalog at <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/adult-youth-and-family-classes>.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp Sponsorships: GMCC, operated by VT Fish & Wildlife since 1966, is open to any child 12-14 years old interested in the natural world and in joining a welcoming community. Financial aid is available to cover full cost. To learn more, contact 802-522-2925 or FWGMCC@vermont.gov, or go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/244>.

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HEALTH NEWS

Medical Alert, Life Alerts, etc. in Underhill and Jericho

By Andy Forsberg, UJFD EMS Supervisor/Captain

When people purchase life alert type equipment for family members, they are asked to fill out a form to let the dispatch company know where to call when the device is activated. This is normally your local ambulance.

If you live in Underhill or Jericho, we are asking that that you add the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) first response dispatch to your list: **802-985-8051**.

Underhill Jericho First Response goes to all emergency services (EMS) calls in our towns and usually arrives 10-15 minutes prior to the ambulance to provide live-saving interventions. In a lot of cases, these saved minutes can make all the difference. If you have an alerting service for loved ones, please consider adding us to this list so we can come help.

Also, please help spread the word to anyone that you may know that has a device.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 802-899-4025 or andy@ujfd.org.

Copley Hospital fundraising events

Without a doubt we are ready for the summer season.

We kicked off our fundraising season with a very successful Stowe Art, Wine and Food event on Thursday, June 2. More than \$40,000 was raised with proceeds benefiting women's health at Copley, specifically breast stereotactic biopsy equipment and a breast coil for our MRI. We are almost at the finish line with this campaign, with \$30,000 left to raise.

As of this posting we are one team shy of filling the field for our annual Copley Scramble Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, July 9 at the Copley Country Club. Proceeds from this year's event support heart health with the purchase of technology and equipment for our cardiac stress testing.

Copley Hospital – your community hospital, caring for you and your families since 1932.

CBD survey by Castleton University

A research team at Castleton University is investigating CBD use throughout the state of Vermont. We encourage anyone who is 18+, lives in Vermont, and uses CBD to take our anonymous survey; it should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and you may choose to enter into a drawing to receive one of ten \$25 Amazon gift cards.

Use this link to access the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/PgWNP6f3Kn>.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Castleton University Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, Friday, June 17, 2022. Thank you for your participation!

Concert safety tips for your teen

Parents have been asking me to take the educational stage and provide some tips for how they can help their teens or older children safely attend a summer concert.

Do your homework - Find out all you can about the proposed concert in advance. Is there an age restriction to even attend, and another age where adult supervision is a requirement for admission? Older children and even pre-teens need you to be with them at any public event so they don't get into unsafe situations, while teens may not want you to be anywhere near them.

Stay close enough - If you are still uncomfortable sending your teen to an event where they may be exposed to risk-taking behaviors like drugs or alcohol, insist you go with them but buy your ticket a few rows away from your teen and their friends so you're there if they need you but not right there with them. If you feel they are old enough to go alone, insist a friend go with them — preferably you know both the friend and their family, so the ground rules for going without supervision are the same for all in the group.

Always accompany any child or pre-teen to a restroom or refreshment stall. Remind them never to accept food or drink from a stranger. Be safe and stick together.

Know the layout of the concert area so you can identify a meeting place in advance for people to find each other if they get separated. They and you should also look for where the emergency exits are and where security is posted if help is needed. If you do not attend with your children, have them call you at intermission, when the concert is over, and when they are in the car or public transportation vehicle leaving the event to give you an estimate of when they will be home.

Earplugs are also essential for large concerts, given that the biggest risk can be noise pollution and the hearing damage that can occur if ears are not protected from prolonged loud noise.

Hopefully tips like these will allow you to applaud the fact that you are now better prepared for your children to be safe when they attend a concert or public event this summer.

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

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

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

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

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 10:30 AM. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd 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 or contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas at 802-899-3932 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church in Jericho has now resumed worshipping in person on Sundays at 9:30 AM. If you would like worship service information, please contact the parish administrator at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com, or call 802-899-0453. All are warmly invited!

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

Waterville Union Church

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to our volunteers

To the Editor,

I want to write to express my gratitude to all of the volunteers who help to make our community such a lovely place to live. From the flowers we all appreciate on Main Street, to the trails we enjoy, to the programs we love. I hesitate to try to name the myriad ways we benefit from the work of our many volunteers for fear of leaving someone out.

To all of those parents who put your kids to bed and continue to work; to those who miss dinner with your family to set an example of service; to those of you who are retired and could be doing anything you want with your time, but choose to work to make your community a better place; to those of you who work full time and sneak in hours of help before or after work; as a resident, mother, teacher, and Selectboard member, I am truly grateful for all that you do.

Small municipalities are run largely by volunteers and I can't thank all of you enough for moving the town of Cambridge forward and making it a wonderful place to be.

**Courtney Leitz
Cambridge**

On package deliveries in general

To the Editor,

I've been reading about missing packages, mis-delivered packages and occasionally stolen packages. I had a three-week experience "training" as a driver and delivering packages by myself on two occasions for a major carrier. My purpose for posting this is to help the customer as well as the delivery people. Some suggestions that the public might consider doing to assist in a proper delivery:

1. Clearly mark your house, apartment, yurt, or other form of abode with a house number and/or apartment number. I ran into situations where a cluster of condos are designated as 123 Anyplace Road, Building #12, Apt. #201B. The navigation system the drivers are supplied with gets them to 123 Anyplace Road, but can be less precise about the building and apartment location. Without clear numbers or names posted, it becomes a guessing game or the delivery goes back to the terminal.

2. Drop boxes with the home address at the front door or at the end of the driveway are enormously helpful.

3. Consider keeping your drive graded, branches hanging under ten feet across the driveway should be pruned back, and have sufficient room to allow a truck to turn around near the house. Some trucks have low clearance and rutted driveways will cause damage. Taller trucks will get damaged by overhead branches and the truck will damage the tree. Trucks have different turning radiuses, lengths, heights, and many have no rear view mirrors and have to rely on a video camera to see behind them, limiting the range of view. A driveway filled with vehicles near the house with no reasonable option to turn around becomes a problem. Backing up the driveway prevents the driver from seeing hazards above and on the ground.

4. Keep your pets inside, fenced in, or leashed away from the front door, porch, or other designated drop points.

5. If your driveway isn't plowed, reasonably graded, and especially if it is steep and winding, some packages will not get

delivered.

Problems with carrier, these may be universal with all carriers but I can only speak for one:

1. There is little to no training. You ride along with another driver who shows you the scanner and navigation system, but doesn't flesh out how to resolve problems with them, options available to the driver to tailor the delivery route, and the driver didn't follow delivery or safety protocols.

2. I found the navigation system I was supplied with to fail on many occasions. Connectivity is an issue in many areas, it does a poor job rerouting the delivery destination when there is a road closure. It can send the driver into a live military target range — which is exactly what happened to me last week when River Road (Underhill) was closed for logging. It misidentifies the names of roads. It identified River Road as Pleasant Valley Road. They are probably one and the same, but for someone unfamiliar with the area, it adds to confusion. I had to use my iPhone to get a proper reroute that took me ten miles out of the way on Irish Settlement Road to backtrack deliveries on and around Pleasant Valley Road above Harvey Road in Underhill.

3. I drove past deliveries because the navigation system sent me to Junction Hill Road while I was on VT Rt. 108 near Burnor Road. It then wanted me to head back up VT Rt. 15 even though I had already made deliveries in that area. Meanwhile, there were a slew of deliveries near the Junction Hill delivery that should have been handled first. If I had been better trained with the system, I should have been able to override the system to accommodate the deficiencies of the system.

4. I was given a smaller truck with no side door and no bulkhead door behind the cab. The only access to the packages was through a double door in the back of the truck. The truck was PACKED to the point that the packages jammed the locking mechanism when I made my second delivery that morning. Large screen TVs, big boxes with metal shelving, heavy Chewy boxes filled the tiny aisle to the point where I was told to gun the truck forward and slam on the brakes to slide the packages away from the back door and dislodge the jam. That was repeated another half dozen times. I had to unload large heavy boxes in order to reach packages jammed near the front of the truck. I could go on and on, but I think the point has been made.

I was offered the opportunity to go for another "drive along" because I didn't deliver enough packages that day. I declined and quit. When one is set up for failure, don't expect great results.

**Mike Bessler
Jeffersonville**

Jericho's ARPA funds: what you need to know

To the Editor,

Jericho residents need to start over as far as the ARPA Survey process on how to spend our ARPA funds!

Who decided on the survey questions to be asked in such a slanted manner?

Jericho residents need to be concerned on how options to answer on the second survey (on how to spend the federal ARPA funds) were not crafted to give you a more fair way to respond!

Child Care

Letters continued on page 5

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

What's wrong with invasive plants?

By Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

A big part of my job has become dealing with non-native invasive plants (also called “invasive exotic plants” or “invasives”) in the woods. While many of the plant species found in Vermont are non-native, only a small portion of these are “invasive” — out-competing native species and negatively impacting natural communities. So what's wrong with invasive plants?

We find ourselves in a strange and important moment in the history of our planet: in the midst of a mass extinction event, the sixth such event in history but the first caused by a single species. Today, an estimated one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, including more than 40% of amphibians, one-third of reef-forming corals, and more than one-third of marine mammals. About 700 vertebrate species and at least 100,000 species of invertebrates have gone extinct since the 16th century — and according to the World Wildlife Fund, global animal populations have declined an average of 68% since 1970.

The consensus in the scientific community is that the main contributors to this biodiversity crisis are all human-caused: climate change, deforestation/habitat loss, pollution, and biological invasions — non-native invasive plants, pests, pathogens and animals — are considered the main culprits. According to the National Wildlife Federation, 42% of endangered species are primarily threatened by invasives, and invasive organisms account for about half of extinctions of which the cause is known.

Why are invasives such a problem? Within their native environments, each species occupies a unique niche; constrained by habitat limitations and by the other species that have adapted to prey on them, parasitize them, and compete with them over thousands of years. They form communities: groups of species that share a complex evolutionary history. Species are not adapted to every other species on Earth — only to those with which they co-occur — and so ecosystems can harbor vast open niches. For example, New Zealand's ecosystems have no native terrestrial mammals and have been decimated by the introduction of rats and other mammals; Guam's native birds are all functionally extinct due to the introduction of a single species of snake. In her Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Sixth Extinction*, author Elizabeth Kolbert describes invasives as species released from the constraints of evolution, introduced into communities which are completely unprepared for them in an evolutionary sense.

While the gravity of non-native invasive pests and pathogens like Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), chestnut blight, and Dutch elm disease is relatively easy to understand, the way that invasive plants negatively impact ecosystems is much less obvious. The influence of non-native invasive plants can be just as disruptive — it's just harder to visualize.

In forests and other ecosystems, invasives like common and glossy buckthorn, shrub honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, Asiatic bittersweet, and multiflora rose outcompete native plants and trees, preventing regeneration and often forming dense monocultures. As they do so, invasives can displace and disrupt entire communities of organisms, which have coevolved with native trees and plants for millennia. As forests and wildlife respond to our changed and changing world, invasives threaten their resilience — their ability to adapt, to regenerate, to stay healthy in a trying and stressful time.

While eradicating invasive plants across our landscape is not possible, invasive plants are actually much easier to deal with than most invasive animals, pests, and pathogens. In most cases it is completely possible to control them, to lower populations of invasives to a level that minimizes the negative impacts they cause to a forest or other ecosystem. Controlling invasives is challenging and requires an ongoing commitment, but with the right tools it is fully achievable.

Protecting ecosystems is as much an act of self-preservation as environmentalism — our forests clean our air and our water, regulate our climate, underpin the biological and geochemical processes which make life on Earth possible, support our local communities and economies, and safeguard our lives and our quality of life in countless ways. Controlling invasives, and

protecting the integrity of ecosystems in general, is part of how we take responsibility for our ecosystems, for each other, and for future generations — how we build a better world for our children and our grandchildren to inhabit.

Learn more about invasive plants and how to control them on my YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/mkbnm4jd> or at [VTInvasives.org](https://www.vt-invasives.org).

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

Artificial intelligence: for whom?

By Bill Schubart

I struggle with the concept of artificial intelligence (AI). Perhaps because in my 77 years I've had to cope with what intelligence I can perceive and distill from teachers, friends, art, science, and the natural world. I've had to consider and process these inputs, place them in context, and sort out what's true and worthwhile and what's not.

Technology, like a manual tool, is supposed to make life easier. But if the energy required to learn and use the tool exceeds the energy it saves using it, it is not a useful tool, as I mentioned in an early column. When is a tool a device and when is it the buyer?

The explosion of AI software that tries to satisfy our natural human need for help and advice is said to save billions for industry but, so far, has done little for humans seeking answers. Will AI make the world a better place or simply make business more profitable? In deploying AI, will businesses prioritize customer and human needs or company policy and profit?

The company I co-founded and ran for 25 years provided local call center service to major broadcasters and several publishers. At our peak, we employed 80 agents who were thoroughly trained on our clients' products. Our goal was to answer all calls by the third ring and we largely succeeded. An agent might answer, “Thank you for calling The History Channel, how can I help you?” Agents knew intimately the client product lines and had screen back-up for all product inquiries.

We sold the company in 2008 to a private equity firm who proceeded to wring out costs, transferred the call center to southeast Asia where agents were answering calls for dozens of other companies, and tried to implement primitive AI. The customer service deterioration was so marked that clients began leaving in droves and the company and its 175 jobs were gone within another few years.

Have you ever called the toll-free number helpline for QuickBooks, Adobe, your bank, the IRS, Medicare, or any of the other countless services on which we increasingly rely? Studies show that 15% of customers hang up after being on hold for 40 seconds. When a customer succeeds in complaining to a company about their product or service, does that information ever reach decision makers?

Remember when you could call a travel agent and be booked from Burlington to Iceland and back and be sent the details of your trip. Now, you must work directly with the airline or a travel aggregator... good luck with that.

One persistent airline customer put a company's phone line to the test after being placed on hold for two hours. He decided to wait and see how long the business would keep him on the line. Some 15 hours later, the call was finally pushed through and he was notified that his original request (which put him on hold in the first place) had been denied due to an error.

My own record to date is waiting 47 minutes to get a human to answer the Quicken helpline in the Philippines. We then talked for another 128 minutes after I gave her online access to my computer, and she finally acknowledged that the system was having “issues” and that I should call back later. As it turned out, I lost the ability to process 22 years' worth of financial records. Luckily, I had backed up the data.

To apply to American colleges, our thoroughly literate, trilingual Serbian foreign exchange student Mina, who has earned straight As at Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) as a senior, needed to take a standard test administered online to determine her English fluency.

The first effort failed because of a scheduling confusion regarding Euro-military time standard vs. American time.

The second effort, which she started a half-hour early, was on her home computer. It required extensive rewiring. She passed the technical test and then, minutes before starting, was instructed to download an extension. After the download completed, and as the test was starting, the extension created onscreen ambiguities. She was told if the extension caused a problem to click on the “help” icon. There was no help icon. We could not resolve the technical issue, so Mina was disconnected from the site.

We set up the third trial at CVU in their computer lab with a staff tech helping. Mina got there an hour early. They resolved the myriad technical issues, which included having to move to another site in the school, and the test began. She completed the first half and was told to take a ten-minute break. She did, returned, and began to start again, but the test site told her that she could not complete the test because she'd taken her cell phone to the bathroom (to text me that the test was working).

She was denied access for the second part and called me in tears. So after three trials — and charges for each — she could not access the test required of all foreign exchange students wishing to apply to an American college... our country's loss.

I recently went to a restaurant that had no menu. I had to get the WiFi password from the waitress, enter it into my cell phone, scan a QR code, and read a linear menu that listed my lunch options and prices. I'll never go back there. Maybe I'm just old.

Going to Canada to pick up my wife at the airport, I filled out the ArriveCan online entry form, a prerequisite for any traveler to Canada now. I filled it out with all my personal data and then it asked for a credit card. I was surprised at the charge, but heedlessly entered my Amex card. That failed. So, I entered a Visa card. I then got an email saying my payments had not worked and that an agent would be in touch within 72 hours. Planning to be in Canada in 60 hours, I responded that I needed help before then. The answer came from Russia and both cards had been ripped. I cancelled both and went to Canada with no credit cards. The fake site perfectly mirrored the legitimate Canadian one, just adding the card capture.

I am an early adopter. I wrote my first novel on a portable computer the size of an overnight case 35 years ago. But I worry about our aging population, among whom I count myself. Many now lack access to the once common human help (“navigators,” I think we called them). How does a person of Medicare or Social Security age navigate on their own the myriad complexities of using systems designed essentially to minimize personnel costs? Thanks to our local telephone company, we have fiber optic cable to our home. But we know many Vermonters who still have dial-up.

If healthcare continues its migration to telemedicine, help lines don't get answered, and emergency room waits get longer, what happens to the many whose life-long access to medicine has been through a local primary care doctor? How many people will simply give up? At a certain age, the energy and perhaps the capacity to relearn how to cope with all of life's tasks wanes.

AI holds promise in many areas, but if it's designed solely to wring human costs out of business enterprise and gather personal data to be remarketed at a profit, it will not serve humanity well. AI must be designed with people (consumers) in mind and with the knowledge that information technology can either be designed to help or to exploit depending on how it is deployed.

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or email

mtngazette@gmavt.net

Letters continued from page 4

The survey asked you to choose what of three levels of Child Care you would prefer to fund. The survey gave no option to voice a “No, I do not want ARPA Funds used for Child Care.” (You could say “no” under “comments” or “remarks” but usually comments are not tabulated as a choice response.)

(No question there is a need for more child care, but how does Jericho then fund and subsidize child care social programs into the future?)

Housing

Jericho just can't admit or commit to the reality that land must be committed to build “affordable housing” on! And maybe some business growth to ease the property tax burden!

Fine we preserve open land for future generations but all but give a NIMBY response to any true commitment for “affordable housing” in Jericho.

While I would support the idea of ADUs (Additional Dwelling Units, i.e., “in-law apartments” or similar) but the devil is in the details!

1) How decides the size and scope and who gets the approval to build such units?

2) Does it become “who you know” in Jericho when someone bends on the building requirements?

3) Do we use ARPA funds so a few can build ADUs and then profit from them by charging rent or adding to one's home savings in providing housing to a family member or relative?

4) Does Jericho then tax these ADU rental units to perhaps get some money back to help cover other Jericho town expenses — or —

5) Maybe rent profits back in part as tax break to seniors on fixed incomes?

Water and Infrastructure

Two of the most glaring necessities of any town are water and sewer and infrastructure — except in Jericho! Jericho seemingly keeps the NIMBY policy of limited to no real growth (unless you can afford a large amount of acreage?)

We NEED some of the ARPA funds (under strict guidelines and supervision) to be put into grants so the several independent water co-op entities in Jericho can upgrade residential neighborhood water wells and equipment and a rainy day fund to repair or replace residential neighborhood pipeline networks. Plus include assistance to independent well owners.

We need to ask and present questions fairly and not in a way that favors a few that may have an agenda.

Robert (Bob) Devost
Jericho

Advice from VT F&W about bears

To the Editor,

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologists “tagged” bears to determine if the wind power projects were disturbing them — and found that erecting windmills wasn't having as much of an effect as people with backyard beehives, chickens, compost piles/buckets, trash bags, and year-round bird feeders.

The conclusion is that the bear population is relatively stable (around 5500), and the habitat encroachment (new homes) is fairly modest (down due to COVID), but the bears are learning there's food near humans.

Avoid the problem — trash contained, compost contained, and poultry/hives protected by electric fence. Bird feeders are supposed to be removed April through November.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR THIS TIME OF YEAR — be advised that it may be a sow with cubs in the immediate vicinity and she will not like you or your cute dog. She has teeth and claws and NO desire to be sociable.

Under no circumstances should you intentionally feed bears, and you should report anyone who IS feeding bears to the Game Warden. Please see go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears>.

Paul Gross
Hunter Safety Educator
Jericho



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LIBRARY NEWS



*The Master Gardeners at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library are preparing for this year's Garden Tea Party on Sunday, July 31, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The 2022 Theme is "The Secret Garden." At this time of the summer, the gardens are lovely. Join us for a wonderful afternoon. There will be tea, refreshments, and readings from *The Secret Garden*. Also, you will be able to view Tasha Tudor's delightful paintings from the book displayed in the library. The Master Gardeners have installed their own door in the garden — our own entrance to the DRML "Secret Garden."* PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

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

All programs meet in person at DRML. We still ask that everyone over the age of 2 years wear a mask to protect our vulnerable populations. If you would prefer to join programs via Zoom, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Adult programs

Thursday, July 7, 12:00 PM: Tech Talk (on Zoom). This series of programs is designed to demystify digital technologies. This month will be an informal Q&A about technology that has been acting out for you. Join us to share your tech troubles and to learn from the stories of others. For help in joining the program or to register, contact Maggie (program_assistant@drml.org), who will provide the link.

Tuesday, July 12, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers (virtual). DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month's selection is *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Thursday, July 14, 3:00 – 6:30 PM: Book sale at the big Red Barn next to the Jericho Farmer's Market. Shop at the wonderful Farmer's Market, then come help us clear out the barn to make room for the fall sale. Everything in the barn is \$5 a bag! Bring your own bags or use one of ours.

Thursday, July 21, 7:00 PM: DRML Board of Trustees meeting at the library. This meeting will be held in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com) to receive the link.

Sunday, July 31, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Library Garden Tea. Please join us to celebrate the work of the UVM Extension Master Gardeners on this year's *The Secret Garden*-themed garden at the library. There will be refreshments and readings from the book *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. If you are interested in reading, please contact Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com.

Youth programs — ongoing

Tuesdays, 3:00 PM: Story Time [PreK-K]. We're gearing up for the summer program theme *Oceans of Possibilities*. Freddy will tell his best ocean jokes, and we'll read stories about pirates, ocean creatures, and so much more. Hope to see you there.

Farmers Market — All summer long DRML and JTL are taking turns at the Farmers Market. Visit us to sign up for summer reading and get your goodie bag, peek through some free books, and definitely blow bubbles!

Check out these youth great programs

All programs meet in person at DRML. We still ask that everyone over the age of 2 years wear a mask to protect our vulnerable populations. If you would prefer to join programs via Zoom, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Wednesday, July 6, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: Roblox Social [ages 10+] Bring your own device and join fellow players in the myriad worlds of Roblox. Please sign up by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Thursday, July 7, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Cork Boat Races [ages 8+] How will you build a boat out of cork? Experiment with different designs and then we'll go race them in the river. Please sign up

by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Friday, July 8: Stuffed Animal Sleepover [all ages] Back by popular demand from the stuffed animals! Drop off your fuzzy friends to help Ms. Abbey and the other librarians for a day before they sleep over in the library! Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for photos. Pick up your stuffies starting Saturday, July 9.

Tuesday, July 12, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Maker Day: Cricut Stickers We're busting out the Cricut machine to make simple vinyl stickers to go on your water bottle, laptop, or wherever you put cool stickers. Please sign up by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Wednesday, July 13, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Older Kid Craft: Paper Lantern Jellyfish [ages 8+] Turn a paper lantern into a light-up jellyfish. The library has all the supplies needed for this project, but there is a limited number so sign up quickly! Please sign up by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Monday, July 18-Friday, July 22, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Puppetry Camp [ages 8+] Ms. Abbey and teen helper/ puppet builder Delilah will show you all kinds of ways to make puppets. We'll spend our week creating puppets you can take home, and writing a puppet show to perform at the end of the week. Please sign up by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Thursday, July 21, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt. Beat the summer slide in the most fun way possible: read to a therapy dog! Wyatt doesn't care if mess up a word, he's just happy to listen. Sign up for a 15-minute time slot by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, July 23, 9:00 PM: Outdoor Movie Night. This month we're watching *Moana*! Bring snacks, seats, and definitely some bug spray. Weather dependent.

Wednesday, July 27, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: PreK Craft: Fishbowls. Little ones can practice their gluing and coloring skills while we use paper plates and plastic plates to create one-of-a-kind aquariums to take home. Please sign up by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Friday, July 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [age 6+] Two LEGO clubs in one month?! It must be a marvelous summer. Come back and build with us. Please sign up by stopping by the library, calling us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, July 30, 11:00 AM: VINS Watershed Wildlife [all ages] Our friends at Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences will bring some live animal friends to help us learn all about the animals who live in the water systems near us. This is always a good time and we hope to see you there! No sign up necessary. We'll plan to be outside.

All information accurate as of June 28; please visit drml.org

Libraries continued on page 9

LIMITED TIME

**Free Appliance
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**Efficiency
Vermont**

For a limited time, Efficiency Vermont is offering free pickups of old appliances, plus cash back:

- \$50 for each working standalone freezer or secondary refrigerator
- \$20 for each working dehumidifier, mini fridge, or window AC

Learn more: efficiencyvermont.com/recycle or call 888-998-6323

Subject to availability and eligibility

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The importance of states

By Kesha Ram Hinsdale, State Senator, Chittenden District

June 24

Dear friends and neighbors,

I stepped out of a historic race for Congress to instead focus on what we can do in state government in this unprecedented time. A lot of factors went into my decision, but chief among them was the critical role states will play as the Supreme Court continues to dismantle federal precedents and protections built over the last half century and beyond.

First and foremost, I stand with you in mourning and fighting back against the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, rolling back 50 years of access to abortion and general medical privacy. While the Supreme Court has ruled that the U.S. Constitution "does not confer a right to abortion," Vermont voters have the vital opportunity to enshrine our reproductive liberties in the Vermont Constitution through Proposition 5 on Election Day in November.

This reversal of decades of precedent is shattering to women's rights and is also spilling over into a wave of laws targeting the LGBT community, particularly the private medical and socio-emotional decisions of families. We passed a resolution supporting affirming care for trans youth, and we have far more work to do. We must protect medical providers and families from intrusive legal action, especially if they are providing telemedicine for patients in states that have rolled back protections.

Additionally, basic civil liberties are at risk with an expected ruling on Miranda rights that rolls back constitutional protections in police interactions. The case would eliminate the right to redress if an officer fails to read one's Miranda rights, disproportionately harming communities of color. States and municipalities will have to secure criminal justice provisions in the face of what could be a sweeping national decision on law enforcement protocol, and we need to protect critical gains in fair and impartial policing that no longer have federal backing.

Even further, the Court has struck down a New York legal requirement for demonstrated need to obtain a public-carry license for a firearm, claiming a violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments. Following a string of horrific and deadly gun violence in Buffalo, Uvalde, and across the nation, we cannot allow our children, neighbors, family, and friends to face increased risk of gun violence when firearms have become the leading cause of death for American kids. We must strengthen our waiting period laws, keep guns out of the hands of young people, and crack down on gun and drug trafficking.

The work to be done at the state level is monumental, and it is also promising in a state like Vermont that continues to enjoy bipartisan cooperation and common sense legislating. I look forward to continuing to do the work of the people in Montpelier and to maintain our freedom and unity here in Vermont.

Please stay in touch in these challenging times: kramhinsdale@leg.state.vt.us.

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WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS



Dr. Jevin Carruth is proud to announce that he will carry on serving the dental needs of Lamoille, Franklin, and Chittenden counties following the retirement of Dr. David Solomon.

Born and raised in Underhill, Dr. Carruth brings with him years of advanced training in cosmetic, surgical, and emergency dental procedures.

He looks forward to meeting you!

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Essex Jericho Underhill Food Shelf

The Hannaford store located at 78 Marshall Ave., Williston will donate \$1 to the Essex Jericho Underhill Food Shelf from each purchase of a \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag during the month of July. If you do any shopping in Williston please consider this.

The Food Shelf is also grateful to the Jericho Market, Essex Hannaford, and Price Chopper-Essex for providing donation bins for food staples, and to the Jericho Settlers Farm for monthly donations of fresh produce.

If you have garden produce to share, the next food distribution dates will be Saturdays, July 16 and August 20 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. Produce should be delivered to the church by 8:00 AM on those morning, unless by prior arrangement.

Coexisting with bears

Public Information Office Joshua Morse of Vermont Fish and Wildlife has asked the town of Underhill to post the following press release, which can be found at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/newsroom/with-reports-of-bear-conflicts-across-the-state-fish-and-wildlife-urges-proactive-steps-for-safety>, along with the following information on coexistence with bears:

Bear Coexistence Advisory from VT Fish and Wildlife Department

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is receiving reports from across the state of black bears seeking food in yards, outbuildings, and livestock enclosures this spring. Many of these situations can be prevented if people take steps to make their backyards bear-safe before a bear shows up.

Bears — and people — are at risk when bears spend time in human-dominated landscapes. And every time a bear finds an easy meal of birdseed, compost, or unsecured garbage, they are learning a dangerous association between people and food. Coexisting with bears starts with you taking the following steps to help keep bears wild:

- Birdfeeders are a big problem! Take down birdfeeders until December. You can attract birds by planting bird friendly native plants instead — check out Audubon's Native Plants for Birds Program: <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
- Make your garbage inaccessible. Store garbage in a secure structure and a bear proof container. Learn how to make your garbage can bear proof here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Living%20with%20Wildlife/Living%20with%20Bears/bear-resistant-retrofit-polycart.pdf>
- Dispose of garbage frequently. If you have pick-up services, wait until the morning to put your garbage out.
- Demand bear proof dumpsters for your community.
- Follow steps for composting in bear country. Compost needs to be 3:1 — that is, three parts brown materials to one part kitchen scraps, turned frequently, and kept in a sturdy tumbler or bin: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/260>
- Use electric fencing to keep chickens and bees safe. Fences need to be 4000-6000 volts, tested regularly, and baited: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/1996>
- Clean your grill after every use
- Make bears feel uncomfortable in your yard. Yell, bang pots and pans, or use other noise devices from inside your home. Never shoot a bear to scare it. Even BBs can seriously injure bears.
- Please report your bear encounters to VT Fish & Wildlife. These reports allow us to help you prevent future bear incidents. They also give us information to help all Vermonters better coexist with bears: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>

Following these steps can save bears' lives, and help protect you, your neighbors, and your property. Please do your part to be a good neighbor and help keep Vermont's bears wild!

If you have questions, contact the Vermont Fish and Wildlife department, 802-828-1000 or fwinformation@vermont.gov.

Summer BBQ safety tips

With summer here, I find myself getting grilled by families asking about safety precautions they should be taking when they barbecue outside. Well, I don't want any backyard fireworks to occur, so let me provide some information on this topic.

Keep children away from the grill

First, keep your children away from a grill and the items around the grill before, during, and after you use it. For example, lighter fluid bottles can look like something your child may want to drink and if they do, a serious and life-threatening poisoning can occur. If you do think your child may have gotten into lighter fluid or anything else potentially poisonous, please call the New England Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Make sure your grill is good to go

Wildcat Walkabout

• ONCE/WEEK SUMMER AFTERNOONS •

• DROP-OFF PLACE • WESTFORD SCHOOL

• HIKING • SWIMMING • BIKING •

The Westford Recreation Department is gauging appeal for people whose teens want to enjoy an adventure once a week during the summer. This may be hiking a trail, swimming in a nature park, or hiking the Westford trails. For those interested, please contact Lori at hockeygirl13d@gmail.com

Before cooking, make sure your grill is in good working order and never test it indoors or in a garage. Follow the directions from the manufacturer on how to use your barbecue or grill equipment and never leave a grill area unattended, with or without children around, when it is in use.

Remember food safety rules

As to picnic and barbecue foods, don't forget to wash your hands before you handle food products. In preparing food to grill or barbecue, never put cooked food on a dish that was holding raw meat, poultry, or fish. Remember that bacteria multiply at between 40-140° Fahrenheit, so keep cold food cold in well-insulated coolers with ice packs kept in the shade, and keep hot foods hot in insulated containers until they're ready to be eaten. To prevent food poisoning, don't leave food outside for more than two hours, and remember my motto in regard to how long to leave a food out at room temperature: when in doubt, throw it out.

Clean up quickly

Finally, clean up right after the barbecue and not the next day, since children can come across alcoholic beverages or snacking foods left out that may choke them without an adult being there to supervise, or they can get burned from a barbecue that is still cooling down. And speaking of getting burned, don't bury hot coals in the sand at the beach since they can remain hot for up to 24 hours and a child who runs over that spot can sustain severe burns to their feet.

Hopefully tips like these, and I'm not talking about steak tips, will not make you simmer by helping you prevent summer backyard injuries from occurring the next time you're out there barbecuing.

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

Summer programs from Westford Recreation

Which program(s) would you like to register for? Fees listed are for entire session of the program. Grades listed are for grade the child will enter this fall. Join us for one or all!

- Parent & Me Summer Soccer (\$25) Toddlers-K: Wednesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 AM, Westford School, through August 17
- Summer Soccer, grades K-1 (\$20) Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:15 PM, Westford School, through August 11
- Summer Soccer, grades 2-4 (\$20) Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM and Saturdays, 8:30 – 9:30 AM, Westford School, through August 11
- Summer Pick Up Soccer, grades 5-8 (\$20) Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Westford School, through August 11
- Summer Adult Pick Up Soccer, ages 16+ (\$20) Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Westford School, through August 11
- Parent & Me (ages 3-6) T-Ball (\$25), Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, Westford School, through August 20

Register online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJog47fBVaT4aqYdvs_ainoksKuk_nq9Qc2jBz5vO6AcKFYA/viewform

Pay less at the pump with an EV From Efficiency Vermont

Well, it finally happened. Our gas prices are (June 16) averaging over \$5/gallon. If you're tired of feeling the pinch at the pump, it might be time to look in to driving an electric vehicle (EV). They may not make sense for everyone (yet!), but depending on your driving needs they could be the right fit for you.

Plug in your car at home, at night (the same way you plug in your phone), and it's like paying \$1.50 a gallon at the pump. You can also reduce the upfront cost of purchasing an EV by as much as \$13,000 thanks to federal tax credits and local incentives. Need to charge on the road? Vermont has over 300 charging stations statewide, with more on the way.

Check out <http://www.DriveElectricVT.com> to learn more about making the switch to an EV. Use their cost of ownership tool to see the long-term savings that can come with an electric car: <http://www.driveelectricvt.com/about-evs/cost-of-ownership>.

Great things take time

By Val Davis, Executive Director, Lamoille FiberNet CUD

As we come into the construction season in Vermont, we at Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) are working hard to line up all the pieces needed to begin building our high-speed fiber broadband network.

We have recently published an RFP (Request for Proposal) for Design, Construction and Project Management. This is the process necessary to find a vendor who will do the final design and actual construction of our network. We are also working day and night to finalize negotiations on the agreement with our proposed ISP (Internet Service Provider).

Some of the steps required include a detailed or "low level" design, which creates a map of the fiber routes and determines which telephone/electric poles we will need to attach our fiber to. We must also work with the utilities and put in pole applications for each pole. The pole owners will then do the multi-step "Make Ready" process, to ensure that each pole is ready for the fiber attachment. We also must secure easements to place our equipment at various locations throughout the county. When all of these pieces are in place, then the crews can begin hanging the fiber.

Our first deliveries of fiber is expected to be delivered in August, and Vermont Electric Cooperative is working with Lamoille FiberNet to provide storage for the large reels of fiber.

Not since the Rural Electrification Bill of 1944 has such a huge infrastructure project been undertaken, and Lamoille FiberNet is fully committed to the task. We will keep our communities posted on our progress.

The mission of Lamoille FiberNet CUD is to make locally-controlled, affordable, and reliable high-speed Internet service available to every address in our member towns — Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville, and Wolcott — as soon as possible. For more information, go to <http://www.LamoilleFiber.net> or contact director@lamoillefiber.net.

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

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

VALET BIKE PARKING — Local Motion reminds volunteers that valet bike parking season has arrived, and volunteers are needed to make biking safe by helping to provide free bike parking at festivals, concerts, food trucks, and more in the Greater Burlington area. There is an urgent need for volunteers weekends at the Burlington Farmers Market. Volunteers can also staff tables at events and provide visitors with information about biking. A reminder that volunteer hours with Local Motion count toward City Market member-worker credit, which can translate to a discount on groceries. Volunteers are also frequently given free tickets to events they are working at, including awesome music shows at the waterfront! Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/cbCBvrQ>.

SERVING A NEED — Champlain Inn Low Barrier Homeless Shelter is seeking volunteers, age 18 and older, to help set up, serve a meal that has already been provided, and clean up at their evening meal any day Monday-Sunday from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Contact Andre Clark, clark@anewplacevt.org.

IN THE KITCHEN — Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington is seeking volunteers, age 18 and older, to help in their kosher kitchen at community events. Tasks include everything from baking challah to preparing meals for community gatherings. Timing of events is variable. Contact Andie Lowe, office@ohavizedek.org or 802-864-0218.

PICK IT UP — Winooski Valley Park District is looking for volunteer help, age 10 and older, to pick up litter in parking areas and along the trails in city parks. Bags and gloves provided. A great opportunity for young volunteers to serve the community! Contact Timothy Larned, timlarned@wvdp.org or 802-863-5744.

CLOTHING VOLUNTEER — Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers in their ReStores to help with clothing intake. Volunteers can sort, hang, and stock gently used and throwback clothing. A perfect opportunity for someone who can come in for a few hours, three days a week. No experience necessary, and weekday and weekend shifts are available. Contact Bridget Mientka, bmientka@vermonthabitat.org or 802-598-0355.

Begin your M.S. in counseling, tuition-free at NVU

Interested in a mental health counseling career? Join Northern Vermont University for a virtual information session about our weekend format Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Vermonters can begin the degree tuition-free this year!

Register for a virtual information session on Wednesday, July 6, 5:30 – 6:30 PM: <https://www.NorthernVermont.edu/CMHCInfoJuly>.

There is a first year tuition-free scholarship for Vermonters! Thanks to generous financial support from the Vermont State Legislature, free tuition for the 2022-2023 academic year is available for Vermonters enrolling in one of five in-demand programs at NVU — including M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Funds are limited; apply today!

Learn more at <https://www.Northernvermont.edu/VTScholarships/>.

You can also schedule your own in-person or virtual information session at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/GraduateAdmissions>. Questions? Reach out to Admissions@NorthernVermont.edu.

Children's Institute at Jericho open house

The Children's Institute at Jericho (TCIAJ) would like to welcome you to our open house on Friday, July 8. Please feel free to stop by any time between 2:00 – 5:00 PM to tour our beautiful classroom and playground. As we guide you through our space, you will learn how our program fosters curiosity, exploration, independence, initiative, and responsibility in a safe and nurturing environment. Everyone is invited to the tour, meet the staff, and enjoy fun activities for children. We are located in the back of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, at 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Please drive around to the back of the church to park. You will see the gate entrance to TCIAJ. If you are unable to attend our Open House, please email us at info@tciaj.org or call 802-881-7503 to schedule a tour. Website <http://TCIAJ.org>.

Fall Rec K-League soccer registration

Mansfield United Soccer Club's (MUSC) K League, a recreational coed soccer league serving the Jericho and Underhill communities, is an instructional non-results-oriented league that is supported solely by volunteers who dedicate their time for the development of each individual player, and strive to achieve a love of the game for all.

K-League will be held at Mills Riverside Park, Jericho. Age groups:

- U4 "Pitchniks" — all players born 2018;
- U5/U6–U6 "Kicks" — all players born in 2016 and 2017;
- U7/U8–U8 "Ballers" — all players born in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Registration open through Friday, July 15; \$30 per player league fee, plus a uniform (families ordered direct). Order the uniform at Challenger Sports, <https://www.challengerteamwear.com/store/mansfieldunited/sale->. A Pawnee reversible shirt (navy/white) is \$15.

The season runs from Sunday, September 4-Sunday, October 9. The weekly schedule will be as follows:

- Sundays: Pitchniks and Kicks 12:00 PM, Ballers 2:00 PM;
- Tuesdays: Pitchniks and Kicks;
- Thursdays: Ballers

To register, go online to https://system.gotsport.com/programs/940D16394?reg_role=player.

Questions, contact moutmansfieldsc@gmail.com.

Libraries continued from page 6

for the most up-to-date information on programs at DRML.

Please visit drml.org for the most up-to-date information on programs at DRML.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

We are open 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday.

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM: Storytime takes place in our programming area on the second floor of the library and is intended for children aged 0-5 (though all are welcome!). We usually share a few books together and a related craft or activity. Please note that masks are required indoors for everyone over 2 years old.

Jericho Town Library's Makerspace is exactly what it sounds like: an area for kids and teens to create, tinker, build, code, and explore the world of STEM. With support from the VT Department of Libraries' ARPA grant, we currently have 3D Pens, SPIKE Prime Lego robotics, and a 3D printer. The Makerspace is located on the second floor of Jericho Town Library and is open for kids aged 7-18 whenever the library is open. Come to the library and get started creating! While the Makerspace is free for all children and teens, the 3D printer can also be used by adults who pay for the cost of their materials. Visit our website to read about using the Makerspace and 3D printer! <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/makerspace.html>

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

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

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

Summer is here, and we welcome you to view our website for our complete list of summer events, such as the Summer Reading Program and our annual 4th of July Book Sale! <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/calendar>.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM: Two-Book Tuesday story time! Come join us and share in a relaxed story time, followed by a craft to make or take. We will aim for the front porch, weather depending. If indoors, masking is requested.

Thursdays, 4:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons. Are you curious about Dungeons and Dragons? Are you an experienced player that needs a party? Come join us at the Varnum. No experience needed; all ages welcome!

The Varnum has two open Library Trustee positions. If you love the library and want to make a difference in our community, we invite you to consider a role as a Trustee: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/trustee-position>.

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Thursdays 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday. (Note, hours at the Varnum can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Do you have a document that needs to be notarized? The Library now offers notary public services: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 5:00 – 7:00 PM; and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will only be able to offer these services at these specific times; please call ahead to confirm notary public availability.

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

Events for everyone

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (July 6), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (July 16), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

The Summer Reading Program!

The Summer Reading Program 2022 runs through August 5. You can register in person at the library, or online at <https://forms.gle/mG8vL3mFMPKX7d19>.

Age levels, reading goals, and prizes:

- ages 0-2 “Guppies” (babies and toddlers): fun activities for families to do together, stuffed animal prize at the end;
- ages 3-8 (kids): 10 books/150 minutes read per raffle ticket;
- ages 9-12 (teens): 3 books/240 minutes read per raffle ticket;
- ages 13-18 (teens): 1 book read per raffle ticket;
- adults - 18+ (adults): 1 book per raffle ticket; adults fill out their own raffle tickets at the library as they read.

Raffle tickets will be made by Ms. Bree when reading logs are turned in (due August 4). Raffle tickets will also be given for coming to programs. Prizes consist of gift certificates to Essex Cinemas, Phoenix Books, Westford Country Store, and more! Prizes will be awarded at the end of the SRP Ice Cream Party on Friday, August 5.

Every time you come to the library you can work on our sticker mosaic! Last year it was a unicorn, what will it be this year? Get a strip of stickers to place every visit. Together is better!

“Finding Nemo” Find the hidden clown fish in the library and get a prize! The prize bucket returns after a long couple of years without it. All ages welcome to participate each visit to the library.

Westford's hiking trails and storywalks! Poetry Walk: on Maple Shade Trails. Story Walk: Enjoy Duck and Goose Go to the Beach on the school trails; see the kiosk for the exact trail. A new story will go up in August. Westford Trail Passport: This exciting program is back and better than ever!

Westford Night at a Lake Monsters Game! Tuesday, July 12, 6:35 PM, vs. Pittsfield Suns. The library has purchased 20 kids'

tickets (12 and under) and reserved a block of seats. Call the box office to reserve your kids' tickets (maximum two per family) and order reduced price tickets (\$7/\$5) in our very own “Westford” block. It's also 25¢ hotdog night!

Champ is coming to visit Saturday, July 9 from 10:00 – 11:00 AM!

Thursdays, 11:15 AM: Ocean Storytime On the Common. Bring your lunch and a blanket and be ready for fun! Every week we will read stories related to the ocean. We will sing and move, too! Take-home crafts available. We will use the gazebo if weather is bad. July 7: Whales; July 14: Pirates; July 21: Keep Oceans Clean; July 28: “Crabby” Storytime; August 4: Sandcastles and the Beach.

Mondays, through August 1: Marine Mondays. Virtual reality dives of our National Marine Sanctuary Sites every Monday on our Facebook Page; from NOAA. 360 degrees on your device or can be used with a VR headset.

Summer Reading Program/events schedule and details (events with a (*) require pre-registration).

Wednesday, July 6: Pirate Treasure Day. Two Sessions 4:00 – 5:00 PM and 5:00 – 6:00 PM, on the Common. Come find gold and jewels! We will be panning for gold and using vinegar to eat away at fizzing treasure chests. Recommended to get there at the start of a session or the treasure might be gone! Wear clothes that can get wet/dirty.

Friday, July 8, 4:00 – 5:00 PM in the library: Crafternoon Under the Sea Framed Mosaics. Make a frame-worthy sticker mosaic.

Saturday, July 9, 10:00 – 1:00 AM: Champ visits the Library! Come get your photo taken with the area's favorite Lake Monster, Champ! We will also have fun bubbles and water play on the Common. Don't forget about Westford Night with the Lake Monsters on Tuesday, July 12!

Tuesday, July 12, 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the library: Crafternoon Ocean Life Suncatchers. Make something cool for your room!

Wednesday, July 13, 5:00 – 7:00 PM in the library: No Sew Book Bags. Keep trash out of the ocean and landfill! Upcycle an old t-shirt into a cool bookbag, explained at 5:00 and 6:00 PM. Participants should bring their own t-shirt(s). Recommended for those entering fourth grade and up.

Friday, July 15, 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the library: Crafternoon Ocean Life Suncatchers. Make something cool for your room!

Tuesday, July 19, anytime 3:00 – 7:00 PM: “Buried Treasure” Coded Scavenger Hunt around the Common. Stop in at the library to get a decoder wheel and get started. Clues will lead you around the Common and to a “treasure.” Repeated on July 30 from 10am-2pm.

*Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 – 6:30 PM: Bob, the Reading Tortoise. Readers entering grades 1-5 can sign up for a 15-minute reading slot.

Friday, July 22, 4:00 – 6:00 PM on the Common: Crafternoon Liquid Watercolor Sea Life Shapes. Messy watercolors make beautiful sea creatures.

Tuesday, July 26, 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the Library: Crafternoon “Hodge Podge.” Did you miss a Crafternoon? Enjoy making the leftover projects.

*Wednesday, July 27, 5:30 – 6:30 PM: Bob, the Reading Tortoise. Readers entering grades 1-5 can sign up for a 15-minute reading slot.

Friday, July 29, 4:00 – 6:00 PM on the Common: Crafternoon “Hodge Podge.” Did you miss a Crafternoon? Enjoy making the leftover projects.

Sunday, July 30, anytime 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: “Buried Treasure” Coded Scavenger Hunt around the Common. Stop in at the library to get a decoder wheel and get started. Clues will lead you around the Common and to a “treasure.”

Tuesday, August 2, 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the Library: Crafternoon “Hodge Podge.” Did you miss a Crafternoon? Enjoy making the leftover projects.

Wednesday, August 3, 4:30 – 6:30 PM in the Library: “Treasure Inside.” Take things apart (toys, computers, appliances) and see what is inside, take it one step further and make cool art from what you find inside, if you like. Great for the mechanically curious.

Thursday, August 4: Summer Reading Logs due by 7:00 PM. Turn in at the library or online via google form.

Friday, August 5, 4:30 – 6:30 PM on the Common: End of Summer Ice Cream Party and Raffle. Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with “All You Should Eat” Ice cream! We will announce the winners of our Summer Reading Prize Drawing as well! You do not need to be present to win. Prizes can be picked up anytime at the library. Volunteer scoopers needed.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

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

Youth events

Wednesday, July 6, 1:00 PM: Shark Puppet. Create a *jaw-some* shark puppet with a chomping mouth! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 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, July 11, 2:00 PM: *STARBASE* Robot Engineering Challenge. This program will give youth participants the opportunity to work with the engineering design process to code a Sphero robot. Ages 8-12. Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register.

Wednesday, July 13, 1:00 PM: Ocean in a Bottle. Make your very own mini-ocean in a bottle! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, July 20, 1:00 PM: Plush Octopus. Learn how to make a cute, cuddly octopus friend! Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, July 27, 1:00 PM: Paper Pirate Ship. Make a

model pirate ship! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Thursday, July 21, 6:00 PM: “Woof! What's the Dog Saying?” Lecture with Deb Helfrich from Gold Star Dog Training! This is a fun, interactive, multimedia presentation where participants will learn about how dogs communicate with barks and body language. Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register.

Summer Reading Challenge for Adults. Kids shouldn't be the only ones who get to have fun with the summer reading program! This year, we are doing a summer reading challenge for adults as well. Pick up your summer reading bingo card from the library, and complete the challenges to get a bingo and a prize!

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

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Our webpage, Facebook, and email reflect this information.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Kits: We have ten different kits ready for families to take home to provide young learners with introductory knowledge and skill building in important subject areas. Kits contain books, toys, games, tools, and instructions. Subjects include: The Universe, Robots and Coding, Money and Math, Food and Nutrition, Yoga, Music and Meditation, Backyard Bird Watching, Electricity, Structural Engineering, and Water Quality. Each kit lists an appropriate age/grade range though most are appropriate for PreK-3. Visit the picture book room to see what's available. STEAM Kits were made possible with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Launchpads are preloaded tablets that are curated with collections of learning apps and videos for young children and are ready to play right off the shelf. The simple, easy-to-use interface is 100% secure, and requires no download time or Wi-Fi. They offer a fun, interactive way for young children to build literacy, math, and life skills and can be used anytime, anywhere. Find them in the picture book room. Launchpads were purchased with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Melt away Mondays, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Outdoor Summer Yoga Series: on the Library lawn, a gentle, flowing yoga class that incorporates breathwork and meditation. Open to all. Classes guided by Carrie Mailloux, RYT 200. By donation; proceeds to the Richmond Food Shelf.

Tuesday, July 12, 6:00 PM, Fiction Book Group, in the library: *Instructions for a Heat Wave* by Maggie O'Farrell. As the siblings tease out clues about their father's whereabouts, they navigate rocky pasts and long-held secrets until at last their search brings them to their ancestral home in Ireland, where the truth of their parents' lives — and their own — is suddenly revealed. All are welcome; books available one month ahead. Contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or gwenie1972@yahoo.com, for information.

Thursday, July 21, 7:00 PM, Mystery Book Group, in the library: *The Mountains Wild* by Sarah Stewart Taylor. “... a riveting thriller with a beating heart. [T]his beautifully wrought portrait of love and family, secrets and lies... dives deep into character, all the while ratcheting up the suspense...” All are welcome; books available one month ahead. Contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or mspparent@gmavt.net, for information.

Weekly children's programs are taking a break for the summer monthsBaby Laptime, Storytime, and Playgroup resume in September.

The Summer Reading Program theme is *Oceans of Possibility* featuring the artwork of Sophie Blackall. Register at the library.

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, Outdoor Arts and Crafts: Register kids ages 5-10 in advance for these programs; contact 802-434-3036 or rfl@gmavt.net. Events move inside for wet weather.

- July 6: Duck Tape Piggy Banks: turn an ordinary container into your own one-of-a-kind piggy bank;
- July 13: Fire Breathing Dragon: a tube, some streamers, and pom poms bring to life a fearsome beast;
- July 20: Ojos de Dios: using sticks and colorful yarn weave your own “God's Eye,” a traditional Mexican yarn craft that symbolizes the power of seeing and understanding things we normally cannot see;
- July 27: Paint a Puzzle: equipped with paints and brushes and inspired by the bold colors of summer, create your own 36-piece work of puzzle art.

Mondays, July 11, 18, 25, 11:00 AM: Big Book Storytime on the library lawn behind the building. Families are asked to bring their own blanket or chairs and snacks if they like. No registration needed. Storytime includes giant books with big bold pictures, rhymes, and songs. Rain location: in the Community Room.

Thursday, July 14, 1:00 PM: LEGO City. Join other LEGO enthusiasts, and build your own corner of one big city. Our LEGO city will be on display for the rest of the month. No registration needed; ages 5+.

Secret Message Scavenger Hunt: Pick up your secret message decoding sheet any time you're in the library and hunt for the letters on the walls and amongst the books. Once you know the secret message, deliver it to the youth desk on the second floor and receive a prize.

StoryWalk® outdoor reading experiences reveal a story, page by page, as the reader follows the StoryWalk route. There will be a new StoryWalk set up around the library grounds each month this summer. July: *Maisy Goes on Vacation* by Lucy Cousins.

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

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 802-878-6955.

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

OBITUARIES

Nathaniel "Neely" Bartlett Rich:

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 marked the passing of our dear and beloved friend and brother. Nathaniel B. Rich passed away after a brief and unexpected illness. Neely, age 56, passed peacefully at the University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT. He will be dearly missed by all. Nathaniel was born December 20, 1965 in Burlington, VT. Being the comedian of the family, we enjoyed his wit, mirth, and humor, as did everyone he met. He took great joy in insulting me in a loving way, at every opportunity! Always looking on the bright side, even when things were tough. He was known to say, "At least I didn't wake up in Africa!" Nathaniel worked successfully as a skilled tradesman and was well respected in his field. Neely's cute demeanor and good looks always caught an eye from the ladies. He also had a generous nature, which always led him to consider others first. Nathaniel was predeceased by his loving parents, Donald and Margret Rich. His surviving siblings Victoria, Malachey, Heidi, Donald, Jonathan, and Owen, and his daughter Brianna, will most certainly long grieve this loss, along with all who knew him. Nathaniel had deep love for the outdoors and all things natural, a good trait in any person. Neely had an instinctive kindness, that I am still learning. He frequently caused us all to look through a different perspective and lens, that lens focused on positivity, kindness, and caring. Neely did have his spicy side. When his buddy Tony asked for a bite of his Snickers bar he was glad to share, then Tony gobbled the whole thing in one bite! Neely was kinda pissed at Tony for years — still is. Although I am sure he has forgiven him by now. Neely also had an interest in all things mechanical, sure hope they have a tinkers shop in heaven, he'll be right at home. I am sure St. Pete will give Neely a golden key to that heavenly workshop. When Neely was younger he built a go-cart, which I criticized until he intently burnt a hole clean through the top of my brand new boot, then he drove away laughing! That would have been Neely's mischievous side, a side of him we will chuckle at in remembrance. The love and kindness Nathaniel expressed and exuded, I cannot put into mere words. He will miss us, as much as we will miss him. I weep not for myself. For to have known him is an honor we can all take with us the rest of our lives. God speed our friend. A graveside public service was held at Fairview cemetery at Old Colchester Road, Essex Junction, VT. All were invited. A celebration of life followed at Murray's Tavern, Essex Junction, VT. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Humane Society of Chittenden County, 142 Kindness Ct., S. Burlington, VT 05403.

Eugene "Gene" A. Wells Jr., 50,

Jeffersonville, VT passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, June 14, 2022, surrounded by the ones he loved the most, after a courageous 18-month battle with cancer. Gene was born on September 17, 1971 in Burlington, VT, the son of Eugene A. Wells Sr. and Linda Burton. After his school years, Gene enlisted in the Vermont Army National Guard, where he proudly served his country for 26 years. He was deployed to Iraq in 2003 during the war in Afghanistan. He was wounded in a roadside accident and returned home to heal and serve the rest of his military career on U.S. soil, retiring a Sergeant First Class in 2016. In 1998 Gene met the love of his life at a swimming hole in Jeffersonville, and the rest is history. Gene and Stacy (Jones) were married July 24, 2004. During their 24-year journey, they welcomed three beautiful children, Olivia, Courtney, and Mason, to fill their hearts and their home. Gene enjoyed fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and trips to camp and Maine with the family. When stuck inside, it was video games, *Fortnite*, and watching the Yankees play ball. Gene is survived by his wife Stacy, daughter Olivia and her partner Nathaniel Howard, daughter Courtney, son Mason, father Eugene A. Wells Sr., brothers Bradley Wells and Jesse Wells, sister Amy Wells, in-laws Randy and Susan Morrill, Scott (Nichole) Jones, several nieces and nephews, his special cousin Pete Wells, and his buddies Ken Musgrave and Pap. Gene was predeceased by his mother Linda Burton, sister Amber Wells, and his grandmothers Constance Vancor and Harriet Wells. A special thank you to Lamoille Home Health & Hospice for the amazing care and support provided to Gene. To those who enjoyed the outdoors with Gene: May the VAST trails always be groomed, the deer end up in your sights, and the fish fight like hell. Visiting hours were held Monday, June 20, 2022 at Minor Funeral Home. There was a family-run graveside service on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at the Saint Thomas Cemetery, 9-13 Range Rd., Underhill, VT. Immediately following the graveside service there was a remembrance celebration, the place of which was announced following the service.

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

Seeking Upbeat, Organized Person With Excellent Customer Service Skills. Daily Tasks Involve Data Entry, Ability To Multi-Task, & Lots Of Public Contact! Moderately Complex Clerical Tasks Involving A High Degree Of Accuracy.

- Certification Through Vermont Municipal Clerks' & Treasurers' Association Desirable
- Salary Will Be In The \$30k To \$33k Range Commensurate With Experience.
- Part Time, 32 Hours A Week, Relaxed Yet Professional Working Environment, Great Benefits!

For Job Description Please Visit: Jerichovt.Org

Please Send Cover Letter & Resume To **Assistant Town Clerk Search Committee, Town Of Jericho, Po Box 67, Jericho, Vt 05465.**

Or Email To Tc@Jerichovt.Gov With "Future Assistant Town Clerk" In The Subject Line.



ARTS / MUSIC / THEATER

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho is currently showing at an exhibition of acrylic paintings by local artist Robert W. Brunelle. The show, titled *The Old Neighborhood*, will hang through Sunday, July 31, with an artist reception on Sunday, July 17, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The Old Neighborhood is Robert's hometown of Rutland, VT, where his family has lived since 1908. When Robert was in college he worked as the docent of the Rutland Historical Society Museum, and helped to write their history book *Rutland In Retrospect* in 1976. Robert has collected 19th century photography since he was a child, and some of the paintings in this show are inspired by glass plate negatives from his collection. A common theme in all of his art is a longing for the past, and the mysteries of the passage of time. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment, 802-899-3211.

The Westford Music Series of concerts all take place on the Common on Sundays at 7:00 PM. Free will donation. For more information: 802-363-0930. The line-up for Westford's summer concerts is:

- July 10: *Rebecca Padula and Ukelele Clare*
- July 17: *Mango Jam*
- July 24: *Atom and the Orbits*
- July 31: *Shellhouse*
- August 7: *Rockin' Round Table*
- August 14: *McCaffrey, Coane, and Rowell*
- August 21: *Emma Cook*

Mills Riverside Park Summer Concert Series: Come celebrate the best of summer at the Mills Riverside Park Summer Concert Series! All performances are on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Bring a picnic and relax to excellent music in a beautiful, natural setting! Please email the Park District at jupdistrict@gmail.com with any questions. Weather cancellations will be posted on our Mills Riverside Park Facebook page, website, and on the sidewalk sign at the park entrance.

July 6: *Shellhouse* does melodic rock originals and classic rock covers. The group consists of Bob Teer (songwriter, guitar, vocals), Andrea Teer (vocals and manditar), Marshall Breakstone (bass guitar and vocals), Steve Wanderlich (drums), and the latest addition Dan Lurie (guitar).

July 13: *Vermont's Freedom & Unity Chorus* formed in 2019 to create a safe place that welcomes all voices regardless of age, race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation. We sing a variety of music: pop, folk, rock, soul, gospel... even Broadway! We are united in the fight for freedom and equality for all, and are steadfast in the hope that there are better days ahead. We guarantee that audiences will recognize a song or two and leave uplifted and inspired to make the world a better, more welcoming place to be. To learn more: <http://vermontsfreedomandunitychorus.org/>.

July 20: *The Stragglers* will be bringing their "Old- and New-time String Band Sound" to the park this summer. Their repertoire ranges from Appalachian fiddle tunes through vintage country, bluegrass, and their own varied original compositions. Their sound has been described by *Seven Days* as both "unrelentingly mature" and "tastefully evocative." Come see for yourself! *The Stragglers* are Eric Bushey (banjo/electric guitar/vocals), Rusty Charpentier (fiddle/guitar/vocals), Preston Randall (mandolin, electric and acoustic guitar/vocals), and Justin Bedell (fretless bass/vocals).

July 27: *The Buck Hollers Band* is a high-energy group that loves connecting with audiences. They offer an eclectic mix of popular and little-known rock-n-roll, R&B, folk, country, bluegrass, newgrass, Americana, and Irish music. Decades of musical experience are blended with guitar, banjo, bass, harmonica, percussion, keyboard, and four-part harmony into a professionally engineered sound mix and a good dose of humor that appeals to all ages. They've delivered tight rhythms, sweet harmonies, head-turning a capella, witty lyrics, and great comedy throughout northern Vermont and New York since 2015.

August 3: *The Robin Gottfried Band* offers memorable song craftsmanship and recognizable vocals all brought together by soulful and interpretive playing, making the music from the *Robin Gottfried Band* worth hearing again and again. The paradox of chops cultivated in NYC but nurtured within the beauty of Vermont offers listeners a full and enlivened experience of sound and emotion. There is a strong individual identity derived from 11 released albums, yet hints of early *Steely Dan*, *Little Feat*, *Joni Mitchell*, *Sting*, *Bruce Hornsby*, or *The Beatles*, to name a few, can't be denied. Veteran musicians, bassist Brad Sourdiffie, and drummer Ian Koeller, invoke a vitality that resonates as sincere and infectious. It's clear Robin Gottfried and his band enjoy the music they make and the fellowship of the creative process!

2022 Stowe Jewish Film Festival coming in July: The 2022 Stowe Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) is back in person this year! After two years of a virtual festival due to the pandemic, SJFF will present a hybrid festival in 2022, combining in-person and virtual screenings for four films. This year's theme is *The Jewish Experience*: a multiplicity of cultures, languages, countries, traditions, and colors. Patterns of immigration have taken Jews

all over the world, melding and merging, creating hybrid cultures and complex identities.

The 2022 SJFF features films exploring the dramatic journey of Jews from Ethiopia to their new home in Israel; the relationship of members of a Texas Jewish merchant family with their Mexican neighbors at the start of the 20th century; the lives of the few remaining members of the ancient Jewish community of Cochin, India; and the Cuban/Latin music and dance scene in '50s and '60s NYC and the Catskills.

Tickets for all films are available to purchase online through the festival's marketing partner Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, online at <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival-2022/>.

Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 PM: *Yerusalem* at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe. The incredible story of Ethiopian Jewry traces the dramatic journey of these people who struggled to find their way back to the heart of the Jewish people after centuries of isolation.

Thursday, July 21, 7:00 PM: *Unraveling* at the Big Picture, Waitsfield. "Did Pancho Villa really try to kill my grandfather?" While attempting to unravel a family mystery, the filmmaker reveals a dynamic story of borderland relations between a Texas Jewish merchant family and their Mexican neighbors at the



CENTER ST RUTLAND 1950'S ACRYLIC C ROBERT WALDO BRUNELLE JR 2021

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Rd., Jericho is currently showing at an exhibition of acrylic paintings by local artist Robert W. Brunelle. The show, titled The Old Neighborhood, will hang through Sunday, July 31, with an artist reception on Sunday, July 17, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The Old Neighborhood is Robert's hometown of Rutland, VT, where his family has lived since 1908. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment, 802-899-3211. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

beginning of the 20th century.

Wednesday, July 27, 7:00 PM: *The Missing Tale* at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe. A sensitive and intimate portrait of the few remaining members of the ancient Jewish community of Cochin, India.

Sunday, July 31, 7:00 PM: *Mamoniks Ahora!* at Jewish Community of Greater Stowe (JCGOS) in Stowe. A wonderfully entertaining story about the irresistible appeal of music and dance. Crossing geographic and cultural boundaries, the Mambo became a sensational trend in the '50s among Jews in New York, Miami, and the Catskills.

Following the film screening, we will celebrate the finale of the seventh season of the Stowe Jewish Film Festival in the JCOGS tent with a free dessert buffet and a dance party with a DJ and Mambo/Salsa dance instructor. Get out your dancing shoes and join us!

Art in the Park: A small group of Underhill and Jericho residents has been incubating the idea of art in the parks, specifically Mills Riverside Park and the Jericho Center Green. The idea is to create some sculptures reflective of the history of out towns and that will also enhance the park experience. The group would welcome participation from the community in joining the group or by donations. An application has been submitted to the Vermont Arts Council and is in the final stages of acceptance. There will be a need for more resources and input from the community. Please contact Kirk Peterson, kirkmakespizza@gmail.com or 802-338-6520, for details of the next meeting.

Summer Paint-and-Sip series, by Heather Rodriguez, Westford Recreation Coordinator: Westford Rec presents a Summer Paint-and-Sip series on Fridays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Red Brick Meeting House on Westford Common. Register to guarantee a seat, or drop in; \$20 per session. July 8, kids: dragonfly and puffy dandelions; July 22, kids: Mount Mansfield at sunset; July 29, adults: lake sunset with pines; August 12 and 19, adults: a pig with black-eyed Susans; August 26, adults: a garden gnome. Adults BYOB; kids' juice boxes provided! Drop off for ages 6+. Please register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJog47JBVaT4aqYdvs_aiNoksKuk_nq9Qc2jBz5vO6AcKFYA/viewform.

Artists in Schools program to open August 15: Artists in Schools Grants support quality, multiday arts experiences in schools with Vermont teaching artists in residence and encourage collaborations between schools, youth, artists, and arts organizations.

Applications for the 2022-2023 school year open Monday, August 15. Guidelines and other resources are already available on the website, and an online grant-seeker workshop will be held at 10:00 AM on Sunday, July 10.

For more information: <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/schools/artists-in-schools>.

Artist Development Grants: Artist Development Grants support Vermont artists at all stages of their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills or that increase the viability of an artist's business. Open to applications in July. To learn more, go online to <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/artist-development>.

Trucks, Taps & Tunes at the Essex Experience: Come on down to The Essex Experience (21 Essex Way, Essex) Wednesdays, 5:00 – 8:00 PM, this summer (through August 24) for Trucks, Taps, & Tunes, our weekly series of free outdoor live music, food trucks, and beer on The Green! Each week we'll have a different band or performer with rotating food trucks in attendance! The weekly music lineup is as follows: July 6: *Apollo Suns*; July 13: *The Full Cleveland*; July 20: *Andriana Chobot*; July 27: *Raised By Hippies*; August 3: *Brickdrop*; August 10: *Hard Scrabble*; August 17: *Al's Pals*; August 24: *Sneezy*. For more information, go online to <http://EssexExperience.com>.

Tuesday Night Live in Johnson, every Tuesday through August 30. Tuesday Night Live is free thanks to the support of local businesses. Just bring a blanket or chair! A variety of vendors will be on site each week, 6:00 – 8:30 PM, for Tuesday Night Live Outdoor Stage, Legion Field, School St., Johnson. The Historical Society bakers promise a great selection of homemade pies, plus McKenzie hot dogs. Family friendly. Parking is along School Street, in the Elementary School Parking lot, and at the McClelland Building lot on College Hill. Summer showers may dampen the enthusiasm for a few minutes; but it is lightning and thunder that cancels the event. The multi-week music schedule is available on the Tuesday Night Live Facebook page; for information, 802-730-2943. July 12: Lesley Grant Band. Grant's songwriting skill and natural singing voice summon her musical influences, as well as those of the southern Appalachians in an

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SCHOOL NEWS

BRMS students practice stewardship along Browns River

By Keaton Kennedy, Pearl Page, Sienna Butler, Brooke Koenig, Andi Stratton, Hazen Abbott, Carter Young, and Walker Edson

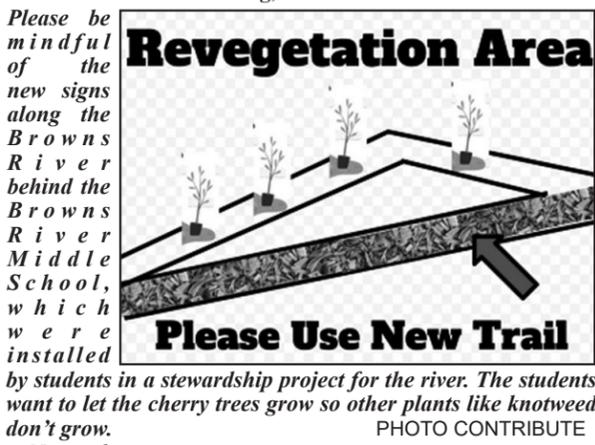


PHOTO CONtribute

Please be mindful of the new signs along the Browns River behind the Browns River Middle School, which were installed by students in a stewardship project for the river. The students want to let the cherry trees grow so other plants like knotweed don't grow.

Notice the signs
What is the purpose of revegetation/erosion control: new plantings = new roots. The signs along the trail behind the Browns River Middle School dictate the new trail and the old trail. It is important to notice them so you don't go on the wrong trail and disrupt the chokecherry trees that are growing there. Please be mindful of the new signs. We want to let the cherry trees grow so other plants like knotweed don't grow.

Be mindful of the new plantings (chokecherry)
The tiny chokecherry trees that we planted are marked with fluorescent orange flags on the closed trail. By helping them grow big and strong roots that will then contain the soil and stop erosion. This will keep the river healthy and clean so that fish and other animals in the water can live in it. The animals on the land can make it so that they can drink from it without getting sick. Please don't walk on them. Or they will not grow properly or die. Not going on the old trail will help to increase the chance of no the erosion.

Avoid the old path

The Browns River Middle School has closed the old path for health and safety reasons. On the old path there are many new trees growing and it is easy to trip over all the branches and you could really hurt yourself. There are a lot of steep slopes on the old path and if you slip and fall you would fall in the river and hurt yourself. Walking on the new trail will allow the chokecherry trees to grow and allow the roots to hold in the soil to make less erosion. If it rains the path gets really wet and the mud gets slippery and it is easy to fall. On the old path there are stumps and fallen trees that you can easily trip over. There are also new plants growing on the old path and we don't want to kill/harm the organisms (plants).

How you can help

You can help by following the new path. This path is marked with wood chips. Another way to help is by not just walking by and pulling knotweed out. This makes it so it is still there. Please try not to walk on any plants, not to pull knotweed without equipment, Don't walk on the new chokecherry plants, and please. If you see sticks on the new trail please move them so we can have a clean trail. If you would like to help please pull the knotweed out but don't throw it in the river after. Because even if you get the roots it can still replant downstream.

Knotweed: how to pull it out and what do with it

Knotweed is an invasive plant. If you try to pull it out with your hands the roots still stay in the ground. That's why you need to dig down with a shovel. If you throw it in the river it will spread downstream; you have to put it in the trash. Once you put it in the garbage bag make sure not to put it in the compost, because they could grow there and spread more seeds. The roots of the knotweed are very thick and they stretch very deep into the ground. They have a reddish tint to them and grow in very big groups. Once they die they start to turn a tanish-brownish color. Knotweed looks a lot like bamboo and rhubarb. If you see it pull it out by the roots and throw it in the GARBAGE. Not compost or in the river. The pieces of knotweed start to grow by sending out new shoots. Knotweed does produce seeds in the fall, but most new plants come from the underground shoots called rhizomes.

Swimming entry points

If you notice that a swimming entry has been closed off with branches or signs telling you to not walk there. Please use a different swimming point. There are lots of swimming points in the river. If you see people walking on the closed trail, tell them politely not to go on the trail and why.

SPORTS NEWS

Adult pick-up soccer at MRP

Adult pickup soccer is back in action at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho, Sundays at 8:00 AM. We typically play 5v5 or 7v7 on the mini pitches. All skill levels and genders are welcome, come join us for some fun and exercise!

Feel free to reach out (ngruetmatthews@tutamail.com) with questions and to get on our email list we use to coordinate numbers/weather.

Parent and Me T-Ball in Westford

The Westford Recreation Department is excited to offer this program for kids ages 3-6 and their parent(s) on Saturday mornings this summer. Join us for drills and games that focus on the FUN-damentals of baseball and softball. There is a \$25 fee for season: Saturdays, through August 20, 9:00 – 10:00 AM at the Westford School Softball Field.

Sign up at www.westfordvt.us/recreation.

Family bike rides, beginner hikes in Cambridge

Join the Cambridge Recreation Board this summer for a series of bi-weekly family bike rides and beginner hikes. We'll explore local trails in Cambridge and in neighboring towns. Please register in advance: https://www.cambridge.vermont.gov/cambridge_at_a_glance/recreation_board.php. (Click on "New: Bi-Weekly Family Bike Rides & Beginner Hikes")

Tuesday, July 19, 4:30 PM: Hike, Brewster River Trails. Meet at the Brewster River Park. Come ready with proper footwear and water.

Tuesday, August 2, 4:30 PM: Bike Ride, Stowe Bike Path. Meet at the Lintilhac Park behind the Stowe Community Church on Main Street in Stowe Village. Come ready to ride with bike, helmet, snack, and water.

Tuesday, August 16, 4:30 PM: Hike, Prospect Rock, Johnson. Park at the trailhead/suspension bridge on Hogback Road. Come ready with proper footwear and water.

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authentic manner rarely encountered in the Northeast. July 19: KeruBo, who sings African folk music and Afro-jazz from slave spirituals, African laments, civil rights songs, story songs, gospel songs, and beyond.

Spruce Peak's Summer Concert Series on the Spruce Peak Village Green, Stowe has a great lineup of concerts this summer. On concert days, the Green opens at 5:00 PM; music begins at 6:00 PM, with the main show starting at 7:00 PM. Lawn seating (no lawn chairs allowed): \$40 per person, kids 5 and under for \$5. Table seating (maximum 10 persons per table): \$50 per person, kids 5 and under \$10. All tickets are general admission; part of ticket sales goes to Spruce Peak Cares partner charities (VT Foodbank, Meals On Wheels, Clarina Howard Nichols Center, United Way of Lamoille County, The Current, and the North Country Animal League). For more information and for tickets, go online to <https://www.sprucepeak.com/concerts>. Saturday, July 15: Wilderado; Thursday, July 28: Deer Tick with special guest Lightning Bug; Thursday, August 4: Ruston Kelly with special guest Kat Wright.

Jazz trumpeter Ray Vega and his QuARTet will perform at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction (FCCEJ) on Sunday, July 10 at 7:00 PM. The Ray Vega QuARTet delights audiences with a variety of jazz styles. Ray Vega has established himself as one of the innovators of the international Jazz and Latin music scenes. A multi-talented trumpeter, percussionist, composer, and arranger, he presents Jazz from a refreshingly original and contemporary perspective. The performance is part of the Community Concerts at First music series celebrating artists from Vermont and New England. Suggested donation of \$20 per adult (children under 18 free). Concert proceeds support FCCEJ community outreach and Dismas House. Space is limited. Reservations can be made in advance or donation at the door (cash, check or credit card). FCCEJ is located at 39 Main St., Essex Junction. For more information: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/community-concert-july-2022/>.

Visions of Vermont Fine Art Galleries (current hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM). Now showing through Sunday, November 6 at the Carriage Barn: Work by Eric Tobin and other local and regional *plein air* painters.

Essex Art League is turning 50! The Essex Art League is having its 50th Anniversary this year. We are reaching out to former members to please send us an email (annettebauerle@gmail.com) — include your memories, stories, or anecdotes from when you were a member. If you are interested in displaying your art at the Champlain Valley Fair, we are the featured artists! Let us know if you'd like to come to our Thursday, September 1 Reunion/Celebration at the Congregational Church in Essex Junction, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. And, if you know of a former member, please pass this message on.

Milton Artists Guild has a variety of upcoming workshops! Origami: Intuitive Painting: Saturday, July 9, 9:00 – 11:30 AM; Introduction to Abstract Painting: Saturday, July 23, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM; Clay Whistles: Sunday, July 24, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Introduction to Still Life Painting: Saturday, July 30, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Introduction to drawing with charcoal and chalk: Sunday, July 31, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Cartoons, caricatures, and book illustrations: Sunday, August 14, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Introduction to Acrylic Painting: Sunday, September 18 and 25, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. To sign up for a workshop, go online to <https://www.miltonartistsguildstore.com/workshops>.

Burlington City Arts: BCA's exhibitions are open Wednesdays-Fridays and Sundays 12:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM. On exhibit from through Saturday, October 8, *More Than an Object: The Contemporary Still Life* on the first floor, and *Sky Hopinka: Fainting Spells* on the second floor. *More Than an Object* presents the creative possibilities, vitality, and inventiveness of the still life tradition through a multiplicity of innovative approaches and media, featuring artists Susan Abbott, Christina Erives, Oona Gardner, Ori Gersht, Libby Paloma, Mike Pelletier, William Ransom, Zachary P. Stephens,

and Christopher T. Terry. Multimedia artist *Sky Hopinka* explores themes of culture and homeland as he reflects on colonialism and Indigenous identity in two dreamlike films: *When you're lost in the rain and Fainting Spells*.

BCA's 15th Festival of Fools will be held Friday-Sunday, August 5-7, Church St. and beyond, Burlington. Per Webster, a fool is "a person lacking judgment or prudence. Over 100 free performances by acrobats, jugglers, and musicians, including acrobatic archer *Sara Twister*; *El Gleno Grande* riding his ambiguously real horse (it's pretend), the *FLiP* family of cirque acrobats from Québec; *Snap Boogie* from Boston. Musicians include: *Monsieur Periné*; *Vieux Farka Touré*, the "Jimi Hendrix of the Sahara;" *Saint Mela*; and country groups *Wild Leek River*, *Beg Steal or Borrow*, and Willy Watson of *Old Crow Medicine Show*. All events are free. For the full lineup and more information, go online to <https://vermontfestivaloffools.com>.

Quarry Project Immersive Dance Performance: The Quarry Project is getting closer to showtime! This one-of-a-kind dance/theater performance is being held on the water in one of the oldest, deepest granite quarries in the world, located in Websterville, VT. This is a truly unique event that's happening

this summer only, outdoors, in the natural setting of the Wells Lamson Quarry. It's a very exciting time and we are hoping that you can be a part of making it happen. We are looking for volunteers! The performances are August 5-21 (no Mondays or Thursdays). Shifts will last for 2½-3 hours. Volunteer duties will include parking attendants, ushering, processing tickets, and backstage support. Volunteers should be comfortable working outdoors, on uneven ground, near water, and be 18 years old. The one-time 90-minute training sessions will take place Monday-Wednesday, July 18, 19, and 20, in the quarry.

As a thank you for our volunteers, you will get a free seat at one of the dress rehearsals on Monday-Wednesday, July 25, 26 or 27, and a copy of the Quarry Project book, a photographic keepsake from this extraordinary performance.

To tell us that you are interested in volunteering for this amazing event, please fill out the following form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeD9PwYpp1_scV3rogHp7SogfqDIDTwnBvX8Lh77FduLv-LOW/viewform. For more information visit The Quarry Project website at <https://thequarryproject2022.com/>.

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Chittenden East Youth Football Program is back!

The Chittenden East Wolverines Youth Football Program is back for 2022 and it's time to register your kiddos to join their friends on the big field!

The Wolverine program runs in the fall, August-October, with a long history of Championship football. Come be a part of a team, build strong relationships, learn life lessons and build memories that will last a lifetime while learning the game of football.

Registration is open for all players in grades 1-8. Team members in grades 1-4 graders play flag football, and those in grades 5-8 graders play tackle.

Practices will start on Monday, August 15. All practices are held behind Jericho Elementary School. Fees are \$95 (plus \$50 in raffle ticket sales) or \$145 (with no obligation to sell raffle tickets).

To register, go online to <https://forms.gle/88Mr412yK6QiVDHG9>.

For more information please email Steve and Eva McLaughlin, keepgrowing2@gmail.com.

Register for Chittenden County Soccer School 2022

Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2022, Monday-Friday, July 11-15 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. Rosters are filling up fast!

All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the "love of the game" to all our players.

Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

Age groups range from 5-16+ with half and full day camp options!

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

Beautiful blooms

The peonies are blooming in the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library garden. The Master Gardeners are hard at work weeding, spreading mulch on the perennials, and spreading hay around the vegetable plants. Next time you are at the library, take the time to visit the gardens.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS



Re-Elect

Thomas Chittenden

Democrat for Vermont State Senate

Background & Qualifications

- Vermont State Senator 2020 - present
- 3 Term South Burlington Councilor 2015 - present
- UVM Faculty Senate President 2019-2020
- GMT Board Chair & Vice Chair 2015-2020
- Deep Rooted Vermonter

Priorities

- Affordability
- Helping Neighbors
- Keeping Vermont Green
- Sustainable Economic Growth
- Opportunity for Current & Future Vermonters



"Thomas Chittenden is a great voice for Chittenden County. He served his first term with integrity, hard work and transparency. He was the first one in the statehouse each morning and one of the last to leave. His efforts showed with results."

- Senator Richard "Dick" Mazza, Chair of Senate Transportation Committee



"Thomas Chittenden served his first term in the Senate with high energy, determination and integrity. His thoughtful approach to legislation makes him a great colleague in the Senate and I look forward to working with in the future. Chittenden County is served well by his representation. "

- Senator Brian Campion, Chair of Senate Education Committee

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