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MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

★ Vol. 20 No. 1 Serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, VT July 2, 2020 ★



The signs say it all. The Community Food Sharing Shed in Underhill Center runs much like a “little free library” — but with locally produced food items.

PHOTOS BY SARA



The Brown Family monument now resides between Browns River Middle School and the former Underhill I.D. School. Its plaque reads: “Erected to the memory of the Brown Family, first settlers here and for whom Brown’s River was named. Joseph Brown, Hannah, his wife and their sons Charles and Joseph in the year 1780 were captured by Indians near this place, taken to Canada, sold to British officers and held as prisoners about three years.”

PHOTO BY BOB

MONETTE Jericho history mystery...

By Robert Monette, Jericho

What happened to the Brown family monument in Riverside?

Recently I happened upon a 104 year-old volume of The History of Jericho, written shortly after the sesquicentennial

Jericho history continued on page 2

There’s beauty in them there hills



Folk art in Jeffersonville adorns the door at Quarry Hill Farm Store as the poultry keeps an eye on passerbys. There’s lots to see along the road in Vermont, and in your car you are appropriately socially distanced!

PHOTOS BY BRENDA



BOUTIN Jericho Farmers’ Market at Mills Riverside Park

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

You can still buy produce and value-added products, but things look a little different at the Jericho Farmers’ Market at Mills Riverside Park this year. The vendors are spaced further apart, people are asked to keep six feet from one another, and there are directional signs to keep traffic moving in one direction.

Market Manager Elizabeth King said the market continues to be open from 3:00 – 6:30 PM every Thursday, but the first half hour is now reserved for members of the population who are at risk for contracting COVID-19. Previous years have featured live music and picnic tables arranged so that those purchasing prepared food can eat it piping hot while listening to the musical talents of friends and neighbors. Both the music and the tables will be absent this year, as a result of the pandemic, unless guidelines from the state are revised later in the season to allow them.

Stephanie Choate of Pie Empire is happy the Jericho Farmers’ Market has opened. This is her fifth season as a vendor and she recognizes things have to be done differently than in past years. “It’s been really great to see so many community members coming out to support the small businesses that make their living at the farmers’ market,” she said. “The measures the market has put in place are the kind of common sense things we’ve all been doing to keep each other safe for months now. Once you get used to it, it becomes routine, just like anything else.”

The goal of the market has always been to have 60% agricultural products with the remaining vendors split between artisans and value-added prepared food, and that breakdown remains the same this year. “We have all kinds of agricultural products,” King said, “from maple syrup to honey, dairy, vegetables, and everything in between.”

This year, there are just under 20 full-time or half-time vendors, with a few additional day vendors who are testing the waters by coming once or twice over the course of the season. There are four new full-time or half-time vendors. One of the full-time vendors is Alexandra Sterling of Delicious Dirt Designs. “We decided to join the Jericho Farmers’ Market because we heard great things from other farmers and makers,” she said. Sterling is an herbalist as well as a farmer so her booth will be offering products like tinctures, teas, syrups, and baths, in addition to produce and cut flowers. Sterling admits the COVID-19 restrictions have been a learning experience. “I do find communicating over a six-foot distance with masks presents its own challenges,” she said. “I’ve been practicing my louder voice.” Delicious Dirt Designs has the option of online ordering and Sterling said several customers have taken advantage of that convenience. “Since people can’t come up and touch the food,” she said, “the hope is that through the on-line platform we can give them more information so they can have another way to explore what we are offering.”

Setting up the market is a bit more time consuming this year. In the past it took King roughly 30-45 minutes to lay

out the grid for the vendors, but now it takes four people an hour and a half since the booths have to be 12 feet apart and a perimeter fence needs to be set up to make sure traffic flows in only one direction. Additionally, volunteers are needed to help people understand and follow the new rules.

King said returning vendors have been very understanding about the changes. “It’s been pretty positive,” she said. “We’re all in this together. None of us want the farmers’ market to work this way and we all wish there was no COVID-19, but our vendors have been really good and collaborative and it’s all gone well.” King prepared the vendors for what would take place via Zoom meetings prior to the start of the season and was pleased that those meetings were well attended. “We’ll all work together to make the market work,” she said.

King noted that some patrons have been surprised at the different set-up, but the vast majority were just thankful the market was open and anxious to do the right thing. “I’ve had lots and lots of lovely experiences,” she said. “This is a great community to work with.”

Sterling believes that farmers’ markets are a win-win for growers and customers. “They seem like a safer alternative to indoor grocery stores because they are open air and highly regulated,” she said. “Farmers’ markets let people support local producers but they also provide those people with a safer option for buying food.”

The market is clearly less of a social place this year, with the absence of music and picnic tables and the request that only one family member shop at a time in order to reduce the number of people congregating. Masks are required but even with facial coverings, it’s easy to see that everyone is still smiling.

Affect change — join Bolton’s Planning Commission!

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Planning Commission (PC) seeks engaged community members.

Do you see potential in the town of Bolton? Are you interested in helping the town and its community reach those potentials? Are you interested in your own professional development and growth?

The PC is looking for your help to enhance our Town Plan and regulations to meet the needs of its citizens as we change and grow as a community. This volunteer position will inspire many and affect real change in Bolton for years to come. Join the Planning Commission to provide a vital service to the town and its community.

This commission offers the right person the opportunity to have a real experience, real responsibility with real support and real growth. Help us affect change in our community.

Please contact Kaelyn Modrak, PC member, for more information or if you are interested: kaelynmod@gmail.com or 777-1921.

NEWS BRIEFS

Weekly Notch Tunnel update

Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

PROJECT TYPE: Rehabilitation of the existing concrete box culvert to include new lighting.

LOCATION: The Notch Road in Bolton under Interstate 89

TRAFFIC IMPACT DURING CONSTRUCTION: Speed limit will be temporarily reduced to 25 MPH within the construction zone for the safety of the workers and pedestrians.

Daytime: Traffic control will be present, allowing for one-way alternating traffic through the tunnel.

Nighttime, 7:00 PM – 5:00 AM: Tunnel closure will cause motorists to use the signed detour. Emergency vehicles will be allowed access through the tunnel, if necessary.

Pedestrians: All work will cease, and the traffic will be held on both sides of the culvert, allowing you to walk through. After you have safely reached the other side, all work will resume.

The following is the anticipated work for the week beginning Monday, June 29, 2020:

Beginning Monday, June 29 at 7:00 AM, working 24 hours/day until Thursday, July 2 at 12:00 PM: Begin concrete slab repairs. The original slab was poured in 1964 and has significantly deteriorated over the years. Until the repairs are complete, motorists will encounter a rough surface within the tunnel.

As part of Governor Scott's "Work Smart, Stay Safe" order, all construction crews are currently subject to safety restrictions and precautions.

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: Friday, August 14, 2020

Cambridge Area Rotary and the Fourth of July

After very careful consideration, the Cambridge Area Rotary has decided that based on CDC and State guidelines regarding COVID-19, it is in the best interest of our community's health and wellbeing to cancel the 2020 Fourth of July parade and fair.

Cambridge Area Rotary would like to propose a safe and fun alternative to the parade. We would like to invite our community to decorate your home or business for the holiday. Under the theme "Liberty Begins at Home," we can all celebrate the 4th of July. Were you already planning to decorate a float for the parade? Maybe now you can apply the decorations and your creativity to decorating your business or your home. Hopefully, we can make our whole town a showcase for anyone driving through to see.

Cambridge Area Rotary will select honorary winners who participate in the celebration. Rotarians will select winners in the following two categories:

- Best Decorated Home
- Best Decorated Business

Each winner will be announced and recognized in public media. To be considered, please post a picture on Facebook and add #CambridgeAreaRotary to your post, or email your picture to cambridgerotary7980@gmail.com. Let's wrap our town in patriotic spirit for the holiday, and pledge to meet on the parade route again in 2021.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Cambridge Rescue Squad seeks volunteers

Cambridge Rescue Squad is looking for volunteers. If you are looking for a rewarding way to help out your community, consider joining Cambridge Rescue. If you are interested in becoming a licensed EMR, EMT, AEMT we can point you in the right direction.

Call 802-644-2113 and speak to one of our members for more information. Our application can be found on www.cambridgerescue.org.

Jericho history continued from page 1

celebration of Jericho's 1763 founding. It was fascinating to read the story of the Brown family, headed by Hannah and Joseph Brown (originally from Connecticut — does that mean they were "flatlanders?"). Briefly, they were one of the original settler families of Jericho, building their homestead in 1774 in the Riverside area (along what is now VT Rt. 15, just down the hill from Clark's Truck Center, in the fields prior to the entrance to what is now Mills Riverside Park).

The family were captured by Native Americans not once, but twice; the second time in 1780. They were taken to Québec, sold to the British army, and held as prisoners for three years, returning to their homestead upon the cessation of hostilities in 1783. Like true sturdy pioneers, they resumed their lives after this harrowing event, and went on to have many descendants. You can see Hannah and Joseph's gravestones in the Castle Cemetery (located just behind and to the right of the Dollar General store). Many of their descendants are also buried there.

The Brown family monument, a substantial granite marker with a bronze inscription, was dedicated in 1913. From descriptions in this old book and maps, it appears to have been placed directly across from the Jolley store at the notch in the "V" intersection that separates VT Rt. 15 heading left to Cambridge and River Road heading right to Underhill. When I looked for it, I couldn't find it. Does anyone have any information about when, where, and/or why it was moved?

Now, as I drive over Browns Trace and gas up at the Jolley, I always think of the Brown family, who with courage and fortitude

Help us to help you: Census 2020

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk

Counting everyone in our community is important. Have you responded to the Census yet?

56.3% of Cambridge residents have, but we still have a long way to go.

Responses to the 2020 Census shape decisions about how billions of dollars in federal funds flow into communities like Cambridge each year for the next 10 years for critical services.

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete the 2020 Census online now at 2020census.gov. Or, if you prefer, respond to the paper questionnaire that was sent in the mail or left at your place of residence. (NOTE: Questionnaires were not mailed to Post Office boxes.)

Visit the online form at www.2020census.gov and select "Start Questionnaire." Below the ID field, click the link that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here."

Affect change — join Bolton's Planning Commission!

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

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This commission offers the right person the opportunity to have a real experience, real responsibility with real support and real growth. Help us affect change in our community.

Please contact Kaelyn Modrak, PC member, for more information or if you are interested: kaelynmod@gmail.com or 777-1921.

EWSD free meals service to continue this summer

By Ben Dickie

The Essex Westford School District (EWSD) will continue to provide its free meal service throughout the summer. Meals are free to all children ages 18 and under, and no application or prior approval is needed.

During the school closures due to COVID-19, the EWSD served over 120,000 meals to local children through this pickup service! A new menu that goes through the end of August is now available online at <https://www.ewsd.org/cms/lib/VT02217845/Centricity/DisplayContent.aspx?nid=4061820%20EWSD%20Summer%20Meals%20Menu.jpg>.

Pickup for packaged breakfast and lunch will still be distributed, via a drive-through system, at the following locations and times, rain or shine, Monday-Friday. Please note that the time for Westford has changed.

- Albert D. Lawton School, 8:00 – 10:00 AM;
- Essex Elementary School, 9:00 – 11:00 AM; and
- Westford School, 10:10 – 10:30 AM.

The EWSD will also be dropping off meals for those students attending summer camps at EJRP, Essex Elementary School, Essex Middle School, Founders Memorial, and Thomas Fleming.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Scott Fay (sfay@ewsd.org) or call the Child Nutrition Office, 802-857-7333.

helped forge the community we now enjoy today, on the very land many of us now inhabit. It seems a shame that their story seems lost to time... wouldn't it be great if their monument (or something similar to it) was prominently displayed as a reminder of our rich history?

...solved!

By Gary Irish, Jericho

To answer your question about the Brown Family monument, some time back (perhaps around 25-30 years ago), the VT Rt. 15/Steam Mill Road (as River Road was known at that time) intersection was rebuilt, and the little island where the monument was located was obliterated. The monument was erected as part of Jericho's sesquicentennial celebration in 1913 (I believe it was made at the Jericho Granite Co. in Jericho Corners) and the committee wanted to put it on the site of the Browns' original log cabin. In 1913 that was in a meadow that my grandfather, Elmer Irish, owned, and he told the committee that he thought it would be better to put it somewhere where it was more visible (the meadow is on the east side of VT Rt. 15 just south of the Browns River bridge), which resulted in it being placed on that island at the intersection. When that was rebuilt, the monument had to go, so it was decided to move it near the flag pole that is between Browns River Middle School and the former Underhill I.D. school, where it has remained ever since. So as you have found, the idea of it being where folks would see it every day was lost, but if you visit BRMS, you will find the monument.

Primary election — please vote early by mail

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk

The State Primary Election is coming up on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Our regular polling location at the Cambridge Elementary School will be open, as usual, for both the Statewide Primary and November General Elections. Polling Hours are 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

During the COVID-19 emergency, however, we are encouraging everyone to use early voting by mail in 2020. Our goal is to protect the health of our voters and our election volunteers. Your return mail is prepaid, so there is no cost to you. We will even send your "I Voted" sticker with the ballot package. For more information, go online to www.cambridgevt.org/votemymail.

The early voting system in Vermont is a proven and secure method to cast your ballot. There are four different ways to request an early ballot for an upcoming election:

- Call the Cambridge Town Office at 802-644-2251 during regular hours. Be prepared to verify your contact information. SPEAK DIRECTLY TO A CLERK. DO NOT LEAVE A VOICE MESSAGE.

- Send an eMail request to sally@cambridgevt.org. Include your telephone number and current address for verification.

- Send a request by mail to: Town of Cambridge, P.O. Box 127, Jeffersonville, VT 05464. Include your telephone number and current address for verification.

- Login to the My Voter Page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. You will need your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number for verification. Your registered town is CAMBRIDGE, even if you live or are addressed in Jeffersonville. After login, click on *Go to My Voter Page*, then *Click Here for Online Absentee Ballot Request*.

If you need assistance with this process or have any questions, please contact the Cambridge Town Clerk's Office at 802-644-2251 or clerk@cambridgevt.org.

Jericho Community Center now open for reservations

Finally, and in compliance with all the guidelines of the VT Dept. of Health, the Community Center in Jericho is now open for reservations for community events, classes, etc. For guidelines and reservations, please contact Andrea Hook at andreahook@aol.com. Welcome back!

Good news from the SBA!

John Mandeville, Executive Director, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

Access this link to learn about the re-opening of the EIDL program, about the \$100 billion still available in the PPP program, and other good news! <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSSBA/bulletins/290fa16>

MMUUSD summer food service program

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District is participating in the summer food service program. Meals will be provided to all children under the age of 18 without charge, and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals can be picked up at the sites and times as follows:

Jericho Elementary School, 90 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, MWF 8:00 – 10:00 AM (including July 3), from Wednesday, July 1 through Wednesday, August 19.

Browns River Middle School, 20 River Rd., Jericho, MWF, 8:00 – 10:00 AM (including July 3), from Wednesday, July 1 through Wednesday, August 19.

Camel's Hump Middle School, 173 School St., Richmond, MWF, 8:00 – 10:00 AM (including July 3), from Wednesday, July 1 through Wednesday, August 19.

Brewster Pierce Elementary School, 120 School St., Huntington, MWF, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (including July 3), from Wednesday, July 1 through Wednesday, August 19. For Brewster Pierce families, please contact Alison Forrest, Alison.Forest@mmuUSD.org, to be added to the list.

To ensure adequate meal quantities are available for families, please visit our website to sign up (<https://sites.google.com/view/mmUSD/covid-19information/food-service-plan>) or call 802-434-1010 to place an order.

Children do not need to be present to pick up meals, please let volunteers know the names of children.

If you are unable to pick up meals, or for any other questions, please contact David Horner, 802-434-1010 or david.horner@mmuUSD.org.

4th July on Westford canceled

By Tonya Calley, Westford Recreation Department

The Fourth of July celebration events on the Town Common are being canceled due to social distancing restrictions this year. We hope you all have a happy and healthy Fourth of July with your families and friends. Stay healthy.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Yellow birch: a profile

By Ethan Tapper

Yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) is a striking tree: golden, metallic bark shines among the greys and browns of other trees. The cousin of our most-identifiable tree, the white or “paper” birch (*Betula papyrifera*), yellow birch has many of the same attributes: bark with little horizontal “dashes,” peeling horizontally. Unlike white birch, whose bark peels in broad, flat sheets, the bark of yellow birch peels in thin strips and lacks most of white birch bark’s useful attributes: not much good for writing on, making a canoe out of, or starting a fire. Yellow birch twigs are identifiable via the scratch-and-sniff test: scratch the bark and you will detect the chemical compound methyl salicylate, “oil of wintergreen.” That minty smell is a dead giveaway, although the less-common black or “sweet” birch (*Betula lenta*), distinguishable from white or yellow birch by its steely gray-black bark, also carries it.

In the woods, yellow birch is flexible, a “generalist.” It grows at high elevations, in swamps, and seemingly everywhere in between. It is a fixture eastern old forests, capable of living for hundreds of years and becoming massive. It can be found from Newfoundland to Georgia, although it is most abundant in the northern part of its range.

The seeds of yellow birch are borne on the tree in clusters that look like “cones.” Individual seeds are shaped like a bird’s foot, about a quarter inch in length, dropping in winter and dispersed by wind over the surface of snow. Like other birches and aspens/poplars, yellow birches produce lots of seeds but they don’t put much energy into them — unlike the energy-packed nest egg (the acorn) that oak seedlings are equipped with, yellow birch seeds have to make do on their own, mostly by finding a site that is just right to grow.

Yellow birch seeds and seedlings are most successful in a couple specific circumstances. The first is when they land on “disturbed” soils. Their small seeds have trouble putting down roots through the “duff,” the layer of decomposing leaves and wood at the top of the soil. They need something to scrape this layer back and expose the “mineral soil” beneath, which is done as trees fall over, when forest fires burn off the duff, or when areas are logged, particularly in the summertime. “Scarification,” the intentional disturbance of the duff, is sometimes done intentionally during forest management to encourage the regeneration of species like yellow birch, white pine, and eastern hemlock. While too much soil disturbance during forest management can cause soil compaction, erosion, and root damage, some light scarification can increase the diversity of the trees in your forest.

Another opportunity for yellow birch seeds is when they land on rotting wood. As wood decays it provides a moist, nutrient-rich seedbed for young trees — what we call a “nurse log.” Yellow birch seeds often germinate on a rotting log or stump and grow roots around it, down into the soil. The log rots away but the roots remain, creating trees that look like they have legs.

Because of their association with rotting wood and disturbed



Yellow birch trees provide habitat for arthropods that feed birds, and can be quite long-lived. These photos show the trees’ ragged looking bark, and a specimen that first took root on a rotting log and grew roots down around it, resulting in a tree with legs!

PHOTOS BY ETHAN TAPPER

the presence of yellow birches of about the same size can indicate a past disturbance (like logging, or a wind or ice storm) in your woods. If you can tell how old they are, you can tell about how long ago this disturbance occurred.

One special ecosystem function that yellow birch serves is supporting a high density arthropods (bugs) compared to Vermont’s other tree species. Arthropods, in addition to performing their own crucial ecosystem roles, are also the base of the forest’s food web, feeding insectivores like many of Vermont’s bird species. For this reason, yellow birch is a good species to encourage in your forest when managing for bird habitat.

Yellow birch is somewhat, but not very, tolerant of shade, so if you want to manage for yellow birch in your forest, create “gaps” or “groups,” (small openings) by cutting a patch of trees at least one tenth of an acre in size. Leave lots of wood on the forest floor and leave branches and treetops “messy”, to help shield your young trees from deer browse and provide future nurse logs. While some sites are simply too wet to harvest in the summer without causing ruts and too much soil disturbance, on dry sites don’t be afraid to work when soils are dry in the summer, and to scuff up the soil.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or 802-585-9099.

Good advice about your child’s bad breath

I often times find myself face to face with parents who want to discuss their children’s bad breath. So, this week let me odor up, or should I say “order up,” some information on bad breath in kids.

Smelly sources

First, most bad breath in children is due to bacterial germs releasing sulfur compounds in the mouth. The more germs, the more sulfur and the worse the breath. What increases the number of bacterial germs? Problems like tooth decay or gum disease can do it. So can overuse of a dirty thumb, a pacifier, or chewing on a security blanket or old stuffed animal, which can introduce bacteria into their mouths and tongue.

If your child is a mouth breather, their saliva will dry up at night and not be able to wash these bacteria down the throat where they can no longer cause a problem like bad breath, so mouth breathing at night may also be a contributing factor.

Clean away the odor

Treatment therefore involves careful brushing and flossing for at least two minutes several times a day or even scraping or brushing of the tongue to get rid of the bacteria that may collect there. Here are some other suggestions:

- Keep the thumb, blankets, and pacifier well-washed if these

are considered culprits.

- Drinking lots of fluids or chewing sugarless gum, which can increase saliva production, will help wash the bacteria out as well.
- Mouthwashes buy you a few hours but run the risk of your child ingesting high alcohol content, if used in excess or swallowed, so we don’t recommend mouthwashes in younger children.
- Remember that certain foods can contribute to bad breath, including those that contain onions and garlic.

More serious causes

If despite these suggestions you find your child’s bad breath is no better, it might be a result of a sinus infection, allergies, or a tonsil problem, or because your child put something up their nose and it is creating the bad odor you smell in their breath.

Your child’s health care professional or dentist can help sort out other causes of the problem, especially if you see no improvement with good tooth brushing.

Hopefully tips like these will allow you to give your child’s bad breath the brush-off when it comes to making this problem an easier one for you and your child to swallow.

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

Community columns continued on page 2

NEWS BRIEFS continued

Attention Westford dog lovers!

Nanette Rogers Westford Town Clerk

The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as Dog Warden. What is a Dog Warden, you ask? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance. What qualifications are needed? A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively, and a location to bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner, to name a few. You may think you need a kennel to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be kept in a healthy environment until it is reunited with its owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water, and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves.

The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500 and there are funds available for training, supplies, and mileage. The Town also has a doghouse that can be utilized.

If you would like more information on helping your community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. Westford residency is preferred but not required.

Westford Selectboard minutes 6/11

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

What’s going on in Westford? Read what your Selectboard is discussing in the June 11 Selectboard Draft Minutes, online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-06-11-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Westford Conservation

Commission on social media

The Westford Conservation Commission has a new Facebook page. It can be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/WestfordCC>. There will be photos, trail updates, and information about events. Tag us in a trail photo! Feel free to message us about any blowdowns or other maintenance requests. A new trail guide will be posted there soon, too.

Our new Instagram handle is [westford_cc](https://www.instagram.com/westford_cc) for fun photos on trails in town.

Our Retail Stores are Open!

Stop in and see us, we have missed you!



Blue Mall, So. Burlington • 802-863-8306
 Factory Location, Route 15, Jericho • 802-899-3373
SnowflakeChocolate.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

Hey all, the folks at the Second Congo Church in Jeff and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services Sunday at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. You can find those linked below.

So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space!

Peace

<https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>

<https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Online worship service at Good Shepherd

Please consider joining us for online worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church starting 9:00 AM every Sunday morning. You can connect with each podcast/video service from Sunday morning through Wednesday of every week.

Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is now available on Fridays. Thanks to Alan’s leadership and Zoom-genius, you can now take part in Centering Prayer Practice from your own home every Friday at 8:30 AM. Everything you need to know is at GoodShepherdJericho.org. Click on *Menu* and then *Weekly Centering Prayer Meditation*. It is easy to join in. The Practice is geared for beginners through established meditators.

We are an open-minded Christian community where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren’t sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a non-judgmental, all-embracing spiritual home. Join us at goodshepherdjericho.org. No matter who you are, how you are physically or spiritually, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you in the name and love of Christ.

Please contact Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for more information or with any questions, at 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Introducing Pastor Mark Fay at Cambridge Christian Fellowship

Cambridge Christian Fellowship would like to announce the appointment of Mark Fay as Pastor and introduce him to the community. Mark was raised on a dairy farm on Cheesefactory Road in Shelburne. Mark and his wife Deborah now live in South Burlington, soon to be moving to Essex Junction. They have two children, Brandon and Austin, as well as a granddaughter, Charlotte.

They have been members of Vibrant Church in South Burlington for over 30 years. Mark was called to ministry in the late 90s and has served with his mom and dad in the VT Chittenden County Regional Corrections Facility for over 20 years. Both he and Deborah have been called to be Pastor here in Cambridge at CCF. They would like to welcome anyone and everyone to come, pray, worship and fellowship with them and the rest of the congregation. They have a strong belief that God has given us all purpose and they would be honored to help be a part of that with you.

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways that we never could have imagined. Many of us are now working from home, home schooling, and in some cases, separated from those we care deeply about. We at Jericho Congregational Church want you to know that we are here for you during this unsettling time. If you need a listening ear or someone to pray with about any of the impacts of this crisis, please contact us at 858-5452 or jcchelps@gmail.com. You are not alone, and we are here to help.

Weekly Peace Vigil welcomes Black Lives Matter too

The Peace Vigil is back from 5:30 – 6:00 PM on Thursdays at Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond.

Our church would like to extend a hearty welcome to the community to share signs and waves of positivity, peace, diversity, justice, and inclusion such as “Black Lives Matter” and “Love Your Neighbor.”

Please bring a sign, wear a mask, and stand physically distanced on our front lawn as we share the message of the type of community and world we all hope to live in. I hope to see you there! Peace, Rev. Katelyn Macrae

The Mountain Gazette

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HEALTH

Success: six AEDs installed in Jericho

By Julia Blake, Jericho

AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) are units to use if someone collapses due to cardiac arrest. The AED is for any bystander to use and can possibly restore the heartbeat, saving the life of a stricken person. You can learn more on this website: <https://www.zoll.com/contact/elearning/videos/aed-plus>. Jericho has the AED PLUS units. Zoll has a couple of good videos on how to use them.

These locations in Jericho now have an AED:

- Rawson Library (funds donated by Friends of the Library)
- Jericho Market (half the funds donated by the Market, the rest came from Union Bank grant and local donations)
- Jericho Town Hall (funded by townspeople and a small amount from the Town)
- Jericho Cafe & Tavern (funds provided by the Jericho Underhill Lions Club)
- Community Center in Jericho (funded by Jericho Center Preservation Association and townspeople)
- Jericho Center Country Store (funds donated by Richmond Rescue)

Donations to this cause came in over the fall and winter from many townspeople who dropped change or dollars in the donation jars in businesses, while others sent checks through the mail, ranging from \$15-200. Over \$2100 was collected this way! A grand total of \$8190 was raised to buy these life-saving machines. Each unit cost \$1365, a special price negotiated with the manufacturer Zoll and their distributor Reynolds & Son.

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) was very helpful during this whole process, offering invaluable advice and guidance, plus they stored the six units for over three months during the worst of the pandemic. In addition, UJFD agreed to service the units and replace batteries when necessary at their own cost. Dan Westover, of Westover Custom Building, also assisted by generously giving his time and skills to install all the cabinets that house the AEDs. Each AED is inside an unlocked cabinet mounted on a wall. An alarm sounds when the cabinet door is opened but should be ignored in an emergency — it is only there to alert if vandalism is attempted.

Local residents can be very proud of this community accomplishment, which has added to the emergency resources in the town. The generosity of local people and organizations is something to be celebrated! Please express gratitude to anyone you know who donated to, or helped with, this effort.

Curious about antibody testing for COVID-19?

There has been much discussion in the news on the use of serology (antibody) testing in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of this information is misleading, setting unrealistic expectations on how we could use testing to re-open the economy, or identify a person's COVID-19 immunity status.

To debunk some of the myths surrounding this test, and to better explain why we are restricting the use of this test in our patient community, UVM Health Network, Burlington would like to provide you with realistic expectations on the use and limitations of COVID-19 serology testing.

To learn more about COVID-19 immunity and antibody testing at UVM Health Network, visit <https://www.uvmhealth.org/Pages/Coronavirus/Staying-Healthy/COVID-19-Antibody-Testing-Immunity.aspx>.

Greenmont Vets Outreach Post firewood project

This famous group of Vets continue to scrounge the countryside for firewood donations: 16-18" blocked and any log length hardwood.

Please contact Donna Laperle at donna.laperle@gmail.com. Thanks!

New report examines impacts of COVID-19 on Vermont women

The state's independent non-partisan Vermont Commission on Women just released a new data dashboard report focusing on the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately and uniquely impacted women.

"The economic downturn associated with the pandemic makes women more vulnerable to financial instability," said Cary Brown, the commission's executive director. "Our dashboard reveals that a higher percentage of April's unemployment claims were made by women: 46% vs. 40% by men. Our state has the highest percentage of women working at tipped wage jobs in the U.S.: 81% of those workers are women, and those jobs were largely shut down. Nationwide, women-owned businesses are more likely to be small and in service sectors most impacted by the crisis, like personal or retail services."

Both for those who work in childcare and for those that rely on childcare to work, the loss of jobs and access have real and potentially lasting economic impacts for women. June 1 marked the first date childcare programs could reopen, but with limitations on numbers of children and challenging new health protocols. Some programs are closing, further limiting availability. Before COVID-19, over 70% of Vermont children six and under had all available parents in the labor force. The need for more quality affordable care is now likely greater than ever.

The dashboard examines how impacts are multiplied by factors like inequity. In Vermont the median annual income for women who work full time is \$41,146 — \$8000 less than the median annual salary of men, equating to a loss or a "wage gap" of 16 cents to every dollar earned. The gap is much wider for women of color in our state who are also facing other inequities. The visual report addresses that while almost 9.2% of Vermont's positive cases are found in African Americans, they make up only 1.4% of our population. Black and Asian Vermonters are also being hospitalized at higher rates.

The Commission's Data Management Coordinator, Anna Brouillette, commented on those disparities, "Ongoing gaps for Vermonters of color, both in COVID-19 case data and in the disproportionate wage gaps experienced by women of color in our state, remind us of the importance of examining and discussing the nuance and complexity of women's experiences."

Report link: https://women.vermont.gov/sites/women/files/pdf/VCW_COVID19_Dashboard_June_24.pdf.

United Way volunteer opportunities

United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering in this new time, so the opportunities are still limited, but we are starting to see more. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to see these and other opportunities.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (COSA) — Franklin Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center is in search of community members to support individuals to successfully re-enter the community after release from prison. Through positive connections and encouragement, trained COSA volunteers work in teams of three to five and meet weekly with the individual to support returning to the community and everyday living. Application, training, and a background check are required. To learn more, contact Lee King, lee@fgirjc.org.

CRITICAL NEED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY — Age Well Meals on Wheels is looking for delivery volunteers to help their neighbors by providing a friendly face and a comforting meal. Immediate openings in Georgia, Swanton, Highgate, Richford, Enosburg, and Montgomery. Contact Laura Need, 662-5254 or lneed@agewellvt.org.

COMMUNITY EDUCATOR — Alzheimer's Association is currently recruiting in Northwest Vermont area for volunteer public speakers who help raise awareness, provide education, and expand the reach of educational offerings in the community. Presentations use prepared training materials on topics related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. To learn more, contact Emily Vivyan, 316-3839 Ext. 8011 or ervivyan@alz.org.

URGENT NEED — DISASTER ACTION TEAM MEMBERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY — American Red Cross is looking for individuals who can be part of a team to support their local community affected by natural disasters. Online training and virtual meeting attendance required. Contact Erica Fuller, 735-8842 or Erica.fuller4@redcross.org.

4-H PROGRAMS

Youth enrichment activities this summer from 4H

Looking for something fun to do this summer? UVM Extension 4-H will be offering several virtual enrichment learning opportunities over the summer months.

Summer of Science: Enjoy a summer filled with science! Join us Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at our weekly virtual science cafe where you will meet a scientist, learn about their work, and get to ask questions. Open to youth entering grades 7-12 in the fall; June 24-August 12.

Natural Resources Management Academy: For youth entering grades 7-12 in the fall who are interested in the environment and ready to explore, in depth, their passion for Vermont's natural resources. They will learn about a variety of topics from natural resource professionals with daily presentations and at-home activities for those that want to do more. Earn a NRMA certificate by attending all five days! This program runs July 13-17 will a daily presentation from 1:00 – 2:30 PM; NRMA is offered in partnership with Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. These programs are FREE but registration is required. Learn more at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements>. Additional enrichment opportunities will be announced soon (e.g. gardening, animal exploration, virtual camp, etc). Keep checking our website or "like" our Facebook page (Vermont 4-H) to stay up to date on youth opportunities!

July 1 information on plastics

Bring Your Own Bag: After July 1, 2020, stores and food service establishments will no longer provide plastic carryout bags at check-out. Plastic bags will be allowed in stores and food service establishments for containing certain materials (e.g., fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, hardware items, frozen foods, meat, fish, prescription medications) or for laundry, dry cleaning, and other large garments. Stores and food service establishments may provide paper carryout bags at check-out, for a minimum of 10¢ each. Paper bags will be allowed in stores and food service establishments for packaging loose items within a store, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, grains, bakery goods, candy, greeting cards, or small hardware items.

After July 1, 2020, food service establishments will no longer offer plastic straws to customers, though they may provide straws made from alternative materials or if a customer requests a straw. Plastic stirrers are also banned, though stirrers made of alternative materials can be provided.

After July 1, 2020, stores and food service establishments will no longer provide or sell food or beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene including plates and cups, trays, egg cartons, and take-out containers. Expanded polystyrene is still allowed for trays used to package uncooked meat, fish, poultry, or seafood, products packaged out-of-state or packaged for sale out-of-state.

GARDENING INFORMATION

What's the buzz?

By Sabina Ernst

Pollinator Week 2020 was the last full week in June! Learn more about helping pollinators from the experts at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCVeLrt-g7E&list=PLj0YpC88441mCY37_C7C7FnAuxni4J0Zh&index=2.

Did you know the Jericho Conservation Commission maintains a Pollinator Garden at the Town Green? You can visit any time and see examples of plants which are native to New England and provide food for adult pollinators (nectar) and caterpillars (leaves). Look for the "Pollinator Habitat" sign.

Contact me (cuvetj@aol.com) if you would like to schedule a self-guided tour of a home landscape pollinator garden.

UVM's Master Gardener Helpline

By Ann Greer, Jeffersonville

Hi neighbors — now is the time of year I have many questions about what is going on in my garden and yard, often wondering "what's that thing... why is this plant losing leaves... why does my tree look like that, and what insect is eating my kale," etc.

The resource I turn to for assistance is UVM's Master Gardener Helpline (<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/helpline> or 802-658-5421; but note, they are closed for a break until Monday, July 13). You can describe your concern, and send a photo. They respond within a few days and provide information and recommendations, and links to additional reading if you want to do a deeper dig.

They help me have a greenish thumb.

Free Gardening for Birds webinar

The Jericho Conservation Commission is posting links to recorded webinars on conservation topics relevant to forestry, land stewardship, wildlife habitat, etc. for any interested citizens to watch. Here's an example of a current listing, Gardening for Birds:

Gardens provide a deep connection to the natural world. In turn, they inspire us with their beauty, their vibrancy, and their bounty. How often do we intentionally share those benefits with the birds and pollinators? No matter how big your growing space — a balcony of pots, a small patch off the back stoop, or acres to experiment with — we can all plant gardens that better support the wildlife in our communities.

Please check out our home page on Join in Jericho: <https://jerichovt.org/conservation-commission>.

What will make a difference... is you — inquire today

Morrisville Family Services, VT DCF

Ten-year-old Emily's favorite memory is listening to raindrops as she fell asleep in her tent at summer camp. The sound was soothing and Emily so loved the experience of being out in the woods, swimming in the lake, and having campfires with her friends.

But foster care changed all that, and so did the need for families to remain safely distanced from each other this year. Now, Emily isn't sure how or where her summer will be spent and that makes her a little anxious. She'd love to be with a family that understands her shyness and how she sometimes doesn't know how to respond to too much stimulation; that's why summer camp was such a benefit for her.

Might you be the right foster care home for Emily, or a child like her? Could you provide the unconditional care and support she needs? Can you work toward reunification with her birth parents? If so, we'd love to hear from you! It will be challenging, but it will also be one of the most meaningful decisions you'll ever make.

To learn more, go to <http://fostercare.vt.gov>. If you want us to contact you, complete the form at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fostercare-inquiry>.

You can also contact your local Family Services District Office and ask to speak to the Resource Coordinator: <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>

Are you healthy? Are you in a low-risk category for COVID-19? If so, there may be a child or youth waiting who would benefit from your care. Please visit us on the web at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>.

KEEP LOCAL KIDS LOCAL.
Send us your news. Email mtngazette@gmavt.net
or call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6254



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www.JerichoChiro.com



Dr. Mary H. Kintner

COMMUNITY COLUMNS continued from page 3

To my daughter (at age 13)

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

My daughter, Adrie, was 54 on Thursday, June 11. I recently discovered an essay I wrote a few years ago, but it still seems good! So, I'm honoring her June birthday.

In the craft shop it is quiet and sparse — a nice stringency. The clerk is unobtrusive and mute behind her large glasses. She is there but not bustling inside my parameters or smiling toothily for attention. I am looking at a box for my daughter, Adrie, who is 13 chronologically, but dappled among the Ages of Man, in terms of wisdom.

The wares are grouped in functional units. There are woollens of natural colors, meadow sheep of greys and moist foggy whites. Pottery is the blue of a stormy day; a small vase is the color of moss near a shadowed stream. Below, are pillows stuffed to pleasant obesity and bursting forth in blues and pugnacious reds and gold suns. Leather, the color of autumn Oak leaves, waits to be stroked.

One box is small — four inches by five — with Lily of the Valley etched into top and sides. It is made of glass and the design is mirrored so I can see myself fragmented into a tangle of bells and leaves, a restful camouflage for a middle-aged face. The leaves are pudgy at the bottom, elongating into irregular points and angles. The stems hold a curve of bells delicately bowing at the top, in an interesting combination of submissiveness and strength. I sit on a stool next to the displays and wonder what she will put into this little box — what tangles of memories can be saved against growing up. I don't have a visible box anymore. But we all have invisible ones — to keep some things in and others out — to guard the preciousness of one's vulnerabilities, and the small symbols that solidify our past. I know what is in mine as surely as this glass feels hard and chiseled in my hand.

I wish I could give her... but I can't anymore. I seem to know that she has reached a point where she fills her own box; that anything I can give her has already been given and looked at,

judged and assimilated. She has developed the right and good and bad and beautiful, enveloped as a child, and I was the one who knew the answers to such things. When I was omnipotent, I could fill her box. But then... and now... it would not have been a gift freely given, but an edict from parent to child, from which there is seldom a fair chance of emancipation. Of course, my responsibilities to her as a young, sunny-haired, chubby tomboy were direct, rule-oriented, and because her world was small and she loved me, they were "right." Thus, I built most of the structural part of the box. And I have ideas about what should be in this box: it is made for dreaming, yet it is held together with more delicacy than one might think solder would allow. It opens slowly and quietly, as if in respect to whatever might be inside: Pandora, the King in Amahl and the Night Visitors, the Littlest Angel, Eeyore and Winnie the Pooh, and on into the more "sophisticated" readings of an early teen-ager... whatever the symbols are that jerk us back into the center of ourselves.

I know she will keep death there — that of her father, and the constant shadow of fear that I will leave her thusly, too. I also know she will keep red Maple leaves, Bison hair from Yellowstone, Bottled Gentian along our path into the wood lot, orange-stained squirming little Red Efts, Monarch butterflies... all those things that make her natural world her eternal support. And music, love, laughter: a great many commonalities that become, in the box, uniquely hers. But what did I give her of right and wrong, truth, goodness, morality, adventure and nonconformity — large words which now become practical as she is faced with sudden choosings about their continuance. And what right do I have to dictate? Ah, there's the difference! Now, she can sort and choose and reject and accept. So I can yell in her ear, with all my examples of failing on my part, which came from my mother and her mother before her. And she will do, innately, what I did a while and a life time ago: Take what is wise and right — to her — and mold it to fit another lifetime.

I find the myopic, pleasant clerk and tell her I want to buy the box for my daughter. It is time she had one of her own.

Feral cat colony — update on trapping

By Deb Fowler, Jericho

Many in our area are aware of the feeding station I maintain on the Flats. They are also aware that because of COVID-19, efforts to trap the cats were greatly delayed. I was hoping to trap in April, but all of the vets closed their doors to all, save their regular clientele. I was able to book appointments for June 17 and June 24 at Affectionately Cats in Williston. It's been a very busy few days, with a lot of effort going into trapping. I've driven more than 150 miles in just a few short days.

"Molly" and "Rascal" are now quietly resting in their traps in my little barn after their surgeries. Rascal turned out to be a female, much to my surprise. Molly was a nursing mother so a great effort was made to take her kittens prior to and after her trapping. Many thanks go to Cindy Listenik and Joan French for their much-needed assistance in finding and taking the kittens. One was taken on June 12, two others on June 16.

Thanks also are extended to John and Alyssa Fowler for nursing and tending to one very tiny kitten during a long night on June 11. There were some expenses incurred: \$20 for the nursing kit and \$80 to board Molly and Rascal for an extra day. I transferred the funds from the cats' account to mine. The kittens went to foster care and I drove them to the South Burlington Humane Society, where they will be tended to until they are old enough to be adopted out. Unfortunately, I believe one kitten was probably killed by another critter as we couldn't get to him or her in time.

Molly and Rascal have both been spayed. They have received their rabies vaccines, distemper vaccines, and have had their ears tipped to indicate they are spayed. They apparently "had a party" during the night at Affectionately Cats (they weren't good clients). I cannot say enough as to how wonderful both the cats and I were treated by the staff there. Kudos to everyone there who helped us. Thanks go out as well to those at the Humane Society, especially JoAnn Nichols and the Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) group. Molly and Rascal are resting in my little barn and will be returned to the wild in the morning.

The bank account for the cats is at the Community Bank in Jericho. If anyone cares to donate, they only need present the last four digits of the account, which are 5083. I'm still maintaining a ledger in which I record all donations. The list below contains the names of people who have donated food since my last posting. Support has come from Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, and Cambridge. Trapping will start again next week.

Thanks to those who have donated food: Ann Broekhuizen, Marlene Cummings, George Gallant, Dave and Frances Gantner, Deby Henry, Penny and Chris Miller, Bob and Gail Schermer, Laura Viens.

MISCELLANEOUS

CSWD S. Burlington Drop-Off Center is open

On Saturday, June 27, the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) opened its South Burlington Drop-Off Center (DOC) with limited materials and quantities, new hours, and the same temporary flat fees being used at all open locations while COVID-19 precautions are in place. More information is available online at <https://cswd.net/doc>.

The South Burlington DOC, 87 Landfill Rd., S. Burlington, will not accept wood waste in any quantity, and also will not allow trailers. The prohibition of wood and trailers is needed to improve safety and throughput so the line is less likely to back up onto Patchen Road.

With the exception of wood, the South Burlington DOC will accept the same materials as the Essex and Milton locations. More information is available online at <https://cswd.net/doc>.

New hours: Monday, Friday, and Saturday, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

Restrictions and requirements

- Face coverings required: By resolution of the South Burlington City Council, all customers and visitors entering the South Burlington DOC "must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while inside the establishment and while in the presence of others."

- No trailers allowed;
- No wood waste;
- No large bulky waste (mattresses, recliners, sofas, doors, etc.);
- No air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, stoves, or other major appliances;
- Vehicles will be metered onto the site to promote safe distancing for customers and staff.

Fees: The same temporary flat fee structure is in place at all open Drop-Off Centers. Visit the links provided for details.

Now accepting additional materials at all locations

Visit the Essex, Milton, S. Burlington, or Williston Drop-Off Center pages on our website (<https://cswd.net/doc>) for more details on materials we are and are not accepting, limits, and fees. Tires are accepted at the Williston Drop-Off Center only.

All other CSWD Drop-Off Centers remain closed until further notice.

Reopening process

Visit the CSWD Drop-Off Center page to read our Facility Reopening Plan, which outlines the many considerations informing our reopening process: <https://cswd.net/wp-content/uploads/CSWD-COVID19-Facilities-Reopening-Plan-20200622.pdf>.



This is the one tiny kitten that needed special care after her feral mother "Molly" was trapped so she could be spayed and given vaccinations and care. The kittens are in foster care until they are old enough to be adopted out. Molly has been returned to the wild. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Getting even, stupid lawyer, squatters

By Doug Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Partnerships are tough in business but impossible in some marriages. Of course, I am talking about the old days when you took marriage seriously, not like modern days where you can get married and divorced in the same day. A marriage license used to mean something. Now it is just another license on paper that can be cancelled at any time. I was one lucky guy who had a beautiful, loving partner at home. I know I would never survive in business or even life if it hadn't been for my wife Sandy!

I did get through our business' fire, and after 10 years at Sears and Roebuck, Sandy got a full-time job at IBM in Fishkill. Having a crooked business partner is very stressful and you can't have a show-down without the whole business blowing up. My latest partner forced me to check my inventory on large dollar items every night, but I knew that my partner was also sneaking out small stuff. Our new location had an apartment on the second floor, which we fixed up after we got the showroom done and the shelving done in the warehouse. I rented the apartment out to my son Randy, who had worked for me part-time while he was in high school. This helped cut down on my partner's stealing at night.

Our new business had been empty for a while, so the apartment house next door had been parking in our "back yard." As soon as we bought it, we went to the town and made sure that we could put a chain link fence around the yard so we could store oil tanks, etc., and our vehicles out there, and access our loading dock.

I gave notice to the people next door that they couldn't park there anymore, and that we were installing a chain link fence with

a large gate. I got a notice from them saying that they were taking me to court because they believed they had "squatters' rights!" I went to court by myself. Their "lawyer," a co-owner of the apartment house, also lived in one of the apartments. I couldn't believe he was a lawyer and he was saying that they had parked there forever. Of course, his case was dismissed, and he paid for any charges. Any lawyer would know that you can't just take over a property and legally own it. That is why he hardly had any clients except for wills, etc.

There was a woman in the apartments next door that smoked and drank on her balcony. I have to say she was the homeliest person I have ever seen outside of a hospital. She also had the best personality of any person I have ever met. She came out on her balcony every morning to say hello and tell me everything that was going on. She was a true friend and the fact that I can't remember her name is frustrating.

Sandy and I had five children, so I had to work a lot of extra hours with a minimum of experienced help. I had two full-time employees and two part-time employees. I had a girl secretary but got rid of her after the fires. She was useless to me because I had to type over her work after hours because of her errors. My partner hired her, and we let her go after the fire.

Every day is a challenge and you have to be ready for anything, which makes you very suspicious of other people's motives. You have to put on your "game face" every day and realize the buck stops with you and you have no one to turn to in business. You realize that your actions affect many other people's lives, which is daunting. The only way I got through life was my wife, who kept me focused on things that mattered and took care of the small stuff. I used to tell my wife, "You make the domestic decisions and I'll make the world decisions, like how to deal with China, etc."

Next column: Sunday work, sick birthdays

MISCELLANEOUS

Why am I a Republican?

Ron Lawrence, Jericho

I'd like to let the community know that I have, once again, stepped into the role of chair of the Essex Republican Town Committee. This is a very recent development, and I am still gathering my thoughts on how I can help the cause. I thought I should begin by simply expressing why I consider myself a Republican. There are many characteristics that Republicans identify with, like faith, honor, self-reliance, and loving my neighbor; but I suspect that many of these are really just characteristics of good citizens. So, what is it that is unique to being Republican?

I have read some history, and have developed a profound respect for our Constitution and the principles behind its development. There is a lot of talk these days about how our Constitution is flawed and biased, but I don't see it. And I challenge anyone to show me in detail where those flaws exist. And even if they do exist, the Constitution provides for a way to amend itself.

The underlying presumption of the Constitution is the right to individual liberty. It is the recognition that people flourish best when they are not hampered by an overbearing government. Individual liberty has been the engine of our prosperity. When people are free to take a chance, they will do amazing things. It is this combination of individual liberty and prosperity that has been a beacon to the world.

Government can, of course, be helpful to its citizens. If we were all saints, there would be no need for government. So, our government is necessary for protection of ALL of our citizens — both from within and without. Government can also enable prosperity through infrastructure. But in the end, government is best when it is minimized. And it should ALWAYS remain the servant of our people — not the other way around. Our Constitution, the presumption of individual liberty, and equal protection under the law are foundational principles for Republicans. If these things sound right to you, I hope you will get in touch with me (rlawrence41@comcast.net). Things are out of kilter right now, and there is a lot of work to be done to set them right.

If you have ever watched "Closer to Truth" there is an episode that attempts to address the question: How can a loving God allow so much suffering in this world? Another question was proffered to try to answer the first: Would you want to live in a world where there was no risk of getting hurt? For me, the answer is a resounding, "No."

And THAT is why I am a Republican.

Richmond Food Shelf update

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Richmond Food Shelf continues to be open to provide food. We welcome all folks who need a little help without questions. We offer delivery to the towns of Bolton, Huntington, and Richmond just by calling 578-4283.

We are open: Tuesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Thursdays, 4:00 – 6:00 PM; and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

The Thrift Store is not open... why? We need to proceed carefully with food for families first.

clothing donations. Monetary donations are also accepted. For more information: Richmond Food Shelf, 578-4283, Box 174, 58 Bridge St., Richmond, VT. richmondfoodshelfvt.org.

Bridge Food Shelf

unprecedented times in so many ways, and especially financially stressful. If you are in need, please don't hesitate to come to the Food Shelf. We have a friendly staff, and would love to make your visit as pleasant as possible.

Application forms to fill out, no records shared, and no waiting list.

The Food Shelf is located in the basement of the Jeffersonville. Hours are Monday, 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Advertisements in the Business Directory

1 column x 1.5 inches

each must purchase 5 - \$90.00

2 columns x 3 inches

each must purchase 5 - \$115.00

2 columns x 4 inches

each must purchase 5 - \$175.00

All ads must be prepaid.

Contract prices available.

