

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Bolton Clerk thanks taxpayers

By Amy Grover  
*Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bolton*

Thank you to all of the Bolton property owners who paid the November installment of property taxes on time, who wrote checks legibly, with a blue or black pen (yes, some checks written in sparkly pink or red ink did arrive — sadly, the scanner cannot read them), and identified their parcel ID number. Just FYI: do you know that the town processes over 3500 tax payments in a year? Any assistance from the property owners in helping to make that process go smoothly is very much appreciated.

The 1% interest has been calculated, and late notices have been sent. Currently there is close to \$55K in outstanding principal due for September and November.

There still seems to be some confusion around tax payments. Can you pay more than what is due? Absolutely! Can you pay in advance of due dates? Sure! Can you pay your whole balance at any time? Of course! Can you pay \$100 now towards your February 2020 installment? Yes! Can we let you know what your balance is at any time? Certainly!

What the town cannot do is to become your own personal accountant; to figure out payment plans, and how much needs to be paid and when so that installments are paid in full and on time. The property owner needs to take ownership of that, with thanks for your understanding.

### Jericho committee on affordable housing seeks members

The Jericho Affordable Housing Committee was established recently by the Selectboard, with a mission to increase the availability of affordable housing in order to support a more diverse, vibrant, and inclusive community by lowering economic, racial, and social barriers to living in Jericho. The newly formed Jericho Housing Committee needs members! Please consider joining this committee that will work on the important issue of addressing the need for affordable housing in Jericho. For more information, please click the *Affordable Housing Committee* tab at <https://jerichovt.org/boards-committees>.

### Jericho Underhill Park District annual meeting January 15

The annual meeting of the Jericho Underhill Park District will be held Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 – 7:30 PM in the project room of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Rawson Library (River Rd., Jericho). Besides a review of the park's major news from the year, the proposed annual budget will be discussed and voted on. After three years of level funding, we jumped about \$10,000 for FY21 to build our bridge reserve. The roof and walls will need to be replaced at \$100,000, scheduled for 2021.

### Westford Planning Commission agenda, December 17

Melissa Manka ([planner@westfordvt.us](mailto:planner@westfordvt.us)), Planning Coordinator, Westford has announced the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 PM at the Westford Town Office:

- 6:30 PM: Amendments to Agenda
- 6:31 PM: Citizens to be Heard & Announcements
- 6:35 PM: Minutes of the November 19, 2019 Meeting (Approve)
- 6:40 PM: Community Wastewater Project – RFQ Responses (Select Consultant)
- 7:15 PM: 2020 Westford Town Plan – Draft (Revise Needed)
- 8:25 PM: Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment & Steering Committee Update: 1705 Route 128 Property
- 8:35 PM: 2020 UPWP & Grant Opportunities
- 8:45 PM: Efficiency & Effectiveness of Packets (Discussion) & New Action Plan Spreadsheet (Revise as Needed)
- 8:55 PM: 2019 – 2020 Work Plan (Revise as Needed)
- 9:00 PM: Adjourn

Any individual who believes that they need a reasonable accommodation may submit a request to the Town Clerk. The Town will assess whether the request for reasonable accommodation is necessary to make the Town service, program, or activity available to an individual with a disability; whether there is an alternative accommodation which may provide an equivalent level of access and/or benefit; whether the requested reasonable accommodation would impose an undue financial or administrative burden; or whether the requested reasonable accommodation would require a fundamental alteration in the nature of the Town service, program or activity.

### Westford Selectboard meeting draft minutes

Nanette Rogers, *Westford Town Clerk*

The draft minutes from the Thursday, November 14 Westford Selectboard meeting can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-11-14-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

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## Comments on Underhill's leased land issue

By Steven Green, *Underhill*

The state legislature has passed a statute, 24 V.S.A. § 2409, mandating that effective January 1, 2020, the title to perpetually leased land owned by municipal corporations, the so-called “glebe” land, be passed uneventfully to the current “lessee,” or occupant of such land... in other words, to the people who until recently thought they owned the land. This peculiar quirk of law only became widely known a few years ago.

Somewhere back in the evolution of town record-keeping, the required public inventory of such land disappeared, or at least the town failed to maintain a comprehensive record, and the stipulations of the lease disappeared from some of the titles produced during real estate transactions. Where the stipulation remained, it was believed to be historically anecdotal and had no impact on the fair market value, sale price, or ability to sell the property.

The result of this is many property owners (are) discovering that, despite paying a fair market value for their real estate, they actually only own the buildings, but not the land. The intent of the statute was to obviate the need for case-by-case resolutions to title.

The legislature included a caveat to the statute allowing town governments the option of retaining title to all or some parcels of leased land, so long as they make that choice before January 1, 2020. Presently, this issue is before the Underhill Select Board.

It is possible that the Select Board may vote to retain the leased land, and resolve property titles on a case-by-case basis. It is possible that they may elect to put the question before Town Meeting. While these options can be viewed as reasonable, they are only purposeful if the town believes, in effect, that they may wish to exercise the rights of ownership over land which was previously believed to be privately owned and functioned as such. In other words, it is purposeful if the town Select Board elects to take advantage of a property windfall at the cost of the equity that private owners have built. Otherwise, given the intent and timeline of the statute, there is no reason to consider the issue at all.

The ramifications of such a decision are enormous, beginning with the fact that people have paid fair market value for their property, and that since that time they have paid property taxes on the value of both structures and land. It is crucial to understand that the fair market value of such real estate would plummet; actual sales of structures on leased land are complicated and essentially crippling to homeowners. Further, Vermont Statute 32 V.S.A. § 3610 requires that the town produce and update annually a precise list of leased parcels, and publish the lease provisions and taxation constraints. Insofar as this has not been done for some time, it would require a comprehensive historical survey of existing lots, in order to accurately identify which lots, or portions of lots, are actually part of the original grants of leased land.

The most important question with respect to this issue is this: do the citizens of Underhill really want to exercise ownership of land that, until recently, was believed by all to be privately owned? I suspect not; that's not really the kind of people we are. In that case, there is no reason whatsoever for the town Select Board to take any action.

### HSCC to host Purrrses for Paws

Donate your purses to help give homeless pets a new home. Donations of new and like-new purses, clutches, backpacks, wallets, and handbags are being accepted at the Humane Society of Chittenden County. These purses will be used for the event *Purrrses for Paws*, to be held at the Champlain Room on Champlain College Campus on Thursday, February 6, 2020. This evening will consist of hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and an exciting live and silent auction offering new and like-new purses, in addition to many on sale. It is an evening that you won't want to miss! To find out more information, go online to HSCC's website and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2317613505216999>.

### United Way seeks donations of \$25 gift cards for teens

United Way of Lamoille County (UWLC) believes that teens from low-income families deserve a great holiday too. UWLC is asking for donations of \$25 gift cards from places such as Amazon, Old Navy, American Eagle, and others. UWLC then distributes the gift cards to local families so they can either purchase a gift for their teen or allow the teen to use the gift card themselves.

Gift cards can be dropped off at the UWLC office, 20 Morrisville Plaza (inside TD Bank) before Friday, December 6.

For more information visit <https://uwlamoille.org/programs/teen-gift-card-program.html>.

## Historical landmark gone from Underhill



*The old Underhill ID School being torn down even though there was a marked effort to save it. It became apparent that the cost of renovation was more than could be raised. The building was purchased by Tom Morse in 1967 and housed Green Mountain Foam Products which acted as a resource center in Underhill for the upholstery, slip cover, drapery, automotive and marine businesses.*  
PHOTO RANDY CLARK

## What's happening at the White Church on the Common?

What's happening at the White Church on the Westford Common? Events!

Yoga Classes: On Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:40 AM, consider joining a yoga class with Erin Menut and enjoy her serene manner, which matches the peaceful setting.

Holiday Concert: Join us for a holiday concert featuring the *Heliland Consort*, classical music from the baroque through 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary repertoire, another of the popular Westford Music Series. Note the special evening time for this concert: Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM.

Holiday Tree fundraiser: This season, thanks to Glenn Rodgers, \$4 for every tree he sells from his Westford lot will be donated to the church. The donation also includes a tree for the church. A volunteer is needed to pick it out and transport it to the church. Please contact John Doane.

Festivals, Music, and Weddings: This year we had two weddings and a recommitment ceremony. This May promises to be a busy month, with a town-wide Spring Fest planned for early May, a visit by Paul Asbell to the Music Series, and two weddings.

The May Day Fest – Saturday, May 2: an exciting new family May Day event with food, drinks, music, and games is planned. We are hosting this event to spotlight the transition of the White Church to a community events center and unite Westford committees and groups of common interest.

Upgrades to the building and grounds! With the help of our newly hired buildings and grounds person Rich Staab, we are making progress on improving this historic structure and making it more user friendly. The new paint on the church and spire enhances its beauty and stately appearance. The concrete stairs have been newly surfaced, handrails installed, and a better handicapped accessible ramp is now being built along with new stonework to support it. The septic pipe has been replaced and better insulated to prevent freezing in the winter. Trees have been removed. The furnace has been cleaned and repaired. With church funds supplemented by generous donors, the driveway has been upgraded and extended, along with a new sign and bulletin board. Volunteers and supporters are needed and welcome!

Our Mission and Vision statements have been drafted. We are seeking help to write a business plan and develop a website with a calendar. We are seeking a person to join the Board as a treasurer as this position is opening soon. We need a graphic designer to help develop a brochure for the church and upcoming events. Volunteers are needed for grant writing. Contacts have been made to help us begin work on conceptualizing art gallery space as well as a Co-op work space.

We are interested in ideas for space to be used for presentations, conferences, meetings, and community celebrations. Please send your name, address, email address, and phone number to [whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com](mailto:whitechurchonthecommon@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining our efforts. Thank you!



**Say a special Holiday Greeting or Merry Christmas to your family and friends in the Mountain Gazette. Advertise your last minute gift ideas also. Send your information to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)**





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## COMING EVENTS

## VT Genealogy Library closes over holidays

The VT Genealogy Library will close Tuesday, December 24 for the holidays and will reopen on Saturday, January 4, 2020. Look for a new season of classes starting in early February.

## Financing workshop for weatherization projects

Winter is fast approaching if not already here! Now is a good time to think about ways to make your home more energy efficient and cheaper to heat.

Come to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 PM for a discussion about the resources available to help finance your weatherization projects. The Underhill Energy Committee and the Jericho Energy Task Force will provide an overview of the programs available. Afterwards, representatives from those with financing programs will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.

Light refreshments will be available. It is a waste free event, so please bring your own mug, etc.

### Tuesday, December 3

**Racism in America: Lecture and Discussion #3: On Being Muslim in America**, 6:30 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Speaker Imam Islam, Spiritual Leader of the Islamic Society of Vermont. How far have we come as Americans in fighting racism? In this forum series, we wish to create a safe space where we can speak openly and honestly as people of good intent who seek the best for each other and our nation as we confront the racial divisions of our past and present, with the hope of reconciliation. Racism in America Forums are cosponsored by the VT Racial Justice Alliance and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Each Forum is a potluck gathering where we invite you to share a dish along with your thoughts. Parking available on site and handicap accessible.

**Essex Westford School District Board meeting**, 6:30 PM, Essex High School library, Essex Junction. Agenda items include policy governance, student report, preparation for conversation with state legislators, task team updates, local and statewide updates. The public is welcome to attend. For more information on the work of the EWSD Board (agendas, minutes, and meeting takeaways): <http://bit.ly/2vwTYdT>.

### Thursday, December 5

**Financing workshop for weatherization projects**, 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. Winter is fast approaching if not already here! Now is a good time to think about ways to make your home more energy efficient and cheaper to heat. Come for a discussion about the resources available to help finance your weatherization projects. The Underhill Energy Committee and the Jericho Energy Task Force will provide an overview of the programs available. Afterwards, representatives

from those with financing programs will be on hand to answer any questions you might have. Light refreshments will be available. It is a waste free event, so please bring your own mug, etc.

**Free Community Soup and Bread Supper**, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (off VT Rt. 15, across from John Leo's). Serving a variety of hearty soups and breads, plus a sweet dessert on the first Thursday of the month. Stay at the church to enjoy your meal with friends and family, or pick up to take home. Donations welcome, but not expected. For more information, call Pastor Jeannette Conner, 879-4313.

**Wildlife Lecture Series: Moose**, 7:00 PM, Green Mountain Club Visitors Center, Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury. UVM PhD candidate Elias Rosenblatt presents *The History, Status, and Research Efforts of Moose in Vermont*, sponsored by the Shutesville Wildlife Corridor Partnership and Green Mountain Club. Moose populations have been in decline recently throughout the Northeast and especially here in Vermont. Moose face challenges from parasites, habitat loss, fragmentation, warming temperatures, and changing climates. Elias, in conjunction with the Moose study, has been studying Moose partly to understand why this is the case. Free and open to the public. Please register; contact Elisabeth Fenn, Stowe Land Trust, 802-253-7221 or [elisabeth@stowelandtrust.org](mailto:elisabeth@stowelandtrust.org).

### Friday, December 6

**Yuletide Concert and Carol Sing-A-Long**, 7:00 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Featured musicians include: *Cauld Wind*: an ensemble of Scottish Small Pipers, whistle and a Bodhran from Vermont and Canada, whose pipes are the smaller, quieter offspring of the great Highland bagpipes and are designed for indoor listening to their traditional Scottish tunes; *Canticle*, which means "hymn or song of praise," an ensemble convened by Pastor Arnold to sing songs of rich harmonies from different folk and ethnic traditions; *Good Shepherd Contemporary Praise Band*, a group of musicians from the church that leads a contemporary worship service about four times a year, playing vocals, piano, guitar, bass, and drums; *Shimmering Flutes Ensemble*, two musicians who will perform *The Cradle Song* from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, and two favorite Christmas Carols. Admission is free, but donations of cash and/or food are greatly appreciated to benefit The Jericho-Underhill Ecumenical Ministries Food Shelf. Free parking on site, and handicapped accessible. Children are welcome to sit up front to watch the musicians or to enjoy the corner rocking chairs. Visit <https://goodshepherdjericho.org/bethlehem-simulcast-service/> for more information about the concert and coming Advent and Christmas services at Good Shepherd in December.

**Waterville 6<sup>th</sup> grade annual Meet and More Raffle**, 6:00 PM, Waterville Town Hall. The families of Waterville and Belvidere 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been gathering AMAZING items to raffle the night to raise funds for their class trip. Come enjoy home made food: Mac 'n' cheese, chili, hot dogs, garlic knots, fresh pies, bread, and

more! Big and small items to raffle include a Smuggs Bash Badge, Craftsby Outdoor Center Family Pass, Spirit of Ethan Allen Cruise, local maple syrup, local organic grass fed meats, a quilt, gift baskets from several local business, handmade items, local hand made jewelry, gift certificates, concert tix to *Beg, Steal or Borrow* at the Rusty Nail, a cord of seasoned cut fire wood, and so much more! The Town Hall fills up quickly, so be patient if you have to cozy yourself in somewhere... it is worth it!

### Saturday, December 7

**Live Nativity**, 2:00 – 4:00 PM and 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Catalyst Church, Raceway, Jericho. *Christmas in Vermont* and Catalyst Church present two showings of the Christmas story with live animals, caroling, a bonfire, and hot chocolate. Free to the community.

**Fletcher Elementary Craft Fair**, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Fletcher Elementary School, Fletcher. Friends of Fletcher Elementary School's fifth annual craft fair — come and see all the local crafters and vendors. There will be tree wreaths and swags for sale. Also: breakfast and lunch options, a raffle, and maybe a visit from Santa!

**Richmond Holiday Market and Silent Auction**, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM, Town Center Basement, Richmond, and Hatchet Tap & Table, 30 Bridge St., Richmond. Auction items include Season's Pass to Conant Farm Sweet Corn Stand, certificates to restaurants, a Bolton Valley Pass, and craft items donated from over 100 local businesses and market vendors. MMCTV and Waitsfield Telecom are in-kind sponsors of the auction, which raises funds for two \$2150 scholarships for community- and business-minded MMU graduates each year.

### Sunday, December 8

**Sinclair Inn Holiday Party and Artisan Faire**, 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Sinclair Inn, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. After a year off this event is back, offering fun, friends, artisans, and plenty of holiday cheer.

**Teens Teaching Technology**, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Varnum Library,

Jeffersonville. Need tech help? We have the expert teens to answer your questions. Bring your charged devices and questions!

Coming events  
continued on page 5

## Richmond Food Shelf holiday hours

Holiday hours for the Richmond Food Shelf are Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Wednesdays 1:00 – 6:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. (Closed Thursdays and Fridays.)

Please note: If schools are closed due to a weather event, the Food Shelf will be closed. Thank you



## Mountain High Pizza Pie

Monday 4:00 - 8:30 PM

Tuesday - Thursday

11:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Friday - 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Saturday

11:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Sunday

4:00 - 8:30 PM

**899-3718**  
Route 15, Jeri-Hill Plaza  
Jericho

## News briefs continued from page 1

## United Way seeks donations of \$25 gift cards for teens

United Way of Lamoille County (UWLC) believes that teens from low-income families deserve a great holiday too. UWLC is asking for donations of \$25 gift cards from places such as Amazon, Old Navy, American Eagle, and others. UWLC then distributes the gift cards to local families so they can either purchase a gift for their teen or allow the teen to use the gift card themselves.

Gift cards can be dropped off at the UWLC office, 20 Morrisville Plaza (inside TD Bank) before Friday, December 6.

For more information visit <https://uwlamaille.org/programs/teen-gift-card-program.html>.

## Annual Jericho Icicle Contest

It's that time of year. A bit of snow on your roof followed by sunshine can result in the steady drip-drip-drip of icicles from your eaves. What you may not know is that this also represents a drip-drip-drip from your wallet.

Icicles are evidence that heat is leaving your house, causing a spike in your energy bills.

The Jericho Energy Task Force is proud to sponsor our seventh annual Icicle Contest. Send photos of your icicles to [enerjericho@gmail.com](mailto:enerjericho@gmail.com). We'll print the photos and display them anonymously at Town Meeting and ask Jericho residents to vote on who has the most impressive array. That person will win a free home energy audit courtesy of the Energy Co-op of Vermont.

## Free Christmas Day meals

Dinner will be held on Christmas Day from 12:00 – 3:00 PM at the Elks Lodge, 925 North Ave., Burlington. Free and open to the public, all ages are welcome. If adults 50 years or older need transportation, please contact Megan Humphrey, 864-7528 or [handsvt@gmail.com](mailto:handsvt@gmail.com).

To reserve a free hot meal (ham dinner or vegetarian lasagna) delivered on Christmas Day to anyone 50 years or older in Chittenden County, please call Age Well, 865-0360 by Thursday, December 19. After December 19, contact Megan Humphrey, 864-7528 or [handsvt@gmail.com](mailto:handsvt@gmail.com).

For more information or to donate, please check [www.handsvt.org](http://www.handsvt.org).

## Town of Bolton holiday Crates of Cheer

The Bolton elves are working hard to collect non-perishable food items for the holiday *Crates of Cheer*, and are still in need of many more donations before Friday, December 13.

Donation boxes are at Smilie Memorial School and at the hotel at Bolton Valley. Monetary donations can be brought to the Bolton Town Office. Each and every donation truly counts.

If you have questions, please call Anne, 802-434-5673.

## St. Thomas raffle tickets support restoration fund

Purchase raffle tickets to win a Ranger 570 full size four-wheeler, and benefit the St. Thomas Stained Glass Window Restoration Fund.

St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center is sponsoring a raffle to win a Ranger 570 full size, two seat, four-wheeler. We are selling a limited number of tickets, only 250, at \$100 each. The drawing will be on Christmas – Wednesday, December 25. All ticket costs are tax deductible.

The Ranger will be purchased from Champlain Valley Equipment and is valued at \$9100. This is a great utility vehicle for use in the woods or for hunting.

All proceeds will go to the church's Stained Glass Window Restoration fund. We are in danger of losing these beautiful, historical windows.

With only 250 tickets sold your odds are very good at a chance to win!

Please email Irene, [irenebihun@gmail.com](mailto:irenebihun@gmail.com), to arrange purchase.

## Thompson Road closed to through traffic

The Town of Cambridge road crew has closed the Class 3 section of Thompson Road in Jeffersonville to through traffic for the winter, and has posted signs at each end of Thompson Road.

## Jericho committee on affordable housing seeks members

The Jericho Affordable Housing Committee was established recently by the Selectboard, with a mission to increase the availability of affordable housing in order to support a more diverse, vibrant, and inclusive community by lowering economic, racial, and social barriers to living in Jericho. The newly formed Jericho Housing Committee needs members! Please consider joining this committee that will work on the important issue of addressing the need for affordable housing in Jericho. For more information, please click the *Affordable Housing Committee* tab at <https://jerichovt.org/boards-committees>.

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## The Mountain Gazette

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## Area Worship Services

### JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT

Senior Pastor David Coons

Sunday Services at 8 am & 11 am

Nursery care provided

Sunday School at 9:30 am for all ages

Fellowship at 10:30 am

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

Signing for the deaf upon request

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

### MOUNT MANSFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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as we explore truth and meaning, and work for social justice.

All are welcome.

Sunday Services at Mount Mansfield UU Fellowship

Universalist Fellowship! To learn more: [www.mmuuf.org](http://www.mmuuf.org) and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

The big red barn, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

Worship Services 9:30 AM, 2nd & 4th Sundays, September-June

195 VT RT 15, Jericho VT (red barn across from Packard Rd)

899-2558 [www.mmuuf.org](http://www.mmuuf.org)

### ST. THOMAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass"

On Green Street in Underhill Center Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:30 AM

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Micale

Deacon: Peter Brooks Religious Ed. Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells,

899-4770 Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras Phone: 802-899-4632,

email: [office@stthomasvt.com](mailto:office@stthomasvt.com), Website: [www.stthomasvt.com](http://www.stthomasvt.com)

### UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL

UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL

"Welcoming, Worshipping, Working for God"

At the Green on VT RT 15 - Rev. Jennifer Mihok - 899-1722

[www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com](http://www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com)

Worship 10:30 AM, 9:30 AM in July and August

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## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

## Incent strangers, or invest in Vermonters and newcomers?

By Bill Schubart

The Vermont State Auditor's recent report entitled *Structural Weaknesses and Questionable Gains by Vermont's Remote Worker Grant Program* not only raises questions about the design and efficacy of the executive and legislative effort to attract telecommuting employees to Vermont, but suggests the execution was slapdash.

The \$500,000 legislative commitment was designed to encourage currently employed remote workers in other states to consider moving to Vermont in exchange for reimbursement of their moving costs and any additional investment in technology or connectivity that would enable them to work from home — not to exceed \$10,000 per applicant.

The Auditor's report rightly calls into question the program's lack of a demonstrable benchmark for return-on-investment, as well as a lack of any clear definition of what's reimbursable. Items eventually funded included security deposits, an underground broadband cable and conduit installation, and personal storage.

Many Vermonters just making ends meet rightfully asked why their tax dollars shouldn't be used to pay them to stay here and deal with the economic and networking challenges they face daily, instead of paying newcomers to move here — or for moving here, as the report indicates — who then simply were given help with their moving expenses.

The goal of the Remote Worker Grant Program was understandable — to match job openings in urban areas where prospective employees can't afford to live with candidates who could telecommute from small towns with a less punishing cost of living but no job openings.

The highly publicized program raises questions, however, about whether our politicians have any understanding of what would motivate a potential employee to move to Vermont. It's not petty cash, broadband, or a season pass to Stowe.

Ironically, the motto of the Vermont Business Roundtable (which, full disclosure, I chaired many years ago) sums up a pretty coherent strategy: "Making Vermont the best place in America to do business, be educated, and live life," although I might reverse the sequence.

Having spent decades in the business community and discussed economic development strategy with several governors, I'm amazed that we still keep dragging out the rusty cash grant and tax incentive tools from the "economic development toolbox" and relying on them again even after their stated goals have proven so difficult to assess: VEGI, TIF, NBRC, and others.

As parents, do we "incent" our children by offering bribes, or modeling good behavior? I remember when I was ten my grandmother promised to buy me a model train set if I lost 30 pounds. I cried myself to sleep knowing I could never meet her terms.

States with much greater resources than Vermont regularly resort to outright bribery to attract new businesses, not always successfully. Their huge investments in monetary and tax incentives are necessarily deducted from programs that might improve the quality of life for the taxpayers funding the bribes, and ultimately amount to an unwinnable race to the bottom. Louisiana's "cancer alley" may be the endgame of simply paying companies to relocate. Vermonters don't want just any development. It needs to be consistent with our community scale, resources, and environment.

If we want people to move to Vermont, we need only to make it a compelling place to live by making long-term investments in our key socio-economic-environmental assets. Yes, we have beautiful landscapes, myriad recreational opportunities, and vibrant cultural and technical communities, but we also have an affordable housing crisis, growing water and soil pollution, unaffordable healthcare, hunger, inadequate public transportation and childcare, shriveling town centers, and a teetering dairy economy.

There are indeed many for whom employment is a key to emerging from poverty, if not surviving, but so is education, health care, childcare, and housing. There are also the more secure, whose priorities go beyond compensation to include quality of life, opportunities to expand their horizons, learn, have a home, join or start a business, perhaps raise a family, live free of air, water, and soil-borne toxins, recreate, and be part of an inclusive and welcoming community. Employment is indeed a key element in the kind of lifestyle young people seek, but not the only one.

And it's not just young people; many older folks are staying in or returning to work in the private and non-profit sectors, not always because they have to, but often because they want to. Work

is intrinsic to one's sense of self-worth and community. Mandatory retirement was designed to open opportunities for young people. But if they're in scarce supply, then it makes sense to retain or hire the wise, experienced worker instead. Vermont can be a great place to continue a career, rejoin the workforce, or retire, and older folks have the same needs for health care, educational opportunities, and housing that the young do.

Let's retire the noncompetitive incentives — the cash payouts and tax expenses (foregone taxes) — and reinvest them in durable long-term assets: affordable health care, childcare, housing, public transportation, paid family leave, and reducing pollution at its source — all the things that will make Vermont the best place in America to live, be educated, and do business.

I remember being told when I began in business to focus on the fundamentals and forget the rest. We must do this in Vermont. If we invest in our intrinsic challenges and work to improve them, the rest will follow in time. We may even have to reexamine our tax structure, as we did without result when I co-chaired the Blue Ribbon Tax Commission in 2010.

Yes, it will take decades to address our challenges, but taking the long view by addressing them now remains our best investment in the future of Vermont.

## Malta, Doug Jr., Teddy and the Goats

By Doug Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

I decided to buy a sports car because my jeep was for business use. I decided on a Triumph Model TR2 white convertible, which was a mistake because it made me stand out like a sore thumb. Being an American sailor and the only one in town with a race car made me a target. The cops reminded me of the old Keystone cops in the movies. They had old black English Austins they putted around in.

When I first bought the TR2, I decided to hit every bar on the island and have a beer. They didn't have any speed signs posted but they did evidently have a speed limit on the whole island. They had no stop lights or stop signs so when you came to an intersection where you couldn't see someone coming, you tooted your horn during the day and at night you blinked your lights. I didn't realize it but one of the old cops spotted me go by and of course, I was moving fairly rapidly and started after me. He didn't find me until I stopped at the bar by the airport after hitting all the other ones. He said he had been looking for me all afternoon. He asked me if I knew the speed limit and I said I didn't know there was a speed limit and he said it was 35 and try to slow it down a little. It looked like their old cars were lucky to go 35. The roads were mostly dirt with small rocks on both sides. He was impressed by my car and we visited awhile and he didn't give me a ticket. I don't know if they gave out tickets; they didn't have official parking spaces.

We wore our Navy work uniform on and off base but the English Navy always wore their dress uniform. I was cruising around the island in my TR2 and up ahead was two columns of British sailors marching on the edge of the road and guess what, there happened to be a long puddle in the road right beside these sailors and I couldn't resist speeding up and running the car through the dirty puddle and spraying dirty water all over the side of their starched uniforms. There was a lot of water and when I drove through it I got all of them covered with dirty water. They were all breaking rank and running after me cussing and calling me a "bloody bastard." I was praying that my car wouldn't stall out in the middle of the puddle because they were running after me and shaking their fists. I stayed away from the Brits after that and didn't even stop and talk with them anymore because one of the dozen Brits I splashed would be looking for me. I cut down on beer after that incident and I blame the beer because I would not have splashed a group like that otherwise.

Sandy had not met some of my buddies on base so we decided we would have a party at our two-story villa. I was hoping that they would be on semi-good behavior but I knew some of them were usually uncontrollable. The party started out fun but ended after someone came inside and said it was raining outside. I went out on the balcony and found some guys peeing in some flower pots and some peeing over the balcony onto the guys who thought it was raining: it was, but it wasn't plain water. I was afraid it was a mistake to invite some of them but Sandy met them and wasn't impressed. That was the first and last party we had at our abode.

We had a PX on base with limited supplies and some older Maltese guys that walked around the neighborhood with pushcarts full of vegetables that they grew, etc., and lots of goat milk. They herded the goats at different times during the week down the main road through town and stirred up a lot of dirty dust. One day I was standing in my doorway and saw this small dog running around near the goats and the goat herder trying chase him away. The dog didn't have a collar and came running over to me and stood in back of me. He hung around and adopted us. We let him in and he turned out to be a great help and could jump straight up from his back legs at least two feet and would walk on his back legs. He kept other animals away and was already well trained. We got him a collar and we gave him to a friend when my tour ended. I named him Teddy after my father.

Nine months after I surprised Sandy in French Morocco our oldest son Doug Jr. was born! I was at my post office and the Navy bus drove by and Sandy was the only passenger on the bus and was going to the hospital. She gave me the thumbs up and I followed the bus in my Jeep. The nurses and doctors were English and very good. There was a rumor going around the hospital that Sandy (the American woman) had died because she didn't scream, holler, and carry on like the Maltese women did. I wasn't allowed to be in the birthing room, thank you Lord, I didn't want to be in there. I would pass out, so I wouldn't have been any help. Doug Jr. was our experiment because we had no experience and nobody to call for advice or help from any relatives.

Next: Doug Jr. — The Colicky Kid and the Scroll

Community Columns continued on page 5

**Support Area Businesses.  
Shop Locally.**

## MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2020

The *Mountain Gazette* is the hometown community newspaper for Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, Vermont.

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## Community Columns continued from page 4

**White pine: a history**

By Ethan Tapper

Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) is perhaps New England's most celebrated tree. It graces Vermont's state seal and is the state tree of Maine (its cone is Maine's state "flower") and Michigan. Its notoriety dates back to the 1600s, when European explorers wrote excitedly of North America's massive pine, reputed to be hundreds of feet tall and broad enough to turn a team of oxen around on their stump. Today, the white pines growing in our forests are very different, but it remains an important tree species with a fascinating history.

Upon arriving in the "New World" from timber-starved Europe, Europeans were awed by the size and quantity of timber here. Particularly prized were the enormous pine, which were large enough to be ships' masts for the British navy. At a time when naval dominance was incredibly important, trees large enough to be masts were an extremely significant resource for European powers. White pine lumber was also a prized building material, and so the early exploitation of New England's forests focused almost solely on the species. They were so important that in the early 1700s, King George I declared all pine trees greater than 24" in diameter to be property of the crown. Surveyors designated these trees with the "King's Broad Arrow," a mark of three axe cuts in an arrow or "turkey foot" design. Colonists were forbidden to cut these trees, which is said to have been one of the grievances that incited the American Revolution.

Today, according to the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern white pine is Vermont's fourth most prominent tree species. However, land use has created white pines very different from those historic "mast pines." In the 1800s about 80% of Vermont was deforested, primarily for pasture. Much of this pastureland was abandoned, and allowed to revert to forest, in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In these regenerating fields, white pine found an unusual niche. The reasons for this are not entirely clear: some say that their seeds penetrate sod better than others, or that livestock browsed and/or meadow voles girdled other tree species, but neither animal found white pine palatable. Whatever the reason, most white pine we have today is growing on the site of old pastures, rather than on sites where it may have been found prior to the 1800s.

Two main pests afflict white pines today. The white pine weevil is a native insect that lays eggs in the terminal bud ("leader") of young white pines. It generally attacks pines growing in full sunlight, so those growing in old fields were a perfect target. When the weevil larvae hatch they kill the leader, prompting multiple lateral buds to form secondary leaders. The result is "cabbage pines," trees with many crooked stems like the 14-stem pine depicted on Vermont's state seal. The vast majority of the white pine trees I see are damaged by the white pine weevil.

Another pest of note is "blister rust" (*Cronartium ribicola*), a fungus first discovered in the region in 1909. Blister rust requires both white pine and plants in the genus *Ribes* (currants and gooseberries) to complete its life cycle, and so in the early 1900s the cultivation or possession of *Ribes* plants became federally regulated, a ban that was lifted in 1966. In the early-mid 1900s, crews were dispatched to eradicate *Ribes* plants, walking through public and private land and killing all they found. This started with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and continued in one form or another through the 1960s. After the federal ban on *Ribes* was lifted, some New England states legalized the species, although in Maine and several other states it remains illegal. Even through the 1980s, growers of currants in Vermont were required to certify that they were 900 feet from stands of healthy white pine.

As our forests recover from the land clearing of the 1800s they may come to more closely resemble pre-settlement forests, and many areas where white pine currently thrives will likely shift towards a mix of other tree species. White pine will probably remain in our forests as a scattered tree, towering over its neighbors, and on sites where soils are deep and well-drained. Maybe, with some good management, we will again grow healthy white pine trees that awe us like they awed Europeans four centuries ago.

*Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, 802-585-9099, or at his office at 111 West St., Essex Junction.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Delayed huge Thank You to firefighters during flooding**

To the Editor,

During the recent huge storm and flooding, the highway departments were overwhelmed, and the entire fire brigade were called out at 2:00 AM. All responded and spent the next eight-plus hours finding flood trouble, posting signs on both sides of the blockage, helping with detours, helping frightened homeowners. Many used their personal vehicles throughout the night to supplement all the fire trucks. The scanner crackled all night with new situations. All were handled, the last about 10:00 AM.

Then they went to their paying work!!

These folks work for all of us, and they appreciate a thank you every time they are called out, that is their Pay!

**Doug Richmond  
Underhill**

P.S. This (Friday, November 22) is the first Front Porch Forum "thank you" to the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department, and only two people have thanked the highway crews. (My three prompt tries to offer thanks went to "Kumputer black holes.")

**Renaming of the Jericho commercial district**

To the Editor,

I think the new name for the Jericho Commercial district should honor the history of said area. Therefore, might I suggest *Riverside Center* or *Riverside Village*.

**Louise Miglionico  
Jericho**

**Spirituals**

By Sue Kusserow

*Special to the Mountain Gazette*

Spirituals have taught me so much about what melody can do to open a door to return to home, to grieve without tears, to survive and even hope, and to return to a different time when song was a means of communicating both sorrow and joys.

In the early new country, English and Irish ballads brought distinctive, easy-to-sing melodies and harmonies. The first slaves arrived in 1619, bringing with them chants, "shouts" (song with dance), leader-responders, humming, hand clapping, hollers (work songs), and an intricate sense of rhythm that would eventually morph into gospel, blues, and jazz. Some quick survival lessons forced them into Christianity. The do-gooders taught them bible lessons, and the slaves listened to the white version of a God and "hollers" in the gibberish of a strange language while they waited outside a Sunday service, holding the horses and carriages. They learned that they could sing most anything if it had a religious base. How else would the chorus *Let My People Go* have survived the whip of an overseer?

It was easier, they found, to act stupid. An early tune, *Jimmy Crack Corn*, seems like fun, but why was a blue tail fly allowed to bite Massa's horse? And a sense of humor had a cynical edge: *Pick a Bale of Cotton* teases that *Me 'n my Wife Gonna Pick a Bale of Cotton* in a day. A bale weighs 1500 pounds.

The idea of a leader and the responders/chorus came from West Africa. When one man could sing louder and higher and knew a few English words, he could pick a few words in English, add constant repetition, and teach Amen, Hallelujah to the workers. The overseers found that more cotton was picked, more rocks were split into pebbles, if a good leader was singing and setting the pace. The chorus to *Mary Had a Baby* is Uh Huh; to *See the Little Baby* it is Ah-men. Since there was no history to remember, immediacy was important to the singers: *Were You There?* Joshua in the battle of Jericho: "he marched with sword in hand," and *Ezekiel Saw the Wheel*, and David played on his harp, *We are climbing Jacob's Ladder*.

Code songs were used as the slave population moved into the 1800s. *Drinkin' Gourd* uses the Big Dipper as a marker. *Steal Away* tells the time of an escape to possible freedom. Harriet Tubman used *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* to gather groups... and it was the last song she sang, when she died. *Wade in the Water* ends with "wash my sins as white as snow" to keep the religious cover up, but it is really telling the group to get in the water, so the dogs can't get a human scent.

When a family was sold, it was considered good to break up family members and send them to different plantations, to weaken the family unit. Often, a baby would be torn out of a mother's arms and put in a different plantation. Thus was composed my favorite song: *Sometimes I Feels Like a Motherless Child*, the soft, defeated cry of a lost person. When I was with a group in Scotland, we were treated to an evening of Highland dances with bagpipes playing, kilts swirling, and haggis and sweeter treats waiting on a long wooden table, with candles guttering in the wind through the manor house. My group didn't have any talent, they said, and neither did I, but someone had to do return the wonderful request to reciprocate. I crept up to the corner of a dark balcony, where the echo was perfect, and after an explanation as to the derivative of this song, I sang it. It was one of those moments that I will never forget.

A friend once said: "Your soul flies on a wing and a prayer." I would add: It also flies on a song.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Jericho Planning Commission thanks community**

To the Editor,

Thank you — to everyone who came to Planning Commission events this year! We held meetings, workshops, a farmers' market table, and two open houses. We've learned a lot about what matters to you!

Thank you — for your ideas, your questions, and for challenging us to listen to your concerns and balance different interests about what's possible and what's practical.

Thank you — for helping the PC to recommend updates to our Town Plan, to be more accurate and better aligned with local projects and new state laws.

The Selectboard will hold public hearings at 7:00 PM at Town Hall on Thursday, December 5, 2019 and on Thursday, January 2, 2020 to formally consider making these amendments to our Town Plan.

For more information, check out the 2019 Town Plan amendments page on the Join in Jericho town website. Please come to the hearing, or contact Katherine Sonnicks, Town Planner, 899-2287, ext. 103 with any comments or questions.

The Town Plan amendments are being proposed to address four topics:

\* Commercial district — A new vision for the commercial district emphasizes a mix of businesses and residences that fit in our rural community, supporting connectivity and transportation options, and protecting the views along VT Rt. 15. We need a new name for the district to match this new vision!

\* Energy — We are on a path toward meeting Vermont state energy plan goals, through weatherizing homes, more renewable energy, and less energy use.

\* Community health — With help from the CCRPC and the state Department of Health, we are adding a new chapter to encourage healthy living for residents, with support from the community.

\* Natural resources — These updates reflect the new Natural Resources Overlay already adopted in the zoning regulations last year.

Thank you — for caring, for participating, and for helping Jericho be a great place to live, work and play!

Susan Bresee  
Jericho

**Homemade baby food best practices**

Parents of infants have been feeding me lots of questions about whether it is better to buy infant food, or make their own homemade baby food. This question starts popping up when babies begin to eat solids around six months of age. Well, let me take a bite into those questions and provide some information on this topic.

*The ingredients in both*

First, both store-bought and homemade baby foods share the same ingredients. They are simply fruits, vegetables, and other foods cooked and pureed into a smooth consistency.

*Benefits of homemade baby food*

So are there benefits to making your own baby food? There can be. Making your own baby food is less expensive than buying ready-made. Additionally, you can control all the ingredients and flavors without adding preservatives, salts, sugars, or ingredients that a young child might become allergic to. You can also make purees for your baby consisting of the same food enjoyed by the rest of the family.

*Downside of homemade baby food*

The downside of making homemade baby food is that it can take extra time and care to prepare and safely store baby foods you puree yourself. Homemade foods are not usually pasteurized so they may spoil faster, requiring you to make smaller amounts more frequently. If you are going to make your own baby food, keep your hands clean before and during the process. To store this food, use airtight containers.

*Benefits of store-bought baby food*

What are the advantages of store-bought baby foods? These adhere to strict safety guidelines set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Store-bought baby foods are pasteurized, so they can stay at room temperature longer without spoiling. Nowadays, there are many choices available at the grocery store, and some now have no added sugar or salt. Or, oftentimes, the only preservative used is vitamin C. The down side, as I already alluded to, is that they are more expensive. Additionally, some may not be as environmentally friendly as others.

*My recommendation*

What do I recommend, you ask? That really depends on your lifestyle. For example, do you like to go out to eat or cook for yourself? Perhaps the best solution is a mix of both — using store-bought for those busy days or when you go out to eat as a family, and making home-made baby food when you have the time to do so.

*The bottom line: healthy food is best*

The bottom line is, no matter what you choose for your baby to eat, it should be healthy and free of sugar, extra salt, and saturated fats.

Hopefully tips like these will be food for thought and provide some solid advice when it comes to realizing the pros and cons of store-bought versus home-made baby foods.

*Lewis First, MD, is chief of Pediatrics at UVM Children's Hospital. He is also chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the UCM College of Medicine.*

**Coming events continued from page 3**

**Sunday VFW Benefit Brunch**, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, VFW 9653, Pleasant St., Morrisville. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, strata, fruit salad, pancakes, baked beans, sausage gravy with biscuits, juice, and coffee. Benefits VFW Auxiliary 9653. Adults \$10, children under 10 \$5. For more information, 888-4919.

**Tuesday, December 10**

**Anxiety and the Middle Schooler**, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Browns River Middle School, River Rd., Jericho. Presenter Anna Bergman of Jericho has had to reschedule twice due to weather closing BRMS, and is hoping third time's the charm. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact [annabergman@gmail.com](mailto:annabergman@gmail.com), call 802-858-9369, or check out [www.bergmancounseling.com](http://www.bergmancounseling.com).

**Saturday, December 14**

**Christmas Cookie and Craft Sale**, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Second Congregational United Church of Christ, Jeffersonville. This annual event will have a white elephant table with new or gently used items and many vendors with lovely things to purchase for your Christmas giving. There will also be a Soup and Sandwich lunch served at noon. Come and join us and do some early Christmas shopping. There will be plates of delicious Christmas Cookies for sale, made by the members of the church.

**Saturday, December 21**

**Winter Wildlife Ecology and Forest Management Walk**, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Hinesburg Town Forest. Meet at the end of Economou Rd., Huntington. Join Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper and Wildlife Biologist/VT F&W for a free public walk of an active timber harvest, highlighting winter wildlife ecology, wildlife tracking, and the active forest management underway and how that will influence wildlife habitat and behavior. Be prepared to spend two hours out in the elements, including some walking over uneven and slippery surfaces.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Thanks to those folks who help keep us safe**

To the Editor,

As a selectman at a time when we had a terrible flood in the area (late 1990s), I saw first-hand the fine work and dedication of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department volunteers and the Underhill Road Crew. They spent all night and most of the next day helping residents in flooded areas, mostly in the Flats near Roaring Brook. And yes, as Doug Richmond said about the recent floods, the men on both departments, exhausted but having done great work, went on to their day jobs. I am proud to live in a town where people care for each other.

**Ted Tedford  
Underhill Center**

## HEALTH PROGRAMS AND CLASSES AT NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

## ONGOING

Brain Injury Support Group – third Thursday of each month, 5:30 – 6:30 PM, NMC Conference Center, Grand Isle Room. Meet other people in similar situations, share the hardships and accomplishments, gain valuable emotional support, obtain information, and discuss a variety of brain injury topics. Anyone touched by brain injury (traumatic or acquired) can attend: survivors, caregivers, friends, and family. All are welcome at our support group. Free; no registration required. For information contact Jess Leal, 877-856-1772.

Cancer Exercise Sessions – Tuesdays and Thursdays, flexible times, NMC Rehab gym, Cobblestone Health Commons. Featuring Wendy Lawrence, Physical Therapist. Pre-registration required; call 524-1064. Free for the first 8 weeks, then \$40. Designed for cancer survivors; helps improve strength and balance while fighting fatigue to bring back optimal function. You'll get started with an individualized physical therapy evaluation and customized treatment if needed – both services are billable to insurance. After these first two or three visits, participants move on to a free, 8-week open gym program that is supervised by one of NMC's Athletic Trainers to continue work on strength and conditioning. Exercise with others can be fun and supportive, especially in the comfortable atmosphere of the rehab gym. After the eight week free open gym program, participants can choose to continue their workouts at the gym for a monthly fee of \$40. Start the program at any time, and use the gym when it is convenient for you. Simply call our Physical Therapy team to get started and find out what hours the gym is open.

Program now enrolling First Time Mothers: Franklin County Home Health Agency's Nurse Family Partnership Program (NFP) helps first time mothers in Franklin, Lamoille, and Grand Isle counties. NFP is an evidenced based program that enrolls mothers during pregnancy and provides them with regular nurse visits until their child's second birthday. Nurses provide support, education and counseling on health, behavioral, and self-sufficiency issues. Interested women and their healthcare providers can call 802-527-7531 for more information.

Vermont Quit Partners Fresh Start Tobacco Cessation Class, Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, NMC Cobblestone Building, Suite 202. Pre-registration required; to sign up for a session call Chari, 524-8480. Free. Enter this class at any time and join others for this series to help you successfully quit smoking. Sessions include: understanding why you have an addiction and how to quit; mastering the first few days, mastering obstacles; and staying quit and enjoying it forever. When you are ready to quit, the tools and support can make all the difference. We can provide you with what you need to be successful! As a Vermont resident, you can get free patches, gum and lozenges.

Healing Circle Women's Cancer Support Group: first Tuesday of every month, 4:30 PM socialize, 5:00 – 6:30 PM meeting, Northwestern Medical Center Conference Franklin Room. Pre-registration not required; free. A self-help cancer support group for women of all ages and lifestyles who have cancer. At our monthly meetings, we share information, offer each other support and comfort, and learn new things from speakers. We extend an invitation to any woman who has cancer, whether you are newly diagnosed or a long term survivor. Please call 802-524-8479 with any questions or to RSVP (not required).

Have You Lost a Loved One to Suicide? Second Thursday of every month, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Northwestern Medical Center's Grand Isle Room. Pre-registration not required; free. If the answer to the question is "yes," please consider attending a free, confidential group that meets monthly in St. Albans. Everyone in the group, including its facilitators, has had someone close to them take their life and knows how devastating that experience can be. You can just come and listen to others share what they are going through and how they are coping or you can share your own story. The choice is always yours to do what feels best to you. For more information on dates, times, and location or to answer any questions you may have call Tony, 802-393-6503.

Chronic Disease Support Group Workshops: Various times and locations. Pre-registration required; contact Deana Chase, LICSW, 802-370-5626. Free. Are you or someone you know living with a chronic health condition? Then the Healthier Living Workshop is for you! Learn to feel better by learning how to deal with frustration, fatigue, and pain, manage symptoms and medications, and improve strength and flexibility. Each session is 2½ hours once a week, for six weeks.

Shadows of the Moon Autism Support Group: for one-on-one phone support, please call Cheryl at 802-868-7745 or Laura at 802-849-2817.

Alzheimer's Support Group: last Tuesday of each month, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Franklin Room. Pre-registration not required. Free. This group is for those with Alzheimer's and caregivers, family members, and friends and is facilitated by Amanda Wilson. Please call the 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit [alz.org/Vermont](http://alz.org/Vermont) to confirm details.

Parkinson's Support Group: second Tuesday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Pillsbury Senior Community, conference room

next to the library on the first floor, 3 Harborview Dr., St. Albans. Pre-registration not required. Contact Pat, 802-524-5520, or Judy 815-895-2312. Free. This group is open to those with Parkinson's and their caregivers including family and loved ones. The monthly meetings can provide an open forum to share experience with others who are coping with Parkinson's disease, gaining education and support. Wheelchair accessible.

Breastfeeding Moms Group: first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Please call 527-5586 to find location of next group. Pre-registration required; call 527-5586. Free. This group meets once a month for snacks, crafting activities, making baby blankets, and information from the experts.

Breastfeeding and Infant Massage Group: second Wednesday of each month, 9:30 – 11:15 AM, Alburgh Library. No pre-registration required. Free. Join other moms and babies to learn how to massage your baby and discover more about breastfeeding and parenting.

Latch On! Discussion Group: third Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Family Birth Center. No pre-registration required. Free. Learn about breastfeeding and share your stories. Enjoy light refreshments and connect with other moms.

Baby Bumps Support Group for Mothers and Pregnant Women, second and fourth Monday of the month, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Family Birthing Center. Pre-registration required; contact Rhonda Desrochers, 802-527-7531. Free. Pregnancy can be a wonderful time of your life. But it can also be a time of stress that is often compounded by hormonal swings. If you are a pregnant woman, or have recently given birth and feel you need some help with managing the emotional bumps in the road

### Don't let the flu mess up your holiday plans!

There's still time to get a flu shot to protect yourself and your family this holiday season! Remember, when you're gathering with family and friends:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often.

Enjoy your holidays! Get more tips on flu prevention and find out where to get a flu shot at <http://www.healthvermont.gov/flu>.

### Blood drive in Richmond Wednesday, December 11

As you search for holiday gifts, keep donating blood in mind. It only costs a little time, yet it can save a life. Bring a friend and double the pleasure. It doesn't get any better!

The Richmond Congregational Church will host the next local American Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, December 11 from 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate. Use RAPIDPASS (<http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass>), a pre-donation and health history questionnaire, to further reduce the wait time. Complete it on line on December 11 before you arrive to donate.

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### OBITUARY

**Donna (Goodrich) Gaudette**, 74, of Cambridge, VT passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Visiting hours were held Friday, November 22, 2019 at A.W. Rich Funeral Home – Fairfax Chapel. A funeral service was held at the United Church of Fairfax on Saturday, November 23, 2019. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. The family invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting [awrfh.com](http://awrfh.com).



### Erin Devost joins the Teak Team

Teak Media + Communication, a B-Corp certified public relations firm that serves nonprofits and socially responsible companies, welcomes Erin Devost as its new Social Media Manager. In her hybrid role, Devost will serve as an account executive and social media content strategist to clients by creating cohesive campaigns that generate results and drive revenue.

Devost brings a variety of digital marketing and communications experience to the Teak team. Prior to Teak, Devost served as a Senior Account Representative at Chapman Cubine + Hussey, a digital marketing firm based in the Washington D.C., where she oversaw projects involving email fundraising, campaign messaging, and digital reporting for nonprofit clients. Earlier this year, Devost was a Media Relations Apprentice at Ludington Media, SEO Analyst at Dealer.com, and Public Relations Assistant to Campaign for Vermont.

"Working for Teak is a career dream come true," Devost explains. "I am excited to have the chance to work in the PR industry, share the stories of worthy nonprofits and responsible companies, and use media as a force for good."

Devost's enthusiasm for her new role is matched by Teak's gratitude for having her on board. "Finding PR professionals who are passionate about using our craft as a means by which to make a real difference in the world is a treat," says Jackie Herskovitz Russell, Teak Media founder and president. "We are grateful to have Erin on our team. Her energy and experience are serving our clients well."

Devost is a New Englander at heart from Burlington, VT. Devost graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School, Jericho, and obtained a Master's degree in Communications from Newhouse at Syracuse University in Spring 2019 and BS from Castleton University in 2014. She currently resides in Boston, MA and hosts the Herp A Derp podcast.

that can come with motherhood, please come to this free support group led by an experienced pediatric Registered Nurse. This group is for both pregnant women and mothers. Presented jointly by Franklin County Home Health Agency, Northwest Counseling and Support Services, Northwestern Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health.

Foot Clinics: various times and locations. Pre-registration required. Call Franklin County Home Health Agency, 802-527-7531 to schedule. Fee: \$20. Regular care of your feet can prevent problems. If you are an elderly and/or disabled person who is unable to do your own foot care, please consider attending a Foot Clinic. Franklin County Home Health Agency offers monthly Foot Clinics throughout the year in St. Albans, Swanton, Franklin, East Fairfield, and Enosburg.

Who's Your Person, What's Your Plan? (End of Life Planning): We plan for all life's milestones – marriage, birth, retirement. But few of us have plans in place for our end of life. And none of us can plan for the unexpected. Do you know who you want to speak for you and make medical decisions for you when you can't do this for yourself? Everyone 18 years and older should have a Health Care Agent – your person to speak on your behalf. By completing an advance directive you can provide this information to your family and physician. Start this conversation with your family before you are in a health crisis. Information and materials to help facilitate your conversation are available at <http://www.fchha.org/healthcareagent/> as well as [www.starttheconversationvt.org](http://www.starttheconversationvt.org). You can also call Franklin County Home Health Agency to learn more about completing an advance directive. We are also available to speak to community groups. Start the Conversation today. It's a gift.

### United Way of Northwest Vermont – Volunteer Connection Listings

By Sue Alenick, *United Way Volunteer Columnist*

United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection connects you to hundreds of local volunteer needs. Search by age, date, county, interests or causes that are important to you. Stay connected to community needs. Go to [www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com](http://www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com) or contact us, [volctr@unitedwaynwvt.org](mailto:volctr@unitedwaynwvt.org) or 860-1677.

PHONATHON — COTS is gearing up for its Phonathon 2019 and is recruiting volunteers to serve as callers and in the mailroom. Join the fun any evening from December 2-11, 5:30 - :00 PM. Dinner is served at 5:00 PM, and there is a brief orientation. All calls are made to current COTS supporters. Enjoy raffles, refreshments, and the excitement of seeing immediate results. Contact Reagan Murphy, 864-7402, Ext. 207, or [reaganm@cotsonline.org](mailto:reaganm@cotsonline.org).

RIDE WITH THE KIDS — Good News Garage's *Ready to Go* program works with the Vermont Department for Children and Families to provide rides to children to and from daycares. Rides are available weekdays 6:00 – 10:00 AM and 2:00 – 5:30 PM. Volunteers are needed in Burlington to assist children entering and exiting the vehicle, securing them in car seats, entertaining, and walking children into and out of their daycares. Choose a day and time that works for you, and enjoy the ride. Contact Amanda Allen, 864-3667 or [aallen@goodnewsgarage.org](mailto:aallen@goodnewsgarage.org).

GATHER A GROUP — ReStore is searching for winter volunteer groups of 5-15 people, age 16 and older, for full or half-day shifts. No experience is needed, and they're open seven days a week. Businesses, community groups, faith congregations, and groups of friends... all are welcome. Contact Allison DeVoe, 318-7533 or [adevoe@vermonthabitat.org](mailto:adevoe@vermonthabitat.org).

EXERCISE LEADERS — United Way of Northwest Vermont's RSVP program is looking for volunteers to lead weekly Bone Builders classes to help participants prevent or reverse the negative effects of osteoporosis. The program consists of a warm-up, balance exercises, arm and leg exercises, and a cool down with stretching. Teaching a one-hour class just twice a week will increase your muscular strength, balance, and bone density while also introducing you to some great new people. One-day certification. Come and bring a friend! Contact Danielle Williams, 861-7821 or [daniellew@unitedwaynwvt.org](mailto:daniellew@unitedwaynwvt.org).

PREPARE AND SHARE A HOLIDAY MEAL — Dismas House in Burlington and in Winooski is looking for volunteers to cook a portion of their Christmas meal and then join residents at the holiday table. A great opportunity for those with no holiday plans or for small families who want to share a meal with an appreciative group. In Burlington contact Zoe Bishop, 658-0318 or [zoe@dismasofvt.org](mailto:zoe@dismasofvt.org). In Winooski contact Sue Drollette, 655-0300 or [sue@dismasofvt.org](mailto:sue@dismasofvt.org).

FEED THE PETS — Franklin County Animal Rescue is in need of volunteers to provide morning animal care to help the animals get ready for the day. Tasks include preparing and feeding, keeping spaces clean, socializing with the animals, etc. Children under age 15 are welcome to accompany an adult. Choose a shift from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Sunday-Friday. Contact Hadley Shannon, 524-9650 or [volunteer@fcarpets.org](mailto:volunteer@fcarpets.org).

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Email: [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net) for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

**DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

All events are free and some activities require advance registration.

**Adult Programs**

**Knitting with Neighbors** — Thursday, December 5 and 19, 6:00 PM. New to knitting and looking for support to get past the first row or remember how to cast on? This is the group for you. Experienced knitter just looking for inspiration to try something new or share your knitting wisdom? This is the group for you. Not new to knitting, but new to Jericho or Underhill? You will find some friendly faces here. If you would like help picking a first time project, please feel free to contact Julie Hehir, [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

**Energy Task Force: Financing Weatherization** — Thursday, December 5, 7:00 PM. Winter is fast approaching. Now is a good time to think about ways to make your home more energy efficient and cheaper to heat. Join us for a discussion about the resources available to help finance your weatherization projects. The Underhill Energy Committee and the Jericho Energy Task Force will provide an overview of the programs available. Afterwards, representatives from those programs will be on hand to answer any questions you might have. Light refreshments will be served but this is a waste-free event so please bring your own bowls and mugs. For more information contact Dwight DeCoster, [ddecoster@cvoeo.org](mailto:ddecoster@cvoeo.org).

**Deborah Rawson Book Lovers** — Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 PM. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact [Christine@cstaffa.com](mailto:Christine@cstaffa.com).

**Scrabble** — Thursday, December 12, 11:00 AM. Join us on the second Thursday of every month for the original wordplay game. Exercise your mind and improve your vocabulary (especially of two- and three-letter words).

**Youth Programs**

**Afterschool Magic: the Gathering** — Wednesday, December 11, 2:45 – 4:45 PM. We'll be casting spells after school in casual rounds of *Magic: the Gathering*.

**Library hours:** Tuesday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM; closed Monday. For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962.

**JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY**

On Sunday, December 8, Jericho Library will host an Open House and Tree Lighting beginning at 4:15 PM, with light refreshments. From 4:30 – 5:00 PM, Emma Cook will perform a wintery musical set. At 5:00 PM, Santa arrives and lights the tree on the Green! You are welcome to bring your own mug or glass, if you wish — a *green* community is a happy community!

**Story Time**, Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Pop in for a casual hour of story time, smiles, songs, and laughter with Lisa! There's a ukulele — maybe even two! Recommended ages: 0-5 years.

JTL Board meetings are held the second Monday of every month (December 9) at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Jericho Town Library hours: Mondays 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Tuesdays

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM; Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Saturdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information on programs and library services, please visit our website at [www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org](http://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org) or call 899-4686.

**VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE**

**Roald Dahl Youth Book Club**, Mondays 5:00 – 5:45 PM. In the tradition of our past youth books clubs (the *Harry Potter* series and *Percy Jackson* series), this year we are going to be focusing on the works of beloved author Roald Dahl, author of such beloved classics as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. Currently reading *Charlie & the Great Glass Elevator*. The book club is recommended for ages 8-12 but is open to anyone, young and old. Younger kids are welcome to participate as well, as the chapters make a perfect amount to be read aloud. Those seven and under should be accompanied by an adult to the meetings. Each meeting will include an activity/craft and a short discussion. We will also have special events like movie viewings. Copies of all the books will be provided to participants. So that we can plan accordingly, please email interest in participation to Youth Services Librarian Cari Varner, [cjvarner@gmail.com](mailto:cjvarner@gmail.com).

**Varnum LEGO Club**, every other Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:00 PM. Each meeting will feature themed and free build time, team exercises, and opportunities for collaboration and — most importantly — creativity and imagination. Open to all ages. Large, Duplo, and LEGOs provided.

**Baby Got Books**, Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 AM. A story time for the littlest patrons age 0-24 months, but all are welcome. We read age-appropriate books, sing songs, finger plays, use musical instruments, and have plenty of time for free play.

**Children's Story Time and Crafts with LN**, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Thursdays. The library is a warm, cheery place for children to meet other children! Join us for stories read by people who enjoy sharing good books and a craft, too.

**Crafting Circle**: Working on a knitting project, crochet, or any other craft to keep cozy this fall? Join the Crafting Circle for camaraderie, tips, and encouragement. Meets Thursdays, 5:30 PM; no pre-registration required, just bring your supplies and join in!

**Spanish Conversational Hour**: Fridays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Join native Spanish speaker Milagro as she guides the group, helps with pronunciation, and plays a few games to help with vocabulary.

**Handknit Afghan Blanket Raffle**, through Friday, December 20. Win a beautiful handknit afghan blanket — fantastic as a gift or to curl up with (with a book) yourself. Tickets \$5 each or three for \$10. Many thanks to Carol Plante for sharing her gift of artistic knitting and to Two Sisters Mill & Mercantile (Main St., Jeffersonville) for donating the wool. Tickets available at the library and at the Congregational Church's Christmas Sale on Saturday, December 14.

**Deer in Winter**: Thursday, December 12, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. As winter sets in, Vermont's white-tailed deer are congregating and heading to deer yards in their seasonal travels through changing habitats. Learn how deer deal with the deep snow, cold temperatures,



For the month of December the Richmond Library will be showing work Judy Bush has created from paper pulp made from recycled colored papers. For most of the work, the paper is the painting. A few have printed (linocuts) on the hand made paper.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

hungry predators, and shrinking menu that come with a northern winter, and then join in a round of Deer Flag Tag at the library. This program is sponsored by the Cambridge Conservation Commission and the Varnum, and presented by the Lamoille Valley Nature Center. It is designed for pre-school and elementary school kiddos, but all are welcome! It is part of the 2019-2020 Junior Naturalist Series that hosted at the Varnum monthly.

**VT Humanities Book Group**, Saturday, December 14, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: *The Blue Flower* by Penelope Fitzgerald. Set in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it is the true story of philosophy student Friedrich von Hardenberg (later known as the poet Novalis) who wishes to wed his heart's desire, Sophie von Kuhn. His family's reaction? How could our brilliant Fritz become betrothed to a twelve-year old dullard? Copies of the book are available at the library. Sponsored by the Cambridge Arts Council.

**Ravens and Crows with Bird Diva Bridget Butler**: Saturday, December 14, 11:00 AM. Crows and their kin are a raucously entertaining group! From jays to ravens to magpies to crows, there's a lot to wonder about when it comes to these marvelously intelligent birds. Join Bird Diva Bridget Butler as she shares the natural history of these birds known as *corvids*. Find out how smart *corvids* really are, the difference between crows and ravens, and their complex social structures. And, learn how you can contribute to our understanding of the large winter roosts of crows through the Crows In Vermont project. Suitable for all ages.

**Community Holiday Party**, Wednesday, December 18, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome — come celebrate the holidays with your neighbors or meet new friends. Bring a potluck dish to share.

Library news continued on page 8

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## Library news continued from page 7

if you can.

Crescendo Club Library Association — If you enjoy the Varnum's collection and programming, we would enjoy having you on our board! Join us for just a few hours each month and support the library.

Varnum Memorial Library is deeply grateful for the funding that is received from the Town of Cambridge. This amount does not, however, fully fund the library's expenses and your tax-deductible donations are always most appreciated. Donations can be made at the Library or sent via mail to Varnum Memorial Library, P.O. Box 198, Jeffersonville, VT 05464. Thank you!

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; [thevarnum@gmail.com](mailto:thevarnum@gmail.com); [www.varnumlibrary.org](http://www.varnumlibrary.org). Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

**WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The library will be closed on Wednesday-Thursday, December 25-26 for Christmas, and on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Book Giving Trees are up — What better gift to give the library than a book? Choose a star from one of our book giving trees. Each star contains the name of a book that the library would like to have. Books can be dedicated to a special person or family. Purchase the book anywhere, or at any location of our partner, Phoenix Books, which will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star. Books will be collected at Phoenix if purchased there. (In a change from previous years: dedications can be left on the back of the stars.) Purchase books by Sunday, January 19.

Make your own Scrunchies! Saturday, December 14, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Scrunchies are back and cooler than ever! Scrunchies can be worn in your hair or on your wrist to complement any outfit. Learn how to make scrunchies using a sewing machine. Once you learn the basics, you'll be making scrunchies for your kids or friends, in their favorite fabrics. Presented by Jenny Cady and Lise-Anne Cooledge. Ages 10-adult. Space is limited; sign-up required.

Early Literacy Storytime: birth to pre-school, Thursdays, 11:00 AM. Several stories will center around a theme, and there will be a theme-based craft. All ages and levels of attention are encouraged to come; don't worry if they fidget, they are still getting a lot out of it!

Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Fiber Arts Group. Knit, crochet, and stitch with a vibrant group. All levels welcome, help given to beginners. Questions? Contact Marianne, [mfishcar@together.net](mailto:mfishcar@together.net).

Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club! Weekly through December 12-13; grades 3-4 on Thursdays; grades 1-2 on Fridays.

Friday (note the different weekday), December 13, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: CookBook Club. Join us as we resurrect a Vermont favorite, River Run Cookbook (Southern Comfort from Vermont) by Jimmy

and Maya Kennedy and Marielisa Colta. The iconic Plainfield establishment may be gone, but its delicious southern comfort food with a VT spin lives on. From breakfasts and gumbo, desserts, to pulled pork — there's something for everyone in this one!

Adult Book Group, Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. In this *VT Reads 2020* selection by the VT Humanities Council, 16-year-old Starr moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does — or does not — say could upend her community. *"I've seen it happen over and over again: a black person gets killed for just being black, and all hell breaks loose. I've tweeted RIP hashtags, reblogged pictures on Tumblr, and signed every petition out there. I always said that if I saw it happen to somebody, I would have the loudest voice, making sure the world knew what went down. Now I am that person, and I'm too afraid to speak."*

Library Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Library Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook. 878-5639, Bree Drapa, Librarian.

**RICHMOND LIBRARY**

The Traveling Storytellers Puppet Show — During this free, interactive holiday puppet show children become a part of the story, not mere observers. Holiday cheer comes alive in two puppet shows, *A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree* by Colleen Monroe, and the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Boy*. Songs and a craft will make this a fun morning program for young children and their adults. Join us on Saturday, December 21, 10:30 AM.

Raffle Baskets — We will be holding a book basket raffle during the holiday season. Baskets are full of new and gently used books for readers of all ages, as well as other assorted goodies. Tickets are \$1, or six for \$5. This year's proceeds will support the purchase of new DVD movies for the collection.

Cookbook Sale — We're getting a jump on our annual book sale (held every February) by throwing in an exclusive cookbook sale on the third floor of the library during the Richmond Holiday Market. We have received an abundance of very nice donated cookbooks since our last sale, and believe many of them could be of interest as gifts and/or inspiration for your holiday meals. Come

take a look on Saturday, December 7, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

December Art Show — For the month of December we will be showing work Judy Bush has created from paper pulp made from recycled colored papers. For most of the work, the paper is the painting. A few have printed (linocuts) on the hand made paper.

Playgroup with Stories and Songs — The good times kick off with songs and shakers around the colorful alphabet rug. Next up is storytime and snacks (bring your own). Then, the toys and art supplies come out for free play and crafts. Co-sponsored by the Lund Center. Kids from infant to age five and their caregivers are invited to join us in the community room on Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Preschool Storytime — This special storytime is for children ages 3-5. We will share picture books, songs, and activities, with a focus on the six pre-reading skills that form a child's early literacy experience and help set them up for a lifelong love of books and reading. Join us on Fridays, 10:30 AM.

Book Discussions — All are welcome to join monthly book groups. Books are available approximately one month before the discussion date. Mostly Fiction Book Group — The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore. "A perfect blend of the historical, the scientific, and the personal, this richly detailed book sheds a whole new light on this unique element and the role it played in changing workers' rights. The Radium Girls makes it impossible for you to ignore these women's incredible stories and proves why, now more than ever, we can't afford to ignore science, either." — *Bustle*. Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 PM.

Free Coffee and Tea: Warm yourself with a hot cup of coffee or tea during the cold winter season. The beverage table is to the left of the circulation desk on the ground floor. Help yourself and sip while you browse, read, work, or gather with friends.

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

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 434-3036; 434-3223 (fax); [www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org](http://www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org).

**DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLISTON**

All events free. Children 8 and younger must be accompanied by an adult while at the library.

Read to a Dog: Wednesday, December 4, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Read to a Lola, a therapy dog. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session.

Movie: Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 PM. Discover the power of unconditional love, as a dog named Enzo recalls the life lessons he has learned from his race car-driving owner. Snacks provided. (PG; 108 minutes)

Williston's Energy Plan: Thursday, December 5, 7:00 PM. Find out what the proposed energy plan is for the town of Williston. Bring your questions. Sponsored by Sustainable Williston.

Meditation Program: Fridays, December 6 and 20, 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Lower your stress level and unlock calm at our bi-monthly meditation program. Learn about the different types of meditation through practice, breath-work and balancing Chakras. All levels are welcome.

Winter Holiday Party: Saturday, December 7, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Kick off the winter holiday season! Help us decorate the library while you enjoy festive music and a craft for kids. Drop in for cookie decorating from 10:30 – 11:45 AM, then join us for a family sing-along and winter-themed story. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. All ages are welcome.

Census Worker Information: Wednesday, December 11, 3:30 – 5:30 PM and Tuesday, December 17, 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Want to find out what it takes to be a Census worker? Jeanne Zimmerman will discuss the part- and full-time opportunities available with the 2020 Census VT Team in Chittenden County, now through 2020. (Applicants must be at least 18 years of age by March 1, 2020.)

Cook the Book Cookie Swap: Wednesday, December 11, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Hey foodies! Stop by the library to peruse this month's selected cookbook: Chewy Goopy Crispy Crunch Melt-in-Your-Month Cookies by Alice Medrich. Participants will prepare two dozen cookies from the selected cookbook or from a family favorite recipe. Be sure to photocopy your recipe to include at the program.

Mah Jongg: Wednesday, December 11, 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Learn how to play, revisit the game, or just enjoy the game of Mah Jongg. Come alone or bring a friend and play with members of our community. All experience levels are welcome.

Technology Night: Wednesday, December 11, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Ken Bernard of Vermont Tech offers a monthly learning technology series. This session will focus on anti-virus and device protection strategies. Bring your own device if you would like. All ages.

Read to a Cat: Thursday, December 12, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Read to Edgar, a therapy cat in training. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session. All ages.

Book Signing: 251 Vermont Vistas, Saturday December 14, 12:00 – 2:30 PM. Drop in to talk with local author Nancy Stone and have her sign her newly released art book. Books available for purchase.

Family Fun Night! Holiday Crafts: Monday, December 16, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Make and take seasonal crafts, including a winter greens arrangement. Keep for yourself or give as gifts. All ages welcome.

Brown Bag Book Club: Tuesday, December 17, 12:30 – 1:30 PM Meet others who love to discuss books. This month we will discuss The Temptation of Forgiveness by Donna Leon. Books are available at the front desk. Beverages and dessert provided.

Current Events Conversation: Wednesday, December 18, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Gather with others interested in discussing newsworthy topics.

Tech Tutor: Wednesday, December 18, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. One-on-one technology help from a teen. Guarantee a time by making a 30-minute appointment at 878-4918. Drop-ins are welcome if space is available.

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston; 878-4918 or [www.williston.lib.vt.us](http://www.williston.lib.vt.us).

**FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration encouraged.

Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Hour. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. No registration needed.

Library news continued on page 9

# MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

## Publication & Deadline Dates 2019

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at noon.

The advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

Publisher of the Mountain Gazette

6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

Phone: 453-2468 • [bboutin@gmavt.net](mailto:bboutin@gmavt.net)

On the web at [www.mtngazettevt.com](http://www.mtngazettevt.com)

**PUBLICATION DATES:****THURSDAY**

January 9

January 23

February 6

February 20

March 5

March 19

April 2

April 16

May 7

May 21

June 4

June 18

July 2

July 16

August 6

August 20

September 3

September 17

October 1

October 15

November 5

November 19

December 3

December 17

**DEADLINE DATES:****THURSDAY**

January 3

January 16

January 30

February 13

February 27

March 12

March 26

April 9

April 30

May 14

May 28

June 11

June 25

July 9

July 30

August 13

August 27

September 10

September 24

October 8

October 29

November 12

November 26

December 10

[bboutin@gmavt.net](mailto:bboutin@gmavt.net) • [www.mtngazettevt.com](http://www.mtngazettevt.com)

For information Brenda Boutin • 802-453-6354 • Fax: 802-453-2468

## Library news continued from page 7

Thursdays, through December 19, 3:15 – 4:30 PM: Chess Club. For Experienced Intermediate to Advanced Players, grade 4 and up. Please register at the library.

Hours: Monday, Wednesday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org), 802-849-2420. Call or email [libraryprograms@fwsu.org](mailto:libraryprograms@fwsu.org). For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website: [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org), where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

**BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION**

Tuesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time. We will engage kids with picture book stories, songs, puppets, and rhymes in the picture book room. Come read and play with us.

Tuesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 31, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Current Events Discussion Group. A forum for lively and courteous expression of views about current events, news, and issues. Come to share or just to listen. Moderated by Sandy Baird.

Tuesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Read with Daisy. Daisy loves to listen to kids read every Wednesday. She is certified by Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Daisy's owner is Maddie Nash, a retired school counselor. For all ages.

Tuesday, December 3, 2:45 – 4:15 PM: Tuesday movie. Free popcorn and drinks!

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time. We will engage kids with picture book stories, songs, puppets, and rhymes in the picture book room. Come read and play with us. Repeat of Tuesday program.

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 12:00 and 1:00 PM: Tech Help with Clif. Offering one-on-one technology help. Reservation required. Please call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Wonder Wednesdays: Conversations in Character. Make, experiment, collaborate, and explore your curiosity. This week we will learn to build characters using just our voices and the *Chatterpix* app. Call or check online for program details. Best for ages 6 and up.

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: First Wednesday Lecture: Food Across Borders. Our production and consumption of food relies on a series of border crossings that we often take for granted. Dartmouth professor Matt Garcia highlights how food and the boundaries it crosses lead to new thinking about what it means to be an American and a Vermonter.

Thursday, December 5, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Library closed for staff inservice.

Friday, December 6, 9:30 – 10:00 AM: Preschool Yoga. Come do simple yoga poses, hear stories, and sing songs with Danielle! Best for children 2-5 years old.

Friday, December 6, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Red Clover Story Time. Each month, students listen to two Red Clover book titles and do an activity with one of the books. Best for ages 5-10.

Fridays, December 6, 27, 5:30 – 8:30 PM: Dungeons & Dragons. Embark upon imaginary adventures. A Dungeon Master serves as this role playing game's referee and storyteller. Game starts at 6:30 PM, come early for help with character design. Best for teens and adults.

Saturday, December 7, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Fantasy/Sci-Fi Lovers Book Discussion Group: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Join in this adult (18+) book club to discuss books with other fantasy and sci-fi book lovers! In the dystopian future of *The Handmaid's Tale*, environmental disasters and declining birthrates have led to a Second American Civil War. The result is the rise of the Republic of Gilead, a totalitarian regime that enforces rigid social roles and enslaves the few remaining fertile women. Offred is one of these, a Handmaid bound to produce children for one of Gilead's commanders. Deprived of her husband, her child, her freedom, and even her own name, Offred clings to her memories and her will to survive. At once a scathing satire, an ominous warning, and a tour de force of narrative suspense, this is a modern classic.

Mondays, December 9, 16, 23, 30, 12:00 and 1:00 PM: Tech Help with Clif. Offering one-on-one technology help. Bring in your new gadget or gizmo and Clif will sit with you to help you learn its ways! Reservation required. Please call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

Mondays, December 9, 16, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Read with Pugsly. Practice reading with our therapy dog and friend, Pugsly, who is certified through Therapy Dogs of Vermont. For all ages.

Monday, December 9, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Must Read Mondays! *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private. A deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations. Pick up a copy of this book at the main desk and join us for a casual discussion.

Tuesday, December 10, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Make Greeting Cards. Get creative and make your own greeting card for family and friends. For ages 3 and up.

Thursday, December 12, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: First Wednesday Encore: Charles Dickens and the writing of *A Christmas Carol*. Dickens scholar Barry Deitz considers Dickens' career up to the publication of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, what the novella's success meant to Dickens' life and work, and how the story has resonated since, including in films. This video was recorded at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum on December 6, 2018.

Friday, December 13, 9:30 – 10:15 AM: Music with Raph! Come sing and play with Raph. For all ages.

Friday, December 13, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: TAB. Join TAB for a duct tape crafternoon! Make wallets, keychains, and beads with fellow TAB members. All teens welcome, and snacks will be served! All in grades 9-12 welcome!

Friday, December 13, 5:30 – 8:00 PM: Train Hop, a community-wide event. Tree lighting at Five Corners 5:30 – 6:00 PM, then visit the many train stops at local businesses and organizations in the Junction, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Brownell will have three stops! Come check out our trains, the Essex Players, and write a letter to Santa with the *Essex Reporter*.

Saturday, December 14, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Art Lab. Explore a rotating selection of art materials. This program is about process,

not product; there are no samples, no right or wrong way to play with the materials. Recommended for children under 6 and their families, but anyone is welcome to play!

Saturday, December 14, 1:00 – 4:00 PM: Vermont Reads: *Making Comics* with Marek Bennett. Join NH cartoonist Marek Bennett in this fun-filled workshop to create original comics! Using blank paper, pencils, ink, and four basic "storytelling elements," we'll craft exciting visual narratives and look at how artists and authors use peer feedback to improve their work and share it with new readers. For inspiration, participants are invited to bring family stories and old family pictures, consult the Brownell non-fiction collection, or craft their own story. No experience necessary — anybody can create comics! (Marek Bennett makes and teaches comics and music in New Hampshire, USA, and the world beyond. His comics work includes the graphic novel series *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby*, the local history webcomic *LIVE FREE AND DRAW!* and more... ([www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com)))

Tuesday, December 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEEP (Library Elementary Event Planners). LEEPers will learn to make homemade bouncy balls, both for fun and to prepare for helping at a January Wonder Wednesday. Grades 6-8 welcome. Snacks will be served! Note: *Due to the holidays, we will be meeting the third Tuesday this month, not the fourth.*

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Brownell Library Trustees Meeting.

Wednesday, December 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Red Clover Group for Homeschooled Students. Each month, students in grades K-4 read two titles and do activities with one of the books on the list for this year's Red Clover Award. Voting takes place in March. This program is sponsored by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Wednesday, December 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Dorothy's List Group for Homeschooled Students. Each month, students in grades 4-8 discuss books from this year's Dorothy's List. Students will discuss their opinions and responses to their favorite book contestant and will learn how to contribute thoughtfully to book group discussions. This program is sponsored by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Wednesday, December 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: GMBA Book Discussion for Homeschooled Students. High school aged students discuss this year's GMBA nominees. Voting takes place in the spring. For grades 9 and up. This program is sponsored by the Brownell Library Foundation.

Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: TEDx BrownellLibrary: Positive Thinking. Ted Talk videos around this theme will be viewed and reflected upon. This is a great opportunity to connect with others!

Friday, December 20, 9:30 – 10:15 AM: Music with Raph! Come sing and play with Raph. For all ages. Note: *this is the third Friday, not the fourth Friday!*

Friday, December 20, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Winter Solstice with Bridget. The Winter Solstice is very special — it's the year's shortest day and longest night. Throughout time, people have come together to honor the Winter Solstice and welcome the lengthening days ahead. We'll celebrate the return of the sun with stories, songs and crafts! Best for ages 6 and up.

Friday, December 20, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Family movie. Free popcorn and drinks!

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 24-25: Library closed for the holidays.

Saturday, December 28, 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Lego Fun! Come build creatively with Legos and see what others build. For all ages; children under 9 years old must bring a responsible caregiver.

Monday, December 30, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Giant Self-Portraits. Explore various art materials and make a giant self-portrait. Recommended for ages 6 and up.

Tuesday, December 31, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Vacation Story Time. Join us for a special vacation story time. We will read a few books, sing, rhyme, and put on a puppet show. Siblings welcome!

Tuesday, December 31, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Paper Airplanes! Learn to make different styles of paper airplanes and then compete in competitions with other participants! Ages six and up welcome.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Call Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org).

**ESSEX FREE LIBRARY**  
Tuesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, and Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19, 26, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Drop-In Knitting Club. Bring in your current knitting project or start a new one in the company of fellow knitters!

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Tech Time. Need some tech help? Drop in with your device and your questions!

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Books and Babies. Stories, songs, and gentle movement, with the baby in your life! Ages 0-18 months.

Thursday, December 5, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noon Book Group. Please join us as we discuss *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck.

Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19, 26, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Lego Club. Join in the LEGO fun by joining the

LEGO Club! Come together weekly to build creations and expand your STEAM skills. Ages 5+.

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Author Talk. Join us for a reading and presentation with Vermont author Sam Brakeley. He will be showing photos and talking about his new book *Skiing with Henry Knox: a personal journey along Vermont's Catamount Trail*.

Fridays, December 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:20 – 11:30 AM: Musical Storytime. Rock 'n read with Noreen on Friday mornings with books, songs, and instruments. All ages.

Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Weekend Storytime. Start off your weekend with books, rhymes, and songs on Saturday mornings!

Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21, 28, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Spanish/English Intercambio. If you are a native English speaker who wants to learn or improve your Spanish, or if you are a native Spanish speaker who wants to learn or improve your English, our intercambio may be for you! For the first hour of every session we will speak exclusively in Spanish and for the second hour we will speak exclusively in English. Come join the conversation!

Mondays, December 9, 16, 23, 30, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Storytime with Jasmine. Enjoy reading, rhyming, and crafts each week! All ages.

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Writers' Group. Interested in building some structure into your writing life? Looking for thoughtful feedback? Join us! All levels and genres welcome as we come together to share our work and offer support to one another.

Wednesday, December 11, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: TEDxEssexFreeLibrary. Join us for our TEDx event in the library. We will screen three recorded TED talks and finish with a discussion. The theme is *Dangerous Ideas*.

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. 802-879-0313; [www.essexfreelibrary.org](http://www.essexfreelibrary.org).

## SPORTS NEWS

## Weekly volleyball at BRMS

A weekly volleyball group meets Thursday evenings at Browns River Middle School (River Rd., Jericho) is looking for new players. This is an inclusive group welcoming new members of any gender, skill, or age for a game that isn't scary or intense, but fun! If you are interested, please contact their fearless leader George at [hudsonsong@gmail.com](mailto:hudsonsong@gmail.com).



## Upper Valley Tree Farm

Choose & Cut Your Own  
Balsam Fir Trees

Wreaths and Maple Syrup Available

Saturday and Sunday • 9 to 4  
Monday through Friday • 12 to 4  
November 29 through December 24

Upper Pleasant Valley Road • Turn at Smugglers Notch Inn  
2 miles off Route 108 in Jeffersonville  
Follow the tree signs 🌲 from Route 15 in Jeffersonville, 434-4762  
1869 Upper Pleasant Valley Road, Jeffersonville VT 05464  
Facebook: [uppervalleytreefarm](https://www.facebook.com/uppervalleytreefarm)

## The Perfect Gift This Holiday Season!



The Official  
2019  
Snowflake Bentley  
Pewter Ornament  
by  
Vermont Snowflakes  
Beautifully Gift Boxed  
(with flannel pouch) and Ready to Give!  
\$19.50 ea

**Come Visit!** Browse our unique collection of Vermont hand made gifts, Bentley snowflake photos and jewelry as well as Christmas items.

## Old Mill Craft Shop

Route 15, Jericho 899-3225

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10-5 Sun. 11:30-4

Owned and operated by the Jericho Historical Society

[www.snowflakebentley.com](http://www.snowflakebentley.com)

[www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org)



## HELP WANTED

The Town of Bolton is seeking an individual to clerk for the Development Review Board. Starting wage is \$16/hour, approximately 5 hours per month. Please see the Town of Bolton website for the full job description: <http://boltonvt.com>

## LEGAL NOTICES

**OFFICIAL WARNING  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK  
DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the towns of Jericho and Underhill in the County of Chittenden and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (project room) in Jericho, Vermont on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM to act on the following articles:

Article 1.  
Election of a Moderator

Article 2.  
Act on Report of Trustees

Article 3.  
Shall the District authorize the Trustees to borrow money for the temporary needs of the District?

Article 4.  
Adoption of a budget

Article 5.  
Other business thought proper when met.

Proposed budget is \$59,745

Dated at Jericho, Vermont,  
November 24, 2019

Livy Strong Chair  
Judie Jones Vice-Chair  
Carol Smith Treasurer  
James Massingham Secretary  
Dave Williamson  
Suzanne Graham  
Donna Pratt



*Thirteen Burlington Writers Workshop (BWW) authors and songwriters will entertain at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington with short readings and live music from 1:00 – 3:30 PM on Sunday, December 8. Among those presenting at the workshop will be Rebecca and Seth Rogan. To learn more about the BWW and a calendar of the ongoing free, writers workshops in Burlington, Montpelier, and Middlebury: [BurlingtonWritersWorkshop.com](http://BurlingtonWritersWorkshop.com).*

## ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery in Jericho presents an exhibition of acrylic paintings by Michael Strauss running through Sunday, December 29. Strauss says, "Good representational painting can create the illusion of a three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional surface of a canvas." Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho; gallery hours 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Thursday-Sunday or by appointment, 899-3211.

Established and emerging artists present art work in any medium for *Beyond the Seed*, an exhibit running through December in the Jericho Town Hall. The show is open during regular Town Hall hours. Enjoy a snack and stop by, on your way home or on your way to work, and see the show.

## LEGAL NOTICE

## WARNING

## Voters of Westford Fire District No. 1

Notice of Annual Meeting  
Voters of Westford Fire District No. 1  
are hereby notified that the Annual  
Meeting will be held:

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 7:00 PM at  
the Westford Library

The following matters of business will be considered and acted upon:  
Article 1 - Election of Officers:  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Collector of Taxes  
Prudential Committee  
Article 2 - Officers' Reports  
Article 3 - Approval of Budget  
By Order of WFD#1 Executive Board

## TOWN OF JERICHO- SELECTBOARD

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Selectboard hereby provides notice of a public hearing being held pursuant to Title 24, Sections 4384 for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding: **Proposed Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan 2019 Update.**

The Selectboard is required to hold two public hearing on the Town Plan updates. The first public hearing, previously warned, will be held on December 5, 2019 and the second is scheduled for **Thursday January 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Jericho Town Hall, located at 67 Vermont Route 15. The purpose of the proposed Town Plan update is an interim action to bring certain section of the plan up to-date prior to the regular Town Plan renewal scheduled to take place in 2024 as required by the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act. The proposed Plan will affect all areas of the Town of Jericho. The 2019 proposed updates includes information associated with Enhanced Energy Planning, the Commercial District, as related, the 2019 Commercial District Master Plan, the Natural Resources Chapter as related to the adoption of the Natural Resources Overlay in 2018, and adds a new Healthy Community chapter to reflect the Town's desire to include health in all policies.

**Table of Contents:** Introduction, Vision and Goals, The Jericho Community, Land Use, Natural Resources, Cultural and Historic Resources, Economic Development, Housing, Education and Child Care, Transportation, Utilities Facilities and Services, Energy, Healthy Community, Implementation, Maps.

Copies of the proposed Town Plan are available at the Jericho Town Hall, located at 67 Vermont Route 15. A digital copy may be viewed on the Town of Jericho Website at [www.jerichovt.org/2019-Town-Plan-Amendments](http://www.jerichovt.org/2019-Town-Plan-Amendments).

## ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Walk through the beautiful woods and gardens of unique Jericho artist Marcia Rosberg in a new retrospective exhibit of her paintings at Mount Mansfield Community Television's studio, 35 W. Main St., Richmond. The exhibit will be open to the public during our office hours until Sunday, March 1. Stay tuned for a special reception and video about the artist soon. For more information and to check that we are open when you drop by, call 434-2550. Our website: [MtMansfieldCtv.org](http://MtMansfieldCtv.org).

Visions of Vermont Art Galleries in Jeffersonville is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. Hosts Jane and Terry Shaw, 644-8183; Visions of Vermont, 100 Main St., Jeffersonville. For more information, visit [www.VisionsofVermont.com](http://www.VisionsofVermont.com).

Dianne Shullenberger Gallery, 228 Nashville Rd., Jericho; 899-4993 or [vtDianne@hotmail.com](mailto:vtDianne@hotmail.com).

Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St., Stowe. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and by appointment; 802-253-8359, [www.helenday.com](http://www.helenday.com).

River Arts of Morrisville Inc., 74 Pleasant St., Morrisville; 802-888-1261, <http://www.riverartsvt.org>.

Milton Artists' Guild Art Center & Gallery, 199 U.S. Rt. 7 South, Milton; open Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sundays, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM (closed Monday and Tuesday); <https://www.miltonartistsguild.org>.

HAVOC Gallery, 27 Sears Lane, Burlington; [www.HAVOCGallery.com](http://www.HAVOCGallery.com); [HAVOC@havocgallery.com](mailto:HAVOC@havocgallery.com) or 800-639-1868. Hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and every first Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 PM.

Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; 802-644-5100; [www.bryangallery.org](http://www.bryangallery.org). Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and by appointment.

## MUSIC

The Westford Music Series 2019-2020 is held Sundays at the White Church on the Common, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (usually). Open to the public; refreshments will be served. December 15: *Heliand Consort* will offer a holiday season

program, 7:00 PM, demonstrating their well-known dynamic and creative sensibilities. This quartet with its virtuoso woodwind and piano chamber music will perform an engaging repertoire of classical music from the baroque through 20<sup>th</sup> century contemporary genre. Featuring the eclectic mix of the most compelling music of our time, from Nico Muhly and Valerie

Coleman to Belinda Reynolds and Padma Newsome, the exciting, hour-long concert will be unlike anything you've experienced. Instruments including piccolo, bassoon, clarinet and vibraphone will fill out a program of the highest caliber including folk songs and classical compositions. January 5: *Spintuition* (Young Tradition Vermont); February 9: Allison and Cameron Steinmetz; March 15: Christine Malcolm; April 5: Patrick Fitzsimmons; May 3: Paul Asbell. For information, 802-879-4028.

Young Tradition Vermont with the Burlington Violin Shop present Anita Macdonald, Ben Miller, and Zakk Cormier on Thursday, December 5, 6:00 – 8:30 PM at the Burlington Violin Shop. Ben Miller & Anita MacDonald are well known for their synergistic approach to traditional Scottish music. Blending Scottish Lowland pipes with Cape Breton fiddle, Gaelic song and step-dance, Ben and Anita merge traditional influences from Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, as well as the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. They will be joined by Zakk Cormier, an Acadian multi-instrumentalist from Prince Edward Island. Zakk is a dynamic musician with deep roots in his own Franco-Celtic tradition and brings his talents as a sympathetic guitar accompanist and his driving rhythms of foot-percussion to the trio. Together the trio creates a powerful sound, transcending the boundaries between Cape Breton and Scottish traditions. \$20 suggested donation. Limited seating. Reservations recommended at [mark.sustic@gmail.com](mailto:mark.sustic@gmail.com). For more information, <https://youngtraditionvermont.org/events/anita-macdonald-and-ben-miller/>.

The Vermont Choral Union celebrates over 50 years of choral *a cappella* music with two holiday concerts: Saturday, December 7, 7:30 PM at the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, St. Albans (presented by the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Albans Festival of Trees), and Sunday, December 8, 3:00 PM at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington (presented by Cathedral Arts). The ensemble of community-based singers will perform a program of inspirational and largely contemporary classical seasonal and holiday pieces. Interim music director Steve Klimowski's vision for the concert program centers on the love and peace of the season: "The first half of the program highlights music about people's love for each other (love thy neighbor) while the second half focuses on the Christmas story. We end the concert with an assurance of peace." These themes are musically expressed and effectively captured in this program with some familiar sacred and secular text settings, including the poetry of Sara Teasdale and Howard Thurman set by composers of the early Renaissance, Baroque, and Romantic periods, as well as contemporary composers Pavel Chesnokov, John Joubert, Arvo Pärt, Dan Forrest, Ola Gjeilo, Ēriks Ešenvalds, and Martin Åsander.

## THEATER/FILM

Essex Community Players has announced auditions and informational meetings for the winter production *Drinking Habits* on Monday-Tuesday, December 9-10 at 6:30 PM in Essex Memorial Hall, Essex. Open call for actors and crew; no experience necessary. *Drinking Habits* was written by Tom Smith, and will be directed by Nan Murat. Secrets, surprises, romance and disguises run rampant in this traditional, laugh out loud farce. Synopsis: The nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent out of the red when two reporters, fresh from a broken engagement, go undercover as a nun and priest to expose these partners in wine. Their presence spurs paranoia that spies from Rome have come to shut down the convent. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as the plot twists to a blessed end. Production Dates: Friday, February 28-Sunday, March 15. Rehearsals will run three times per week beginning Sunday, January 5. Character descriptions and stage ages are meant to be used as a guide only; all are welcome all to audition for any role: Sister Philamena, age 20s-50s, devout and dedicated to keeping the convent open, she is joyful, witty, and humorous; Sister Augusta, 20s-50s, similar to Sister Philamena; George, 20s-30s, convent caretaker, not dumb but slow to catch on, Loyal and eager to help; Mother Superior, 40s-60s, hates alcohol, dedicated to the convent, paranoid; Paul, 20s-30s, grew up in Catholic school, fearful of nuns, timid, still in love with Sally; Sally, 20s-30s, career minded, bold, quick witted; Sister Mary Catherine, 20s-30s, working to complete her training, young, naive, and timid; Father Chenille, 40s-60s, stereotypical priest, patient, understanding, but a little clumsy. Several good off-stage and behind the scenes

SCHOOL NEWS

**Anxiety and the Middle Schooler — trying again!**

The last scheduled presentation on *Anxiety and the Middle Schooler* at Browns River Middle School was postponed again! The weather seems to be working against us as the local schools in Jericho had to close again due to weather. However, presenter Anna Bergman of Jericho will not let a couple of weather delays deter her. The event has been rescheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact [annavbergman@gmail.com](mailto:annavbergman@gmail.com), call 802-858-9369, or check out [www.bergmancounseling.com](http://www.bergmancounseling.com).

**Homeschooler STEM class (Kitchen Chemistry)**

Growth Points Educational Services is registering kids for Kitchen Chemistry beginning in January. The class is offered at River Arts, 74 Pleasant St., Morrisville, on Tuesdays, January 7-February 18 (seven weeks), 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM. The class is aimed at ages 7-13.

Through hands-on investigations, participants will learn about many aspects of chemistry including states of matter, atoms and molecules, physical and chemical changes, acids and bases, solutions and compounds, density and viscosity. Some sample activities include making a strong bubble solution, making various slimes, testing

materials for pH, baking experiments, and making homemade marshmallows.

To sign up for Kitchen Chemistry, email Rachel at [growthpointsed@gmail.com](mailto:growthpointsed@gmail.com) with your first and last name, the first name(s) and age(s) of the child(ren) you wish to enroll, and the best phone number to reach you. Payment is due on the first day of class: \$115/first child; \$105/siblings. Maximum of 12 spots available. Sign up closes Monday, December 23.

**Art / Music / Theater**

continued from page 10

roles also available. Auditions Monday-Tuesday, December 9-10, call-backs if required Thursday, December 12. 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Essex Memorial Hall, 5 Towers Rd., Essex (near the junction of VT Rts. 15 and 128). Audition Sides: <https://www.essexplayers.com/habits>. For questions or more information, contact Director Nan Mura [nanmura@yahoo.com](mailto:nanmura@yahoo.com), Producer Art Kilmer [cakilmer@comcast.net](mailto:cakilmer@comcast.net), or see [www.essexplayers.com](http://www.essexplayers.com).

**VSAC launches gift cards for VT 529 plan**

\$50 ‘Gift of College’ cards available at Kinney Drugs, Cumberland Farms

‘Tis the season for gift-giving and VSAC’s new *Gift of College* gift card is a game-changer in giving a gift that makes a difference in a child’s future.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), which oversees Vermont’s 529 college savings plan, is partnering with [GiftofCollege.com](http://GiftofCollege.com), a registry for online gifts to 529 accounts, to supply the gift cards to Vermont locations of Kinney Drugs and Cumberland Farms.

“There’s no greater gift than the gift of education,” said Scott Giles, VSAC president and CEO. “As family and friends shop for the special children in their lives, these gift cards offer an easy and convenient way to contribute to a college fund — along with maybe a toy or game! And no other gift card gains value through the years. Moreover, every dollar saved is a dollar not borrowed.”

A 529 plan is an education savings plan designed to help families set aside funds for future college costs, with tax advantages to help make saving easier. The plans are named after

Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which created these types of savings plans in 1996.

Vermont’s 529 plan, the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan, is the only savings program that qualifies for a 10% Vermont income tax credit on annual contributions or rollovers for college or training, including redemptions of *Gift of College* gift cards. Make your contribution to a new or existing VHEIP account by December 31 to be eligible for a 2019 Vermont income tax credit. Learn more about all the tax benefits at <https://www.vheip.org/benefits-tax-advantages/#vermont-state-income-tax-credit>.

The VSAC *Gift of College* gift cards are available in \$50 amounts and the purchaser pays a one-time service charge of \$4.95. The recipient receives the entire \$50 amount as a contribution to the 529 account. For those that want to make larger gifts to a friend or loved one’s college savings account, they can contribute directly to a VHEIP account by check or electronic funds transfer.

For more information about all the ways to give with Vermont’s 529 college savings plan, visit [vheip.org/give-a-gift](http://vheip.org/give-a-gift).

Our 16<sup>th</sup> Year!

# RICHMOND Holiday Market

Enjoy shopping, Santa, music, food and MORE!



Presented by  
**WESTERN SLOPES**  
RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON  
BOLTON • UNDERHILL • JERICO

## Saturday, Dec. 7 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Five Convenient Locations!**  
 Richmond Free Library • Richmond Congregational Church  
 Richmond Town Center • Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church  
 Hatchet Tap & Table (Silent Auction 9:00 am–2:30 pm)

.....

— from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm —

**Over 60 vendors selling great holiday gifts**  
**Wreaths for sale • Horse rides**  
**Ornament making**  
*(with donation or canned good to Richmond Food Shelf)*

— from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm —

**Photos with SANTA in the Catholic Church!**

*Lots of music! DJ Tony Basanta spinning tunes!*

Parking and shuttle service is available at the Catholic Church

For more info: [NickDet@icloud.com](mailto:NickDet@icloud.com) | 802.434.4483 | [westernslopesvt.org](http://westernslopesvt.org)

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**\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION**

Help Age Well continue to provide services. Donations can be mailed or visit: [agewellvt.org](http://agewellvt.org)



**COMMUNITY MEALS**  
Food where you choose

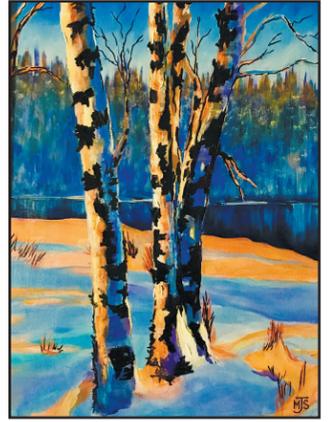
**DECEMBER 2019: CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available to those 60 years of age and older</li> <li>Menus are available on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month for the following month</li> <li>Call Age Well's NEW Community Meals/Restaurant Ticket Program reservation number: 802-662-5200 beginning at 10:00 am for the following month on, or after, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If the 22<sup>nd</sup> falls on a weekend, reservations may be made the following Monday</li> <li>Meals are on a first-come, first-serve, month-by-month basis</li> <li>Milk is served with all meals</li> </ul>				
2	<b>3 Ray's Seafood</b> Essex Junction Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Fish, potato, coleslaw, squash, roll, & creamer	<b>4 Athens Diner</b> Colchester Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Hot turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetables, wheat roll, & fruit dessert	<b>5 Dutch Mill</b> Shelburne Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Baked stuffed chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, & strawberry shortcake	6
9	<b>10 American Legion</b> Colchester Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Meatloaf dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetable, & fruit dessert	<b>11 JP'S Diner &amp; Deli</b> Essex Junction Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Chicken and biscuit, mashed potatoes, vegetables, & strawberry shortcake	<b>12 Holly Jolly Holiday Party</b> South Burlington Holiday Inn Express - Sunset Ballroom Cranberry and apple stuffed chicken breast, gravy, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, cranberry sauce, wheat roll, & pumpkin cake Check-in 11:30 am Lunch 12:30 pm Entertainment: Sergio <b>Tickets only, see Pat Long 802-557-5484</b>	13
<b>16 Papa Nick's</b> Hinesburg Check-in 2:30 pm Lunch 3:00 pm Ham dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, & special dessert	<b>17 Dutch Mill</b> Shelburne Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, homemade bread, & strawberry shortcake	<b>18 Athens Diner</b> Colchester Check-in 10:30 am Lunch 11:00 am Roast pork dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetables, wheat roll, & fruit dessert	<b>19 Pizza Hut</b> Susie Wilson Road, Essex Junction Check-in 11:00 am Lunch 11:30 am All you can eat buffet, salad bar, pasta, & pizza	20
23	<b>24 No Mealsite</b>	<b>25 Happy Holidays No Mealsite</b>	<b>26 No Mealsite</b>	27
30	<b>31 No Mealsite</b>			

**Birches**

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho, presents an exhibition of acrylic paintings by Michael Strauss, which will run through Sunday, December 29. The show includes the painting pictured above, Birches. Strauss says, "Good representational painting can create the illusion of a three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional surface of a canvas." For more information, contact the gallery at [emilegruppegallery.com](http://emilegruppegallery.com) or 802-899-3211.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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**Jericho - \$499,500**  
5-star energy rated home bright & open w/ 3 bdrms, plus lg bonus room on the 2nd floor. Kitchen w/ granite counters, tiled back-splash, SS appliances, & butler's pantry. Master suite w/ walk-in custom closet & bath. Central AC, 2-car attached garage, 2nd flr laundry. Sunny lg yard backs up to 220 land trust acres w/ extensive trails



**Fairfax - \$449,500**  
Meticulously maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home on 10.8 private acres. Custom eat-in kitchen w/ granite counters. Gracious dining room & large sunlit living room with fireplace & hearth. First floor master with ensuite bath, walk-in closet & cozy fireplace. Beautiful master gardener planned grounds with ponds & greenhouse.



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Brand new & ready for occupancy! Large two-car garage! Rear patio to enjoy morning coffee! One-level living! Kitchen w/ granite countertops & SS appliances! Large master bedroom with walk-in closet & full bath! 2nd bath & bedroom for guests! Room for you to finish a family room in the full basement with egress window!



**Swanton - \$268,500**  
Bright, sunny home with 1-level living & open floorplan. 1.64 acre parcel with the meandering Missisquoi River running along the back edge. Lg great rm with hardwood floors, gas fireplace, & sliding glass doors is open to the kitchen featuring an island. 3 bdrms. Full basement waiting for your finishing touches. Enjoy the central AC

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Thursday 9:00am - 11:00am  
Saturday 9:00am - 11:00am  
Location: 51 Center Rd, Essex  
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