

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Cambridge Fire Department elects new officers

**By Cody Marsh, Chair, Selectboard, Cambridge**

On behalf of all of us at the Town of Cambridge, I wanted to take a minute to congratulate Darren Severance as the new Chief of Cambridge Fire Department (CFD). Darren has been a valuable member of CFD and we have the upmost faith in him to serve CFD and our community in this new position. Very well deserved. Congratulations Darren!

We also must congratulate and thank Alan Cary for his 25 years of service as Chief and nearly 40 years of service at CFD! After the elections, CFD members voted to bestow him with the title of Honorary Chief. Thanks again Chief, from all of us at the Town of Cambridge, we thank you for your years of service.

The rest of the elections results were as follows:

- Chief — Darren Severance
- 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief — Jesse Hanley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief — Corey White
- 1<sup>st</sup> Captain — Jason Luneau
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain — Schuyler Lamphere
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt — Kevin Mahoney
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt — Logan Smith
- Administrative Assistant — Taylor White
- Treasurer — Kristy Marsh

Thank you to all of our volunteers at CFD. Your service to our community is greatly appreciated. Please be sure to thank these men and women when you see them around town!

From all of us at the Town of Cambridge, sincere thanks!

### Westford 1705 Project ending

**By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner**

In November of 2021, the Westford Planning Commission held a public engagement meeting to introduce proposed redevelopment options for the 1705 Route 128 property, the former home of Roland and Nettie Pigeon.

The purpose of the proposal was to provide affordable home ownership units through a partnership with Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity and Champlain Housing Trust, provide public access to the Browns River through a Vermont River Conservancy conservation easement, and acquire land for the expansion or replacement of the Town Offices.

Three concepts were presented by consultants SE Group at the public meeting. The concepts provided a menu of options for redevelopment of the east side of the former Pigeon home. Public comment was received at the public meeting and a community survey was conducted following the meeting. The Planning Commission, SE Group, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, Champlain Housing Trust and Vermont River Conservancy utilized those comments in order to develop a preferred alternative conceptual plan. A webinar has been created in order for residents to view the resulting preferred alternative conceptual plan and associated visual renderings. The webinar can be viewed here online at <https://www.westford1705.com/>.

In the fall of 2022, the Pigeon Family Trust made the decision to place the property on the market for private sale. At this time, the Town does not intend to pursue this project further.

Planning for the 1705 Project was funded by a Vermont Community Development Program (VDCP) – Planning Grant. The Planning Commission will complete the tasks outlined in the VDCP grant scope of work and close out the grant.

We would like to thank the Pigeon family, our partners — Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, Champlain Housing Trust, Vermont River Conservancy, Lincoln Brown Illustration

### Sunrise Physical Therapy changes ownership



*Sunrise Physical Therapy has a new owner, as of January 1, 2023. After 20 years of running the business and providing patient care, previous owner Pam Sills has passed over the reins to longtime employee Brian Aucter. "I am so happy the clinic will remain as it is, with the same therapists (including me) and staff! Brian's leadership will be valuable in the ongoing and changing world of healthcare." Please wish Brian well in his new role as owner of Sunrise Physical Therapy, and keep an eye out for Pam who hopes to spend more time traveling and partaking in triathlons!*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

— and those who participated in the process for their time, thoughtfulness, and willingness to envision a brighter, more inclusive future.

### Free home modification for income-qualified seniors

**By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer**

Are you a VT homeowner age 62+ in need of home repairs so you can stay safe and independent? You may qualify for free home upgrades by Cathedral Square if your household income is below \$53,700 for one person or \$61,400 for two persons.

[https://cathedralsquare.org/client\\_media/files/HomeModification\\_flyer.pdf](https://cathedralsquare.org/client_media/files/HomeModification_flyer.pdf)

### Enoki, the Underhill Town Cat

**By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV**

Enoki first caught our eye, weaving in and out of Underhill's Selectboard meetings, at ground-level. We had to turn the camera onto this fluffy rescue to tell his story before 2022 was out. Please take a minute to enjoy our short video *Enoki, the Underhill Town Hall Cat!* <https://archive.org/details/enoki-the-cat-12272022>

### Jericho Town Plan update

**By Erik Glitman, Jericho Planning Commission**

Participate in the update of Jericho's Town Plan, which expires soon and faces a mandatory update. The Planning Commission

## NEWS BRIEFS

needs your input as we work to create a new Town Plan 2024. This new plan will guide growth and development for the next 5-20 years.

2023 will be a year of questions, conversations, hopes, and dreams. Each month you can answer a new Question of the Month. The Planning Commission will also host events, meetings, and workshops throughout 2023 — many options to participate.

The Planning Commission will have questions each month for you! Question of the Month are a fun way to generate dialogue and encourage participation as we kick-off the Town Plan revision process. We hope these questions spark conversations among friends and families during the holidays. For paper copies, or to email or phone in your answers, contact Town Planner Linda Blasch, [lblasch@jerichovt.gov](mailto:lblasch@jerichovt.gov) or 802-899-4936.

Follow the Town Plan project for regular updates at <https://jerichovt.org/town-plan-2024>.

### Cambridge ARPA Committee update

The Town of Cambridge ARPA Advisory Committee is a five-member committee, appointed by the Town Selectboard, to review requests for use of the funding that has been allocated to the Town of Cambridge and to make recommendations to the Selectboard. The committee has been working for several months and has developed a process for submission of requests and has received several requests for funding. The committee met on Tuesday, December 13 to review submissions and draft recommendations that were sent to the Selectboard. The agenda is available online at <https://cambridgetownvt.documents-on-demand.com/>.

In January 2022, the U.S. Department of Treasury issued an Overview of the Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan Act. These federal funds were extended to state and local municipalities to address impacts of the pandemic with substantial flexibility on how the funds can be allocated based on the local need. The Final Rule provides extensive information about allowable spending, and the emphasis on spending to address impacts on those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

For more information, please see the Final Rule at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

Frequently asked questions are answered at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-FAQ.pdf>

### Westford ARPA Committee update and thanks

The Westford ARPA Committee has concluded its work and made its recommendations to the Select Board. Based on those recommendations, the Select Board was able to fully or partially fund all projects that made it through the second round of proposal applications. We appreciated the Select Board's leadership and willingness to listen to our advice on these matters. If you would like to see what projects were submitted and funded, please see this document: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ARPA-Applications-as-Approved-by-Selectboard-12-28-2022.pdf>.

Work will continue for those groups that received funding — executing their projects and working with town administration to achieve fiscal compliance. To keep up with all things ARPA,

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## COMING EVENTS



*Dreams of winters past... hoping for more snow this winter!*  
PHOTOS BY SARA RILEY

### Next Craft Group meeting at DRML is February 9

The next meeting of the Craft Group that meets at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, will be on February 9. Our group is open to everyone with any craft... or, just come to chat. If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

### Sunday, January 15

**Abenaki Erasure, Eugenics, and Ethnocide**, 2:00 PM, Ethan Allen Homestead Tavern, Ethan Allen Homestead, Burlington. Vera Longtoe Sheehan, Executive Director of VT Abenaki Artists Association and a citizen of the Elnu Abenaki Tribe, will be the speaker. All are welcome to this free event; refreshments will be provided. Ample parking. Co-sponsored by the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum and the Chittenden County Historical Society.



### Sunday, January 22

**The Life and Times of a Johnson Resident: Franklin "Red" Hooper (1904-1988)**, 1:00 PM, Jenna's House, 117 St. John's St., Johnson. In the presentation sponsored by the Johnson Historical Society, Dean West and Linda Jones will use photos from Red's extensive collection to highlight his many interests and careers. Red was active in town and county affairs as a game warden, selectman, legislator, and long-time sugar maker. His photos reflect life in rural Vermont during his lifetime. Open to all; free, with donations welcome. For information, contact 802-635-7401.

**Soup Bowl Supper**, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall, Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. Back by popular demand — family/free/fellowship. Soup selections provided. Bring your own utensils, bowls, beverages. Bring cheese or bread or dessert. Share in the fun!

### Wednesday, January 25

**LWV presents The Privatization of Medicare**, 5:30 PM, Hayes Room, Kellogg Hubbard Library, Montpelier. Dr. Marvin Malek, past president of Vermont Physicians for a National Health Program (VT PNHP), will give a presentation on the privatization of Medicare. In the program, sponsored by the

League of Women Voters Vermont (LWVVT), Dr. Malek will discuss Medicare Advantage, DCEs, and the new ACO/REACH program. Last year, officials in the Medicare program announced that by 2030, all Medicare enrollees, voluntarily or not, will be enrolled into a managed care program. The program will cover the impacts of this on the care that Medicare beneficiaries receive, on the costs they will be facing, and the impacts of these changes on the financial stability of the Medicare program. Sponsored by LWVVT, VT PNHP, Vermont Health Care for All, and Vermont Workers' Center. The program will be recorded by Onion River Community Access, and will be available online later at <https://www.orcamedia.net>.

### Monday, February 6

**Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast**, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Akeley Building, 67 S. Main St., Stowe. A light breakfast and coffee from a local restaurant will be followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A. Sponsored by the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce. For more information and to register, go online to <https://lamoilleeconomy.org/breakfast/> (scroll down).

### Thursday, February 9

**Craft Group**, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. New location and time! Our gatherings are open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

### Saturday, February 18

**2nd annual Westford Winter Festival**, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Westford. Volunteers and sponsors needed to help bring this event back this winter. Volunteers needed for many aspects of this big event; no experience necessary, just a willingness to have lots of fun and help your neighbors have fun too! (That, and being dependable, of course.) Contact [westfordwinterfest@gmail.com](mailto:westfordwinterfest@gmail.com).

### Sunday, February 19

**Soup Bowl Supper**, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall, Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. Back by popular demand — family/free/fellowship. Soup selections provided. Bring your own utensils, bowls, beverages. Bring cheese or bread or dessert. Share in the fun!

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see <https://westfordvt.us/arpa-american-rescue-plan-act-information/>.

The ARPA Committee would like to thank all groups that submitted proposals — the level of passion and professionalism was evident. We would also like to thank the Westford community for its patience and space as we tried to navigate a system that did not exist. At times, we felt like we were sailing a boat while building it.

Sincerely, Dave Baczewski, Chair, Greg Barrows, Treasurer, Bree Drapa, Martha Heath, Bill Hill, George Lamphere, and Nanette Rogers

## Underhill ARPA funds need spending

By Bill Frank

How would you spend over a half a million dollars to benefit the residents and town of Underhill?

The Town of Underhill received over a half a million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA. The ARPA Advisory Committee is soliciting proposals on how best to spend this money. Anyone, or any committee in town, may submit a proposal to the committee, and it's easy to do.

On the town website (<http://www.underhillvt.gov>) click on "ARPA Phase 1 Proposal and Instruction." The Phase 1 proposal needs only a brief description and an estimate of its cost. Phase 1 proposals are due January 31, 2023.

ALL proposals will be reviewed by the committee.

For questions or assistance contact Jennifer Silpe-Katz, 802-899-4434 x2, or [jsilpe-katz@underhillvt.gov](mailto:jsilpe-katz@underhillvt.gov); or contact one of the committee members: Jill Cozzens, Bill Frank, Nori Geary, Luke Hasselbeck, Michael Oman, Emile Soisson, Roy Towlen.

## Covid-19 test kits available

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The town has taken advantage of the opportunity to be provided with numerous Covid-19 antigen test kits from the VT Department of Health at no charge, and we have received delivery. Test kits are for the purpose of detecting an active Covid-19 infection, and up to four kits (eight tests) per person are available upon request to all members of the public. Simply stop by the Town Office during regular business hours to pick up your kits.

## Holiday watching on MMCTV

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Here are some hyperlocal videos, to enjoy some holiday cheer and talent:

– A short video by Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) featuring Richmond home and business holiday lights: <https://archive.org/details/light-up-richmond-dec-2022>

– Browns River Middle School musical assembly concert (including the *River Rockers* faculty band): <https://archive.org/details/brms-bands-holidays-122022>

## Bolton Town Meeting potluck dinner survey

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Attendance at Bolton's traditional Town Meeting potluck dinner for several years (prior to Covid cancelling the dinner the last two years) has decreased significantly. Generally, about 30-35 folks attended, and at last count, nearly all were Bolton board and committee members and/or members' families/partners. It seems that the general Bolton community no longer supports a Town Meeting potluck dinner. Please help us to determine the

Town Meeting potluck dinner's fate going forward by taking this brief survey by Thursday, January 12, 2023. Thank you! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9QHDVBN>

## Road salt off limits at Bolton Town Garage

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

We want to remind all residents and nonresidents that taking any road salt from the Bolton Town Garage is strictly prohibited! While residents taking a reasonable amount of sand for personal use is allowed, road salt is off limits, and we hope that folks will respect this.

Security cameras have revealed numerous Bolton and Richmond residents taking road salt over the last few days. Please stop, or we will need to take further action. Thank you for your help with this.

## Underhill's second annual Big Tree Contest

Do you have a really big tree in your woods or on your lawn? Measure the big trees on your property and enter this town-wide contest to find the big trees of Underhill.

Winners will be announced at Town Meeting Day and will be placed on our ongoing roster of big trees. This year winners will be selected from several categories, including largest deciduous tree, largest coniferous tree, and largest white ash tree.

To enter the contest, measure and record: tree circumference, tree species, location, and take a photo of you in front of the tree (optional). For each tree species, enter the data on the form below, or send the information to [underhillbigtrees@gmail.com](mailto:underhillbigtrees@gmail.com). The deadline for entries is Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Specific instructions on measuring and submitting trees can be found at the Town of Underhill Homepage or by the following link: [https://www.underhillvt.gov/vertical/sites/%7B4E962BB9-B4BB-4504-A3EEED54521A1BCE%7D/uploads/underhillbigtrees\\_v2.docx.pdf](https://www.underhillvt.gov/vertical/sites/%7B4E962BB9-B4BB-4504-A3EEED54521A1BCE%7D/uploads/underhillbigtrees_v2.docx.pdf). Big Tree Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/f3cvze4qUGjnuMoi6>.

Sponsored by the Underhill Conservation Commission and the Underhill Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee.

## Westford wastewater project information

By Eric Ford, Westford

I've been assisting the Planning Commission with communication around the wastewater project since our subcommittee formed in 2021. Here is helpful info from the Frequently Asked Questions page on the project website, [www.WestfordsFuture.com](http://www.WestfordsFuture.com). Hopefully, this will help to answer questions and clear up misconceptions along the way.

Question: Why do we need a community wastewater system for the Town Common area?

Providing environmentally sound wastewater disposal is a critical step any property owner or community can take to ensure the viability of buildings, and to protect public and environmental health. Wastewater disposal systems and potable water supplies are governed and controlled by State statutes and rules established by the Agency of Natural Resources. Almost all changes in land use and expansions of existing uses (i.e., providing food service, adding restaurant seating, increasing bedrooms, or building an accessory dwelling) require a State wastewater and potable water supply permit. Issuance of such a permit may not be possible if the existing on-site system does not meet necessary standards and cannot be upgraded to do so. The septic systems serving civic buildings within the Town Common Area are at the end of their useful life, not in compliance with contemporary public health standards, and/or in danger of failure with severe limits

on wastewater options due to the presence of clay-rich soils and shallow bedrock or high ground water throughout the Town Common Area.

Furthermore, during a 2019 Vermont Council on Rural Development Community visit, residents indicated that two of their top three priorities were encouraging small business/economic development and social revitalization/community events. A community wastewater system would allow continued and expanded use of civic buildings and provide more opportunity for revitalization of the area, meeting current and future needs and reflecting local values expressed during and after the Community Visit. Here's a link to that VCRD report: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/WestfordsFutureReport.pdf>

Be sure to visit the project website ([www.WestfordsFuture.com](http://www.WestfordsFuture.com)) for up to date project info and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestfordsFuture/>.

## Kudos to Jericho road crew for work during Christmas week storm

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

As of 3:00 PM today (Saturday, December 24) there are 193 VELCO customers awaiting service in Jericho. All GMP customers with outages yesterday are reported to have power restored. For VELCO update schedule in Jericho, please refer to <https://outages.vermontelectric.coop/>.

I'd like to give a big shout out to our road crew, who despite being a four-person force, managed to clear numerous downed trees and complete a major road repair on Milo White... only to be surprised by the arrival of 4-5 new inches of accumulating snow last night when temperatures dropped. All hands were back on deck to clear early this morning after a 12+ hour day yesterday. UJFD Chief Mat Champlin reported there being no critical incidents related to driving, fire, or CO<sub>2</sub> exhaust issues during the duration of this weather event.

While clean-up and power and repair continues in many communities across the state, all seems to be resolving as crews continue their work. Thanks again to all of our road crew, UJFD volunteers, and the families that share them. Bonus: snow for the holiday. What gifts!

## Firepit Fridays at the Sinclair Inn

By Kyle Velvis, Sinclair Inn, Jericho

Inviting all locals and good people to come join the new owners of the Sinclair Inn for Firepit Fridays!

We are excited to meet our fellow community members around a warm fire every other Friday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, starting January 13 and running through March 31. We will be providing hot cider, coffee, marshmallows for roasting, and of course the FIRE!

Bring the family for a good time and check out the Inn while you're here! We are located at 389 Vermont 15, Jericho. See you all soon!

## Aether and Air

By Kimberly Madura

You are  
the oxygen mask  
when I can't  
breathe.  
More than oxygen,  
you are the aether,  
the air of the gods.  
You, both  
god  
and air.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Ideas for building community

By Bernie Paquette

Happy New Year, Jericho and Underhill residents!  
View my post (link below) to read *A Spattering of new, and recycled ideas for our community in the New Year 2023*. Building human connection and a sense of belonging by encouraging and facilitating fun, personal interactions. Here is the link: <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2022/12/a-spattering-of-new-recycled-ideas-for.html>

## Animal personality

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

Each of Vermont's tens of thousands of native species fills an ecological niche, influencing its environment and the species around it in different ways. While an important component of managing for healthy, biologically-diverse forests includes managing for species diversity (different species of wildlife, trees, and plants), there are also differences in behavior between individuals of the same species.

The emergent study of intra-specific behavioral variation — also known as animal personality — has illuminated the behavioral diversity within individual species. Studies of animal personality focus largely on five traits: boldness/shyness, aggressiveness, activity, exploratory behavior, and sociability. Across a growing body of scientific literature, species from birds and grizzly bears to worms and salamanders exhibit a range of personalities which influence the way that they forage, reproduce, rear their young, and more.

A recent study by researchers from the University of Maine (detailed in the *New York Times*) examined animal personality by looking at *synzoochory*, the dispersal of seeds by seed-caching animals. *Synzoochory* is thought to be a mutualistic (mutually beneficial) relationship between trees and the animals which cache their seeds. This study found that some deer mice and red-backed voles were more mutualistic — more likely to spread and cache viable acorns — while others were more antagonistic — more likely to consume acorns or to cache them in places where they would be unable to sprout.

Research into animal personality has given rise to another fascinating concept: the keystone individual. Many of us are aware of the idea of a keystone species — a species, like beaver, whose behavior supports an array of habitats and natural processes. A keystone individual is a single animal whose behavior is disproportionately valuable to the ecosystem that it inhabits, to other species, or to groups of their own species. For instance, the mice and voles which were more likely to cache viable acorns could be called keystone individuals because they distributed and planted oaks across the forest, thus serving an invaluable ecological role. In social animals from birds to fish to spiders, keystone individuals have also been observed to change the personality and the behavior of colonies, flocks, and schools of their own species.

While some animal personality traits may seem to be “better” than others, it is suspected that a behavioral diversity exists because different personality traits are beneficial at different times and in different situations, and because there are trade-offs associated with different traits. For example, a bolder deer may be more successful at eating backyard apples — a highly-valuable food resource — but more likely to be killed by a hunter. A shyer deer may be better at avoiding predators but less successful at mating and foraging at times when boldness is necessary.

Biodiversity is key to forest resilience and adaptability, providing different pathways forward as ecosystems and species face both the harmful legacies of the past and an uncertain future. Researchers now suggest that behavioral diversity is important for the same reason: that a diversity of personalities affords a species more ways to respond to a changed and changing world.

In our relatively young and simple forests, we have skewed animal personalities towards certain traits which are adaptive under these conditions. To encourage behavioral diversity, we need to invoke many of the same practices that we also use for a variety of other objectives: from providing habitat for declining songbirds to improving the climate resilience of our forests. Managing forests to be more diverse and complex, with different species of trees, different sizes and ages of trees, some big old trees and lots of dead wood on the forest floor will help encourage a diversity of animal personalities.

We also need to encourage landscape-level diversity: a landscape which is a connected mosaic of forests of different ages and in different stages of development and which are managed in different ways. Managing for habitats which may be underrepresented across our landscape — such as early successional forest — is important, as is encouraging some areas of unmanaged forest.

Animal personality is yet another example of the many intricacies of forest communities, and another testament to the importance of managing them thoughtfully. As is the case with so many things, diversity is crucial both for protecting what we have and for moving into the future.

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

## Vermont's beautiful winter birds

By Maeve Kim

I finally figured out how to get a bird program on YouTube (although I haven't figured out how to edit the video yet and get rid of the 7 minutes and 7 seconds at the beginning where I'm just waiting to begin). The program is all about the beautiful birds of backyards, farm fields, forests, lakes, and rivers that we can enjoy in the winter. I put it together for people who were participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, but it will interest anyone who loves birds, from kids to adults. Lots of beautiful photos from many Vermont photographers! Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iti0-wLXXVAandt=96s>

## 2023: My New Year's Wish for Vermont

By Bill Schubart

I don't want any one thing in the New Year but rather a new way of understanding leadership and governing from our executive, legislative, and judiciary branches.

I don't have a checklist of tweaks, quick fixes, or systemic overhauls that will revolutionize our endless but futile repair work. Nor do I have an idea for yet another nonprofit council of innovators who will, through their elevated belief systems, make everything better.

I want a new governing vision for leadership and action — one that understands Vermont's gradual descent into this troubling array of interwoven complex systems that plague us. I want leaders who can imagine a new set of values focused on the common good and who have the courage to lead and enact change that lifts the average Vermonter.

In my 45 years observing Vermont politics, I've seen two types of politicians: managers who view politics as a business career, a way to make a living and garner respect as a person of influence; and those who see politics as service to those who elected them. Sadly, I've seen more of the former than the latter.

Managers respond to problems as they present themselves. Leaders seek to understand the systemic origins of the problems and re-envisage and deploy a system that generates fewer problems.

A friend was talking with a politician of significant rank in Vermont politics and the politician asked my friend, “So, what should I run for next?” Disheartened by the subtext of the question, my friend shook his head and left the discussion.

Service means a deep intellectual and emotional connection to those served, not *noblesse oblige*. It is born of shared experience and empathy.

Leaders listen carefully to diverse points of view, derive consensus (not total agreement), honor and record dissent, and act. She or he clearly articulates the path forward and the rationale behind it to those served, then forcefully counters the inevitable headwinds that oppose change for fear of losing their privilege. They then engage the legislature — and, if needed, the judiciary — to forge and realize change. If need be, they acknowledge any missteps, and then back up and amend in order to move forward. Their dominant human characteristics are humility and courage.

Most important, they understand that our challenges are interwoven and that addressing the whole is the most cost-efficient means of driving positive change. They know that investing in the early well-being of people will significantly reduce costs downstream — that it's cheaper to educate, care for, and prevent harm to people in real time than to try and fix them later on after the damage is done.

The following initiatives are all interconnected in their impact on people:

- Public education (not “childcare”) located in our communities from shortly after birth, staffed by early educational specialists who understand human development including the value of play (of which 500 are currently in training at Community College of Vermont), as well as regional life-long learning opportunities.
- Early intervention in response to adverse childhood experiences (ACES) using trauma-informed counseling (TIC) and robust local family support systems;
- Integrated experiential learning, job-shadowing, and internship opportunities in high school, and access to higher education through a public system of government-financed community and state colleges with flexible pathways into higher education or employment. Lifelong-learning access for those who seek new educational or vocational opportunities at any age.
- Universal and affordable local access to primary care as needed/when needed. This includes physiological, mental health, dental, and substance-abuse disorder treatment options with acuity-driven escalation to regional secondary and tertiary care if needed, as well as affordable access to safe housing and healthy food, both intrinsic to good health.
- A criminal justice system grounded in an understanding of human development, one which offers a redemptive path to young people who often make impulsive bad choices and one which prioritizes safe re-entry, restorative justice, and local support systems over incarceration except in the rare cases where the public needs protection from violent or deviant behavior.

One of the great ironies underlying this connectedness: some 9000 Vermont children have a parent under the care or oversight of the VT Department of Corrections (DOC), while “having an incarcerated parent” is a defined as an “adverse childhood experience.”

Above all, I want a new culture of leadership that retires



This white-breasted nuthatch, a common bird of our woods and yards, is a target species in the National Audubon Society's Winter Climate Watch event this year, January 15-February 15. Story page 6.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH MAHONEY,  
AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

for good the aging Milton Friedman doctrine of maximizing shareholder value at any cost — one that makes the unfettered accretion of wealth a revered socio-economic prize.

I want new leaders who are informed and guided by the emerging governance philosophy, supported by solid research, that the well-being of the commons produces a more stable society and economy and an environment that will sustain diverse human, animal, and plant life.

This cultural shift has already begun in New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Iceland, Bhutan, Scotland, Finland, Germany, Wales, and Costa Rica, among other countries.

With our one-time, outsized \$8+ billion budget and our majority political alignment, Vermont is well-poised to lead other states in this humane and practical change in governing philosophy.

My friends and colleagues at *True North* will assail this point of view, citing man's innate freedom to earn unlimited wealth through his own endeavor, the need to minimize taxes and government regulation, and let wealth grow to any extreme. But unrestricted freedom to acquire wealth ignores the well-being of all but the 1%, and the damage to the country becomes more evident by the day.

Endeavor and invention do drive an economy. Regulated capitalism can drive personal, family, and community prosperity, but we still need government regulation focused on the well-being of all its citizens and on sustaining our natural world to survive and thrive as a civilization.

I've often wondered if there's any significant difference in quality of life for those whose assets are \$80 million or \$7 billion? What's left to spend money on? What does one do with such wealth? One can always buy more things, but more material possessions has never been shown to enhance a sense of well-being.

One can spend money on campaigns, lobbying, or bribery in an effort to affect the course of government policy to one's own class advantage. One can donate to causes that further one's privilege, with a goal of shrinking the established role and size of government.

One can also choose to donate altruistically to reduce community suffering. But a progressive and equitable tax system will preserve and fund the agreed-upon roles of government and generate income to support the wellbeing of all Vermonters and their natural environment.

Imagine if Vermont leadership were to focus on and measure success based on the safety, comfort, opportunity, and happiness of all its citizens, understanding that our level of wellbeing and not our level of wealth, is the best measure of opportunity.

Vermont started down this path in 2015 with Act 113, establishing Vermont's Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) metrics. The statute defined GPI as “the net contributions of economic activity to the wellbeing and long-term prosperity of our state's citizens, calculated through adjustments to gross state product that account for positive and negative economic, environmental, and social attributes of economic development.”

Its clearly stated mission is to “improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of Vermonters while maintaining our natural resources and community values.”

The goal is to “not only grow jobs and wages and increase our Gross Domestic Product, but also to improve the Genuine Progress Indicator — a measure that takes into account economic, social, and natural assets and impacts — by 5% over baseline over the next five years.”

We started down this path, so how did we do?

My hope for the New Year is that a new generation of executive and legislative leaders will have the courage and fortitude to instill a new philosophy of governing, one that is driven by the well-being of all Vermonters, our world neighbors, and our natural environment.

## The Mountain Gazette

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**FREE ICE FISHING DAY & FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

To learn more about Free Ice Fishing Day, events celebrating ice fishing, and where to go ice fishing, go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/free-ice-fishing-day>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## HEALTH NEWS

## An exercise group for those living with Parkinson's

Do you or somebody you know have Parkinson's disease? No doubt you've been told that exercise is the one thing that is recommended for everyone. It won't reverse the disease but it has been shown to slow it down. But who knows what to do, for how long and how often? And who can keep him/herself motivated to keep doing it?

That's where we come in. Our Parkinson's exercise group is going strong (we're up to three years now) but we have some space available as the snowbirds take off for warmer climates. Our class meets on Mondays and Thursdays at the VFW in Morrisville, 10:15 – 11:45 AM. We work on balance, strengthening, stretching, and stamina. But most of all we have fun! It's a great group where everyone is encouraged to do just what he/she is able. There are many different levels of ability and fitness and we all encourage each other to do as much as we can. Ages are late 60s to late 80s. No pain allowed but we all push a bit! The group is run by two PTs, an exercise leader, and some wonderful volunteers. If you're a little unsteady, we're there to help.

If you have questions about Parkinson's, we either know the answers or will find them for you. We'll help you get motivated and teach you how to fight back!

We stay after class on the last Monday of the month to have a "picnic" (bring your own sandwich) and talk. It's such a great group of people!

There is no charge but donations to the Benevolence Fund at UCC are happily accepted.

If you'd like to come observe, we'd love to meet you. Just call Joanne, 802-917-2697, and let us know you're coming.

## 988 suicide and crisis lifeline

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide or experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, 988 provides free, confidential, and compassionate support. You are not alone.

Call or text 988, or chat at [www.988lifeline.org](http://www.988lifeline.org).

## Howard Center to provide suicide prevention resources

Howard Center is partnering with the Center for Health and Learning to provide Vermont businesses and community members with up-to-date information on suicide prevention.

Year after year, Vermont has more suicides than the national average. In response, Howard Center continues to work to reach underserved populations, expand prevention programming and enhance intervention efforts.

Howard Center is also expanding the availability of tools and best practices employed in the response after a suicide death or other tragedy to support healing and recovery. Known as postvention, these supports are provided by a team of Howard

Center staff who are trained and prepared to provide postvention to individuals, families, and in the community.

With funding from the Vermont Community Foundation, Howard Center is partnering with the Center for Health and Learning (CHL) to help local businesses provide their workforces with information designed to introduce prevention and postvention messaging through employee manuals, orientations, and staff trainings. CHL manages the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center, a public private partnership that works to provide a sustainable approach to suicide prevention in Vermont.

Howard Center is leveraging its close ties with the business community to share these resources and offer technical assistance around their use, distributing information to more than 150 businesses throughout Chittenden County in December. The materials are also accessible on Howard Center's website, under the resources tab.

With funding from other philanthropic partners, Howard Center is also planning to hire a Suicide Prevention Coordinator. The new position includes a blend of clinical work, consultation, and training; adds capacity; and will help coordinate with other efforts in the community.

Howard Center is committed to providing suicide prevention programs and reducing the barriers to accessing help and support in crisis for all members in the community.

For more information and to access suicide prevention materials, visit <https://howardcenter.org/suicide-prevention/>. For information and to apply for the Suicide Prevention Coordinator position, go to <https://howardcenter.org/career-opportunities/>.

For more information, please contact [pdetzer@howardcenter.org](mailto:pdetzer@howardcenter.org) or visit <https://howardcenter.org>.

## Flat heads

Parents have been heading me off at the pass with all kinds of questions about whether putting their babies on their backs to sleep is causing problems with making the back of their heads flatter. Well, let me come flat out and provide some information on flat heads.

There is no better way to prevent the incidence of sudden unexpected infant death than putting your baby on their back to sleep at night.

But if your baby is spending a significant amount of time on their back not just when asleep but when awake, and are also spending lots of time flat up against the back of an infant seat, it is possible that the back of one or both sides of their head may look flatter than usual.

*Some ways to treat this condition*

**Increase tummy time:** Fortunately, for the vast majority of babies, this condition is easily treated by reducing the amount of time your baby is on their back when awake by increasing their tummy time. This approach will reduce the amount of flattening due to pressure and will also encourage muscle strength in the arms, legs, and neck.

**Alternate head position:** Another idea is to alternate your child's head position during sleep with one night having the left side of the head touching the mattress and one night the right. This may require alternating the direction they sleep in the crib in case they tend to want to look out into the room as they go to sleep. You can also alternate the side you hold your baby to feed them.

**Give it time:** The good news is that over time as your baby learns to roll, and thus has less pressure applied to the back of the head, the head remodels into a nice round shape, usually over the first year of life.

If your child is six months of age and you are not seeing improvement, feel free to discuss the flattening with your baby's health care professional.

Finally, it is important to note that even if the back of their head is flat, your baby still needs to be on their back to sleep to reduce that risk of sudden unexpected infant death. It is also important to remember that a flattened back of the head does not affect the brain at all and will not hamper proper brain growth and development, nor will it cause brain damage.

Hopefully, tips like these will shape up any concerns you have when it comes to knowing more about your baby's flat head shape.

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

## LWV presents

### The Privatization of Medicare

On Wednesday, January 25, Dr. Marvin Malek, past president of Vermont Physicians for a National Health Program (VT PNHP), will give a presentation on the privatization of Medicare. The program, sponsored by the League of Women Voters Vermont (LWVVT), will take place at 5:30 PM in the Hayes Room at Kellogg Hubbard Library in Montpelier. Dr. Malek will discuss Medicare Advantage, DCEs, and the new ACO/REACH program. The event is cosponsored by VT PNHP, Vermont Health Care for All, and Vermont Workers' Center.

For the first 20 years after its implementation in 1965, the Medicare program reimbursed hospitals and doctors directly for the care they provided to Medicare enrollees. Beginning in 1985, some Medicare recipients were given the option of electing to have their benefit managed by a private company, currently known as the Medicare Advantage program. Last year, officials in the Medicare program announced that by the year 2030, they would be involuntarily enrolling the remaining Medicare enrollees into another managed care program — the ACO/REACH program.

The goal of the January 25 program is to discuss the impacts of these privatization initiatives on the care that Medicare beneficiaries receive, on the costs Medicare beneficiaries will be facing, and the impacts of these changes on the financial stability of the Medicare program.

Marvin Malek, MD MPH, received his medical training at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY, residency training at Cook County Hospital and earned a Masters Degree in Health Policy at Harvard University's School of Public Health. Dr. Malek has spent most of his career in community medicine, providing care to underserved populations including Latino, Black, and Navajo communities. He currently works on the hospital care team at Springfield Hospital in Vermont.

The program will be recorded by Onion River Community Access, and will be available online later at <https://www.orcamedia.net>.

## LEGISLATIVES REORT

### Get \$50K and more for adding a unit to your home

By Michael Sirotkin, State Senator, Chittenden Senate District

*A new Vermont program promotes accessory dwelling units with necessary free professional support and up to \$50,000 grants per each small unit constructed. The following is a letter to the editor to appear in Seven Days, highlighting a little-known new program/opportunity that our Senate Housing committee initiated this past session. I felt it important, given our housing crisis, that word about this excellent opportunity get out to my Chittenden County constituents owning homes in a timely fashion. See contacts below for more details.*

Kudos to Seven Days on the completion of their investigatory series *Locked Out*, an amazing in-depth, understandable and human portrayal of Vermont's housing crisis. As noted, the early articles were indeed referenced in support of our Senate Housing Committee's work during this legislative session.

Our committee had earlier traveled throughout Vermont, hearing from scores of witnesses on all aspects of Vermont's growing housing shortage. We quickly came to the same conclusion, so graphically articulated by *Locked Out*, that money alone can't solve the problem.

While more financial resources are certainly essential, significant policy changes are equally important. This past biennium alone we not only invested hundreds of millions of dollars in housing, we also advanced policies that eased development, incentivized new housing, and creatively expanded use of existing housing.

Examples include policies/programs to modernize zoning ordinances to create greater density, to control short term rentals, easing/removing unnecessary permitting, bridge resources to make construction of market rate homes more affordable, smart growth policies to encourage historic and compact settlements, preserving manufactured homes, renovating blighted homes, enhancing health and safety inspections, and creating new accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Highlighting this last initiative, we found that many Vermonters, especially older Vermonters, are over-housed. Many downsize, but many could convert their homes by adding a separate smaller ADU within the dwelling. This can be a win-win situation. Vermonters can bring in more income, stay in their own homes, and create an additional unit of housing without the expense of building a whole new house.

Governor Scott supported this concept and tells the story of creating an added housing unit when he was younger, at little cost, and providing needed additional income to his family.

Thankfully, we have now loosened ADU regulatory restrictions. More importantly, we recognized that homeowners are not developers and need essential technical help with

financing, permitting, construction, renting, etc., similar to the challenges highlighted in *Locked Out*. As a result, Vermont will now provide this critical technical support and also grant up to \$50,000/unit for the construction of an ADU, thereby successfully combining policy and money to create new housing in a highly cost-effective manner.

Contact VT Department of Housing and Community Development, [shaun.gilpin@vermont.gov](mailto:shaun.gilpin@vermont.gov), to learn more and thank you again *Seven Days*.

### Senate update: legislative review; personal note

By Keshia Ram Hinsdale

State Senator, Chittenden Senate District

December 28

As the year draws to a close, I wanted to share some of my priorities for the upcoming legislative session that begins on January 4.

*Housing and Homeownership*

Vermont currently has 24,000 job openings and only 12,000 potential jobseekers, most of whom already cannot find a place to live. Home heating and transportation are our biggest greenhouse gas emitters, and they worsen the more spread out we become. Meanwhile, we have the lowest vacancy rate for prospective renters and homeowners in decades, and the highest number of second homes eating up our housing stock, in the nation. Additionally, we have the fifth-largest racial homeownership gap in the country, while over 90% of our incoming residents in the last decade identify as people of color.

The data is pointing to transit-oriented, affordable housing as a central solution to many of our intersectional crises. If density is achieved where it is needed most, and funding continues to go to both housing and conservation of open and working lands, this should protect more green space than it impacts. We have a unique opportunity to build on our historic housing investments last year with reforms that truly move the dial to make the dream of stable homeownership available to more Vermonters.

Based on what I have heard from families and small businesses, I will be working on a housing bond to provide targeted funding for programs and initiatives that are working, such as home-sharing and first generation homebuyer grants; tax incentives that reduce our rate of vacant second homes going unused for a majority of the year; investments in safety and habitability for renters and manufactured home residents; and permit and zoning reform, particularly allowing for duplexing and quadriplexing where density can be achieved.

Legislative reports continued on page 5



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## LIBRARIES

## Top Ten lists from the Westford Public Library

By Bree Drapa, Librarian, Westford Public Library

Happy New Year from the Westford Public Library! It's great to look back over 2022 and see what were some of the most checked out items. How many have you read? watched? checked out?

### Top Ten Adult Fiction Books

- The Lincoln Highway
- Lessons in Chemistry
- The Midnight Library
- Violeta
- West with Giraffes
- The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven
- It All Comes Down to This
- The Dictionary of Lost Words
- The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo
- The Treehouse on Dog River Road

### Top Ten DVD Checkouts:

- Dune
- All Creatures Great and Small – Season 2
- No Time to Die
- Spiderman: Far From Home
- Belfast
- Ghostbusters: Afterlife
- All Creatures Great and Small – Season 1
- House of Gucci
- Spiderman: No Way Home
- The Batman

### Top Ten Children's Checkouts:

- Sisters (graphic novel)
- Never Touch a Monster (board book)
- Wings of Fire #1 (graphic novel)
- Dogman Unleashed (graphic novel)
- Elephant and Piggie Biggie (Early reader)
- Charizard (DVD)
- Elephant and Piggie Biggie (Early reader)
- You are Light (board book)
- My First Trucks and Diggers (board book)
- Friends Forever (graphic novel)

## DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is open, no appointment needed: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM. All programs meet in person.

You are invited to enjoy a lovely art display at DRML. The library loves hosting local artists; feel free to leave your name if you are interested in displaying.

### Ongoing

Free COVID test kits: Need an at-home COVID test kit? DRML is offering them ONLY through curbside pick-up for community safety. Kits will not be available inside the building. Contact [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org) or 802-899-4962 to arrange a pick-up so we can have them ready. Let us know the number of kits you need up, to four kits. Each kit contains two tests. We will let you know what bag number is yours.

### Adult programs

Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers.

## Legislative reports continued from page 4

### Workforce and Small Business

We must invest in supporting our working families and small businesses in order to have a thriving economy. First and foremost, this means having a healthy care economy, from advancing early childhood education to meeting the needs of older Vermonters. Many Vermonters cannot go back to work when they face a shortage of care for loved ones at home, so we must increase our commitment to a well-compensated care network.

Welcoming a new child is also when a family is most likely to slip into poverty and struggle to regain access to the middle class. I will be looking for opportunities to join many other states in creating a foundation for robust paid family leave so families do not have to leave the workforce permanently because of a loss of financial stability.

It is also important that we look at segments of the workforce that are critical to our overall well-being — health care, education, infrastructure, and the climate economy, for example — and invest in their continued growth. Without these fundamental workers, we cannot meet our goals for public health, student outcomes, quality of life, and tackling climate change.

### Community Safety and Well-Being

Vermont is not immune to the violent and lethal crime that is spiking across the nation. This is largely due to gun and drug trafficking that entangles our young people and robs them of their potential, and in some cases, their lives. I will make it a priority to work with our new Commissioner of Public Safety, Director of Violence Prevention, my colleagues, and local stakeholders to get to the root causes of these issues and to reduce violence and overdose deaths.

### Democracy and Civil Rights

Our democratic institutions and personal liberties have become threatened in this country, and we have a responsibility in Vermont to serve as a backdrop in ensuring we maintain our freedoms and civil society. This includes protecting access to abortion care, not just for Vermonters, but for millions of Americans seeking telemedicine and safe options outside of their state. It also means reasserting our commitment to gender affirming care and the well-being of LGBTQ+ families. Finally, we must continue to create greater access to the ballot box with measures like ranked choice and all-resident voting, especially where our local communities want to be laboratories of democracy.

On a personal note, my husband and I are expecting our first child in the spring. It will be both a privilege and responsibility to serve as the first pregnant legislator in nearly 20 years, and will certainly strengthen my resolve to bring the voices of working families and struggling caregivers into the halls of power.

So please continue to be in touch, but also know I am finding a new equilibrium as I prepare to be a parent. In the meantime, may your holidays be merry, warm, and safe!

DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month we will not be discussing a single book; instead, we will have a general discussion about favorite books we have recently read. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact [Christine@cstaffa.com](mailto:Christine@cstaffa.com).

Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Mah Jongg. Please join us as we explore the tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you'll love Mah Jongg! All are welcome, no experience necessary! If you plan to attend, please email [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org).

Thursday, January 12, 6:00 PM: Fly fishing the Browns River. Discover the hidden gem right in our backyard with Jamie Eisenberg of Eisenberg's Fly Fix. Find out where, when, and how to fly fish the Browns River. Topics will include how to access the river, what kinds of fish can be found there, and techniques that can be used to target them. Jamie will demystify the concept of "match the hatch" and help anglers find both stocked and wild Brook Trout. He has been fly-fishing on the Browns River for 30 years and has been a fly-fishing guide and instructor for the past five years. We will be meeting in person in the fireplace room. Masks recommended.

### Youth programs

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby Time [birth to PreK] It seems that all our preschoolers have become school agers so let's turn story time into baby time. We hope you can join us Tuesday mornings with your little one for lap bounces, songs, dancing, and a story. No registration necessary.

Tuesday, January 10, 3:00 PM: Fluffy Slime [ages 8+] Join us to make messy, soft, and fluffy snow/cloud slime! Space is limited. Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org).

Thursday, January 12, 3:00 PM: Animation Club [ages 8+] Have you ever wanted to make your own movie? The library has the tools and tech for you to make a short, stop motion film. Space is limited! Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org).

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information on programs at DRML. Contact information: [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org); [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org); 802-899-4962.

## JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

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

Don't have a library card yet? Just drop by; getting a library card takes only a minute! We just need some quick contact information from you and you'll be all set, no ID or anything else needed.

Homebound Access Program: Jericho Town Library provides delivery services to anyone who is homebound (permanently or temporarily) and cannot come to the library to pick up their books in person. Patrons can request materials via phone, email, or a snail-mail paper form. We make deliveries the first and third Wednesday of each month and patrons can return books at that time. For more information go online to <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/homebound-access-service.html> or call Gretchen during regular library hours, 802-899-4686. We are here to assist you with delivering the perfect book to read this winter!

Did you know that you can borrow snowshoes from Jericho Town Library? We have 20 pairs in a variety of sizes that will fit your whole family, from preschoolers through adults! Snowshoes can be checked out by all Jericho Town and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library cardholders. Stop by the library to check them out, or read more at <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/beyond-books.html>.

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM: Playgroup for kids under 5. This fall, we'll have playgroup on Wednesdays instead of traditional storytime. Playgroup will take place in the children's area on the second floor of the library, and will be an informal program for kids to just PLAY and enjoy our great collection of toys! This is a wonderful opportunity for children under 5 to socialize, and for families to connect with other parents and caregivers in the community.

Our amazing second-floor play area was transformed a couple years ago with a generous gift from the King family, commemorating the life of beloved Jericho resident Kelly King. The second floor also features the Makerspace and some beautiful mosaics by local artist Mary Lacy. Some fan-favorite toys in the play area are the grocery store, kitchen, puppets, and of course, the train set! The play area is open whenever the library is.

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

## VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Please let us know how we can assist you by contacting [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com) or 802-644-2117.

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask.

Tuesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: CrafterNoon. Join Patty for a weekly activity using various beads to create something unique. All ages welcomed! Reminder, all youth under 13 must have a responsible adult on-site.

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Toddler Time. Join us for a story or two, followed by a hands-on activity.

Wednesdays, January 11 and 25, 4:00 – 6:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations. Join us as we gather around the table to build community and connections.

Thursdays, January 12 and 26, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Adult Crafting, parts I and II. Join Patty in this new adult offering to make mosaic picture frames. Plan to attend both sessions, as it is a process which requires drying time between steps.

Thursdays, January 12 and 26, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Read With Me. Sign up to read with a certified therapy dog. These sessions are by registration; call early to secure your spot!

Saturday, January 28, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Make Your Own Reusable Beeswax Paper. Join the Lamoille County Waste Management outreach to make your own food-safe wrap. This event requires the use of a hot iron, so the age is set at 14 and up with adult supervision. Call the Varnum to reserve your spot; capacity is limited to 12.

Find more information about these events and updated

offerings on our website: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>. For questions, contact [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com) or 802-644-2117.

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday-Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. (Hours can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

The Varnum Library is not totally ADA compliant, but does offer an entrance ramp.

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).

## WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have a new website: [www.westfordpubliclibrary.org](http://www.westfordpubliclibrary.org). Check it out! If you are not seeing something new, make sure to clear your cache. If you bookmarked the old one, make sure to delete that and bookmark the new one.

Friday, January 27, the library will close early at 5:00 PM for a Staff Appreciation Celebration.

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

New art is up at the Library, through the end of February, titled *Creative Minds*, a collection of artwork created by Essex High School AP Art and Art 4 students. In this collection, the observer will embark on a journey through the minds of teenagers and experience the diversity of the concepts they've explored.

Book Giving Trees: 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. There is also an online list on our Facebook page and on FPF if you cannot make it in to the library. Books can be dedicated to a special person or family. Purchase the book anywhere; or Phoenix Books (any location) will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star. Books purchased at Phoenix will stay there. Purchase/deliver books by Tuesday, January 17.

### Children's events

Tuesdays, January 17-February 21, after school – 5:00 PM: Crochet Club — Learn to Crochet! Over six Tuesdays, kids in grade 3 and up will ride the bus (with note from home) to the library each week. Snack and all supplies included. Must plan to attend all six weeks. Taught by Marianne Bassford. Sign-up required, and space is limited. Sign up by calling or emailing the library.

Thursdays in January, afterschool – 4:30 PM (pick-up as late as 5:00 PM): LEGO Club for grades 1-4. Sign up required (call or email). Kids ride the bus (with note from home) to the library each week. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun!

Thursdays, 11:15 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. Ms. Bree presents fun stories, crafts, songs, and movement for children from birth to pre-school.

### Adults

Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Library Trustees meeting.

Tuesdays, January 24, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy — whatever your game, we will play it! Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards — a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group, reading *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a triumph of imagination and compassion, a soaring story about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope, and a book. In 15<sup>th</sup> century Constantinople, an orphan named Anna learns to read, and in a city famous for its libraries, finds what might be the last copy of a centuries-old book, the story of Aethon, who longs to be turned into a bird so that he can fly to a utopian paradise in the sky. Omeir is a boy, conscripted with his beloved oxen into the army that will lay siege to Constantinople. His path and Anna's will cross. In the present day in a library in Idaho, Zeno rehearses children in a play adaptation of Aethon's story, preserved against all odds through centuries. Tucked among the library shelves is a bomb planted by a troubled, idealistic teenager, Seymour. And in a not-so-distant future, on the *Argos*, Konstance is alone in a vault, copying on scraps of sacking the story of Aethon, told to her by her father. Print copies available at library, ebook and audiobook copies available on Libby.

Tuesday-Wednesday, January 17-18: Tech Help. Sign up for a Slot Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM or Wednesday, 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Did you get a new device for the holidays? Do you want to learn how to put free ebooks or audiobooks on your phone or tablet? Do you have general computer issues? Call, email, or stop by to sign up for a 30 minute slot with Bree.

### Events for everyone

Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:00 PM, Fiber Arts is back as the Maker Group, now open to all makers — whether you knit, crochet, make jewelry, sketch, paint, paper craft, or any other art — or if you are a tinkerer — all are welcome!

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (February 1), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (January 21), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/WestfordVT\\_pl](https://www.twitter.com/WestfordVT_pl)). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; [www.westfordpubliclibrary.org](http://www.westfordpubliclibrary.org); [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

## FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Fridays, 4:15 PM); Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website [www.westfordpubliclibrary.org](http://www.westfordpubliclibrary.org).

Libraries continued on page 7

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

## Audubon's Winter Climate Watch begins January 15

Audubon needs your help to create a brighter future for the birds we all love this winter. *Climate Watch* is Audubon's biannual community science program that enlists volunteer bird lovers across North America to tally vulnerable bird species. Our winter session begins Sunday, January 15 and runs through Wednesday, February 15.

You don't have to be an expert birder to participate, but knowing how to identify the target species like nuthatches, bluebirds, and goldfinches by sight or sound is a big plus. Whether you've counted in the past or are looking for a new way to use your birding skills to support climate research, take a minute to review our COVID safety guidelines, <https://www.audubon.org/news/climate-watch-announcements>.

Counting and documenting where birds are today and how they're responding to a shifting climate is essential to helping protect them tomorrow. Find a coordinator in your area (<https://www.audubon.org/news/participant-resources-climate-watch>) or go online to <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch> to get started.

## United Way Volunteer opportunities

Want to make a difference? Start the new year off by volunteering! United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, but opportunities are increasing. Here is a link for Volunteer Connection to learn more about these and other opportunities: <https://unitedwaywvt.galaxydigital.com/>.

**KEEP THE BOOKS — H.A.N.D.S. (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors)** is looking for someone to join its board as Treasurer. Responsibilities include lending a hand with budgets and bookkeeping, participating in board meetings, and preparing and sharing financial reports. Bookkeeping, budgeting, and Quick Books skills appreciated. The Board meets approximately nine times a year, with an average time commitment of about six hours a month. Training is provided. They would love a two-year commitment. Contact Megan Humphries, [handsvt@gmail.com](mailto:handsvt@gmail.com).

**LET'S DO LUNCH — COTS** Daystation provides refuge from the streets and access to an array of services every day, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. They also provide a free noontime meal each day and are looking for volunteers to help provide this important service. Individuals or groups are needed to prepare and bring in a healthy, well-balanced noontime meal to feed up to 50 people. Kitchen space is also available if the meal is partially completed off premises. Sign up at <https://cotsonline.org/volunteer/lunch/>.

**MENTOR! MENTOR!** — A number of local groups are looking for volunteers to serve as mentors to young people who can benefit from the attention of a caring, compassionate adult. Time and friendship are the best resources you can share with a child! Mentors often say the hour they spend with a child is the best hour of their week:

- **SPECTRUM YOUTH SERVICES** has particular need for male mentors for youth ages 12-22, mentors of color, and mentors who are part of the LGBTQ community. Spend an hour a week sharing fun activities such as hiking, biking, crafts, a show at the Flynn, and so much more. Contact Rebecca Majoya, [rmajoya@spectrumvt.org](mailto:rmajoya@spectrumvt.org) or 802-864-7423 ext. 216.
- **WATERSHED MENTORING** is looking for mentors for school-age children and teens who are "at promise" in Franklin County. A community-based mentor meets with a child for an hour or two in the community year-round to share mutually enjoyable activities. School-based mentors meet with children during school lunch and recess for an hour a week when school is in session. Background check required. Visit <https://www.fcccp.org/our-programs/mentoring> to apply.
- **ESSEX CHIPS** offers "FRIENDCHIPS," a school-based mentoring program in the Essex Westford School District for youth in grades 4-8. Mentors spend one hour a week with a student at school sharing activities such as games, crafts sports, cooking and conversation. There is also the option to continue the relationship in a community-based program when students have moved on to high school. Visit <https://www.essexchips.org/mentor> to apply.

## YMCA youth swim, dance, and gymnastics start soon

Registration is currently open and spots are filling up for our next session of youth swim, dance, and gymnastics! Sign up today. Class offerings and links are as follows:

- Youth Swim lessons for ages 6 months-16 years: eight-week session began the week of January 2: <http://www.gbymca.org/swim-lessons>
- Gymnastics (ages 2-7), three class offerings: six-week sessions starting Saturday, January 21: <http://www.gbymca.org/gymnastics>
- Dance (ages 2-11), five class offerings: six-week session starts Saturday-Sunday, January 21-22: <http://www.gbymca.org/youth-dance>

Discounted rates are available for Y members.

For members and non-members alike, the Y also has Kids' Night Out opportunities in the new year, giving kids a great opportunity for fun while their parents go out and enjoy some time of their own. Families with Y membership can also enjoy Family Gym and Family Swim. And, have you thought about the Y as a place for your child's birthday party? Learn more about all of these opportunities at <https://www.gbymca.org/programs/family-time/>.

Of course, we welcome all to consider a Y membership. Financial assistance is available! Stop by the Y, 298 College Street, Burlington or, to learn about these programs and Y membership at [www.gbymca.org](http://www.gbymca.org).

## Are you able to help a foster child in the new year?

### VT Department for Children and Families

There's this kid in your daughter's class. JB. He's super

energetic! LOVES Legos. Bounds out the door at every recess period. Jacket wide open. Shoes always untied. In time out more than he's ever in "time in." But whenever you're at school, he always stops to say hello to you, which for a five-year-old is not the norm. So, you started paying closer attention to him. And you noticed that he could use a pair of mittens and a hat. And sometimes he forgets his lunch. So you make sure your daughter always has something extra to share, just in case. Last week you noticed JB wasn't in school. And this week it's obvious to you that JB is really struggling — even more than before.

What you didn't know is that JB is now in foster care, setting off a tsunami of change for him and it's been increasingly more difficult for him to find his footing. Feel safe. Connected.

You find yourself wondering, how you could help? Fostering a child was the farthest thing from your mind. And you're not sure your family could take on the task for a child whose needs might be greater than your capacity or experience.

It is true that the job of a foster parent is demanding. You will need training, mentoring, financial help, and a support system to help you navigate the process. BUT you can do it, just like the 1200 other Vermont families who have opened their homes and hearts to children requiring foster care.

We would love to hear from you and help you explore if being a foster care provider is right for you.

To learn more, go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/foster>. You can also call your local Family Services District Office and ask to speak to the Resource Coordinator (<http://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>).

## Howard Center welcomes new board member and elects officers

Howard Center hosted its Board of Trustees annual meeting in November, elected officers, and reelected several current trustees to new three-year terms. Newly elected Amanda Peden CDFP® joins Howard Center's Board of Trustees for a three-year term.

Amanda is a Financial Planner at Commonwealth Financial Group in Burlington, where she is passionate about helping others achieve financial literacy and freedom. She often speaks at seminars to raise awareness of the importance of financial education, particularly for those who have not had access to it previously. Amanda has made a positive impact on individuals and families affected by substance use and mental health.

"Amanda brings a wealth of industry experience and a passion for helping others to her role on the Howard Center Board of Trustees," said Howard Center Board President Meg O'Donnell. "We are confident that her expertise and dedication will be invaluable as we work to make a positive impact in our community."

Officers were elected for one-year terms as follows: Meg O'Donnell as president, Kelly Deforge as vice president, George Philibert as treasurer, and Cyndee Cochrane Sturtevant as secretary.

The following board members have been renewed for another three-year term: Daniel Calder (Shelburne), Kelly Deforge (Essex Junction), Trevor Squirrel (Underhill Center), Yves Bradley (Burlington), and John McSoley (Essex).

## Watershed Grants Program now accepting applications

The 2023 Vermont Watershed Grants Program is now accepting applications for projects that protect, restore and enhance the state's lakes, streams, rivers, and ponds, including Vermonters' ability to understand and enjoy these treasures. Applications are due no later than Wednesday February 8, 2023.

Program grants are available to municipalities, local and regional government agencies, sporting clubs, non-profit organizations, and water-related citizen groups. Projects that seek to directly protect or restore fish and aquatic wildlife habitat are strongly encouraged. Examples of past funded projects include streamside vegetation restoration the removal of old dams and replacement of culverts to improve fish passage.

For 2023, \$70,000 is available to fund three categories of projects. The three categories and the maximum amount for each project type are: education and outreach (\$5,000), planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring (\$3,500) and on-the-ground implementation (\$10,000).

The Vermont Watershed Grants Program is a joint project of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation. It was established by legislature and funded by sales of the Vermont Conservation License Plate.

"When Vermonters purchase a Conservation License Plate, they're helping protect healthy streams and lakes as well as conserving wildlife and important habitats for future generations," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "Proceeds from the sale of Conservation License Plates fund the Watershed Grants program and help support the Fish and Wildlife Department's Nongame Wildlife Fund."

The Watershed Grants application guide and application forms are available on the web at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/get-involved/apply-for-a-grant/watershed-grant>. Please note that the application location has changed from past years.

Information to obtain the Vermont Conservation License Plate is available on the Department of Motor Vehicles website: <https://dmv.vermont.gov/registrations/license-plates/specialty-plates#conservation>.

## Call to action: internet service accuracy in VT

By Emma Vaughn, Communications Manager, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Chittenden County

Do you really get the internet service providers say you do on the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) map? The Vermont Community Broadband Board is calling on all Vermonters to check their addresses on the FCC National Broadband Map (<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>) and file a challenge if the information is incorrect. Correcting addresses that are incorrectly listed as served at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or greater by a wired or licensed wireless provider could mean more money for Vermont and more affordable service for Vermonters!

- Visit the FCC National Broadband Map website: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>

• Type your address into the Search by Address field and press the enter key. The map will zoom in on your location. On the right of the screen are the reported broadband service providers and maximum connection speeds they offer for sale at your location. Review the reported services.

• If the reported services are available at your location, you're all done with the availability assessment! If the reported service availability is inaccurate, the Vermont Community Broadband Board encourages you to enter an availability challenge. Instructions on how to do this are linked below.

• If you are concerned about publicly disclosing your challenge or are having difficulties, please call the Consumer Affairs Hotline, 800-622-4496. The information provided will be used to populate bulk challenges to larger areas than individual residences.

For video instructions on how to file an availability or location challenge:

• How to Submit an Availability Challenge (YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiFoxZKywv4>

• How to File a Location Challenge to the FCC's Map (YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKmM9ES7nUQ>

For more information about the Vermont Community Broadband Board and how to submit a challenge, visit <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/announcements/vcbb-issues-call-action-vermonters-challenge-wrong-fcc-map-data>

For questions or comments please contact Herryyn Herzog, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Vermont Community Broadband Board, at 802-522-3396 or [Herryyn.Herzog@Vermont.gov](mailto:Herryyn.Herzog@Vermont.gov).

## New Operating Status Line for LRSMWD

By Sarah Lillibridge

### Outreach and Education Coordinator, LRSMWD Board

Announcing Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District's new Operating Status Phone Line: 802-441-6639. You can call this number 24/7 to see whether any of our sites are currently experiencing delays or closures. In the event of an unexpected closure or delay, the operating line will be updated at the same time as our other online postings.

Please spread the word to family and friends.

You can still reach the main office at 802-888-7317 during regular office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

## Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast Series in Stowe February 6

By Pat Ripley, LEDC

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce are pleased to invite you to our next Legislative Breakfast event coming to 67 South Main St., Stowe on Monday, February 6, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, when the 2023 Legislative Session is in full swing!

To learn more and register, go online to <https://lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast/>.

The Stowe breakfast is the second of four events offering you an opportunity to hear from our Lamoille County representatives and learn about what they are working on at the Statehouse. Attendees will also be allowed a chance to ask questions about the topics on their minds.

Our first legislative breakfast, on Tuesday, January 3 in Hyde Park, sold out, but our February, March, and April events have expanded seating to better accommodate attendees.

The breakfast series continues Monday, March 13 in Johnson, and Monday, April 3, in Jeffersonville. Each event begins with a light breakfast and coffee from local restaurants, followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A. Each event runs from about 8:00 – 9:30 AM.

"We have set the bar high, planning four legislative breakfasts for this session," LEDC and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Patrick Ripley said, "We hope to see democracy in action by creating a space for engaging community dialogue and participation."

Register online at <http://www.lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast>.

## VT State Parks seeks public input for parks modernization study

Vermont State Parks is seeking public input as part of a modernization study that is currently underway.

This study will provide a comprehensive assessment of the state park system including park amenities, operations, maintenance, revenue, and program delivery. It will identify key challenges, and resources needed to maintain core services and enhance offerings to meet current and future demands.

Nate McKeen, Director of State Parks elaborates, "Throughout the years, with considerable public support and prudent management, Vermont State Parks have weathered societal changes and economic challenges of all sorts. Now, as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vermont state parks in 2024, and as park visitation continues to increase, this study will help us create a road map for the future of our state parks."

FPR is seeking public input and feedback about the park system, its infrastructure, programming, prices, and innovations. Input is being collected via a link on the state parks' webpage, <https://vtstateparks.com/>, and will consist of three ways to provide feedback: a community forum for open dialogue, a category-based ideas page, and a short survey. Additional information about the study and timeline is also available. Input will be collected through Wednesday, February 15.

Vermont State Parks staff is working collaboratively with park and recreation professionals from BerryDunn, a national consulting firm. The study is scheduled to be completed by early spring, with a final report being issued in May 2023.

## OBITUARIES



**Robert Diaco**, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, died at UVM Medical Center in Burlington, VT on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 with family members at his bedside. Bob was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Massapequa, Long Island. He received his Bachelor's degree in biology from Lycoming College and studied plant and animal virology at Iowa State University, where he received his Master's and Ph.D. He met his wife, Paula, while in graduate school and the couple were married in 1983. For the past 28 years, Bob lived with his family in Underhill, VT and ran Signarama in South Burlington, VT. Prior to moving to Vermont, Bob worked at DuPont and Roche Diagnostics where he developed automated testing of viral diseases. Bob is survived by his wife, two sons, his daughter-in-law and grandsons, as well as two brothers and their children. He was predeceased by his parents and older brother. Many thanks to the many first responders and staff at the University of Vermont Medical Center for their skill and care. A memorial gathering was held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at the Underhill Town Hall.



**David Owen Nielsen**, 85, Jericho, VT. In 1965, David met his wife, Louanne, in the Mad River Valley of Vermont, where they were ski bums. They married and later raised their daughter, Britt, and son, Christian, in several small Vermont towns. David was on the Sugarbush ski patrol in the mid 1960s. Flying as a commercial pilot was his career and towing gliders was a life-time love. David passed peacefully on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at the McClure-Miller Respite House in

Colchester, VT. We are honored to have been with him every step of the way as he took his last flight out of the physical world. Of course, we miss his hugs and kisses and there are tears, though we grieved the loss of who we knew him to be in layers over recent years. We witnessed dementia dismantle the man we knew who could fix anything, remember details of the distant and immediate past, tell a great story or discuss any topic, play a practical joke, and answer any questions from how best to care for our cars to what kinds of clouds we saw. As dementia dissolved any triggers of the ego self, his truest nature of peace and love shone even more brightly. We were blessed with his essence of peace and love up until his final days, as he still knew who we were and reached his arms out for hugs. We are so grateful for the pure love he was, that he, in his words, lived a good long life, did not suffer, and that he and we are all free now. It is what he would have wanted. Instead of kind condolences "for our loss," we invite you to do something to celebrate YOU and David by honoring what is true in your heart and brings you peace, joy, and freedom. For David, that included time with his family, being on the road (years in a fifth-wheel camper), being in the tranquility of nature in the middle of nowhere, and definitely flying. Let's put any differences aside, be the love that we are, and live fully and freely in the present moment. As per David's wishes, there will not be a memorial service. Due to the excellent care David received and his love for flying, memorial gifts would be appreciated at McClure-Miller Respite House, 3113 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, VT 05446; or Sterling House, 61 Farr Rd., Richmond, VT 05477; or Flight Experience For Youth (FEFY), P.O. Box 411, Warren, VT 05674.

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[fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://fairfaxvtlibrary.org), where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar. 75 Hunt Street, Fairfax; 802-849-2420.

## RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Library has a new website. Same address, different look: <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>. We're still adding new content, but you'll find the same links to the catalog, digital resources, and program announcements.

Weekly children's programs at the Library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from infant-5 and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

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

Monthly, third Fridays (January 20): *Hora De Cuento* (Spanish Storytime). Are you interested in hearing some great stories in Spanish? Join Spanish speaker Chichi Barrett for thirty minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us in the Community Room.

Stitch it Up! Need to do some sewing but don't own a sewing machine? Library to the rescue! Borrow our Brother XM2701 Sewing Machine. Ask for it at the desk.

The library has a variety of other "non-book" items to lend: a firewood moisture meter; blood pressure monitors; a Kill-0-Watt electricity meter; snowshoes for adults and youth. STEAM kits include a singing drum and meditation kit, a bird-watching kit, and other kits. StoryTime Bags contain five picture books and songs on various themes such as Friends, Pets, The Seasons, Things That Move, Numbers, and more.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group: contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or [gwenie1972@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenie1972@yahoo.com), for information on participating.

**Westford Coffee House postponed till spring:** Michael Kirick has announced that due to resurgence of Covid and other respiratory outbreaks this winter, he has postponed Coffee House until spring when, hopefully, folks will be ready to head back out into the public arena more enthusiastically.

**Call to Artists: Serenity.** After a hectic election season rolling into the holidays, it is time for *Serenity* — whatever you envision as serene or calming. This exhibit will run through April 2023 in the Jericho Town Hall as part of the Jericho Town Hall Art Project. This exhibit is part of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort between the Town of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members are Catherine McMains, SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander, gallery owner; and artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

**Beginner Watercolor and Intermediate Watercolor classes:** Kathleen Berry Bergeron of Jericho will be starting six-week Beginner Watercolor Classes on Wednesday, January 11, 10:00 – 12:30 AM at Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Richmond. Intermediate Watercolor Class begins on Friday, January 13 at the same place on Fridays 10:00 – 12:30 AM, also for six weeks. Please contact Kathleen, [Paint78@hotmail.com](mailto:Paint78@hotmail.com), if interested and for details.

**The Emile A Gruppe Gallery**, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment, 802-899-3211.

**Join the Idea Exchange for Teaching Artists.** The Vermont Arts Council and Teaching Artists Connect have launched Idea Exchanged for teaching artists, a series of five virtual, bi-monthly meetings through May 2023, with goals to build community, provide support, share skills, and offer networking. Topics vary. Upcoming sessions, all on Wednesdays, 4:00 – 6:00 PM, are:

- January 25: Nuts and bolts: The business of being a teaching artist;
- March 29: Marketing and communications;
- May 31: Successful collaborations.

Learn more and register at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/schools/teaching-artists>.

**Winter classes and exhibits at Burlington City Arts:** BCA offers a wide variety of mediums for adults, teens, youth, and families of all experience levels, there's something that will ignite everyone's imagination. Gain new skills and expand your creative horizons with offerings like Mixed Level Darkroom Photography, Pet Portraits, Photo Editing: PhotoShop, Rings, and Screen Print. Young artists can discover new ways to express themselves with options like Teen Drawing, Winter Break Camp: Fantasy Drawing & Painting (ages 9-11), Winter Break Camp: Darkroom Photo (ages 12-18), Friday Teen Wheel, and our newly added Youth Portraits class. Details and more information at <https://canvas.burlingtoncityarts.org/classes>.

BCA invites you to escape the winter chill and be transported to mid-century California for an evening when season 10 of the Architecture + Design film series continues with *Albert Frey: The Architectural Envoy – Part II* at Contois Auditorium, Main St., Burlington on Wednesday, January 18 (or stream same day) for the second part of a portrait of influential architectural master Albert Frey. With a new style of modernism, Frey married industrial techniques with an appreciation of landscape and nature, leaving an indelible mark on the desert community of Palm Springs.

Mystery Book Group: contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or [msparent@gmavt.net](mailto:msparent@gmavt.net), for information on participating.

Library hours: open for in-person browsing and pick-up at the circulation desk on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or [rfl@gmavt.net](mailto:rfl@gmavt.net).

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>.

## BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org) or 802-878-6955.

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

## ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

Closed Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King Day.

COVID Test Kits are available while supplies last, up to four boxes per person ages 2+. Call, stop by, or fill out the form on our website.

## Children's area

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, in the Children's Area: Storytime with Ms. Emily.

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Each week, builders are invited to explore and create. No pre-registration needed. Best for ages 9+, or 6+ with an adult helper.

Excellent Ed's STORYWALK ® is located along the fence in the back garden. Bundle up and check it out!

Grab 'n Go Craft Kits on Fridays while supplies last!

Fairy Village — Winter has come to the fairy village!

## Adult area

Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Contract Bridge. Calling all players! Looking for a friendly game? We're looking to fill a table or two. Please RSVP to [essexfreelibrary@essex.org](mailto:essexfreelibrary@essex.org).

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Tech Time. Want to learn how to download audio and ebooks? Use a Chromebook, laptop, or cell phone? Learn a language online? Use free library digital

## ART / MUSIC / THEATER

At the BCA Center, experience *Valerie Hird: The Garden of Absolute Truths* and *Bill McDowell: Roxham Road to North Elba* before they close on Saturday, January 28. On the first floor in *The Garden of Absolute Truths*, Hird envisions a fantastical garden where untamed nature becomes a metaphor for the pressures weighing on societal systems. On the second floor, *Roxham Road to North Elba* links past and present through a powerful photographic installation that invites us to thoughtfully engage with the ongoing legacy of racism and social justice in America.

**BCA Elevation Grant recipients announced:** Congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 Elevation Grant! After reviewing all of the amazing submissions, nine remarkable applications were selected by a community panel for funding. This pilot grant program will provide support to artists in the Burlington community working in a wide variety of artistic disciplines to help them address the basic challenges of art making and assist in advancing their careers. The recipients are Raphaella Brice, Josie, Mellisa Heather Cain, Frances Cannon, Trish Denton and Marcie Hernandez, Marianne DiMascio, Priscille Lokossou, Michael (Mikahely) Razafy, and Corrine Yonce.

**Creative Futures Grants call for applications:** Funding is available for both non- and for-profits. During its 2022 session, the VT Legislature allocated \$9M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Vermont Arts Council for grants to creative sector entities that have sustained economic harm due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Awards of up to \$200,000 will be available to creative sector non- and for-profit businesses, including sole proprietors, that can demonstrate economic harm caused by or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding amounts will be based on 2019 (pre-pandemic) operating revenue. These funds are for any regular operating expenses including but not limited to payroll and benefits, utilities, rent, and insurance. Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria: severity of Covid-19 pandemic harm, community and cultural impact, economic impact. Full details are on the grant program web page. The seven segments of the creative sector economy (the collective enterprises, organizations, and individuals whose products and services are rooted in artistic and creative content) comprise Vermont's creative economy: culture and heritage; design; film and media; literary arts and publishing; performing arts; specialty foods; and visual arts and crafts. The program will be open for three rounds: the deadline for round 1 has passed. Round 2 opened January 3 with deadline February 28, notifications by mid-April; round 3 opens May 1, deadline June 30, notifications by mid-August. Applications that are not funded in one round may be reconsidered in the next round. Virtual Grantseeker Workshops to help applicants find out about the Creative Futures grant program and the application process, get tips for a strong application, and get questions answered. Workshops will be recorded and posted on the Council's website after the event; closed captioning will be provided. We invite you to contact us with specific accommodations you need to facilitate your participation in the workshop. Contact Michele Bailey, 504/ADA coordinator, [mabaily@vermontartscouncil.org](mailto:mabaily@vermontartscouncil.org) or 802-402-4614. Voice and relay calls welcome. For questions about the grant program, contact [creativefutures@vermontartscouncil.org](mailto:creativefutures@vermontartscouncil.org).

resources? Drop in with your device and your questions. We'll do our best to answer them! No appointment needed.

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Drop-In Needlecraft Group. Enjoy chatting with other crafters as you work on your project.

Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Hand and Foot Canasta. Printed rules and score sheets provided. No need to RSVP, just drop in and meet up with other players at the reserved table in the Mezzanine.

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Rummikub for Adults. No need to RSVP, just drop in and meet up with other players at the reserved table in the Mezzanine.

Saturdays, 12:00 – 2:00 PM: Spanish/English Intercambio. If you are a native English speaker looking to improve your Spanish, or a native Spanish speaker looking to improve your English, this is for you! Each session, we will speak the first hour exclusively in Spanish, and the second hour exclusively in English. Come join the conversation!

Tuesday, January 17, 2:00 or 6:00 PM: Creative Cards with Noreen. Come learn how to make two different cards — an embossing folder for one, and a fun fold for the other. Limited space; please sign up for the class(es) you would like: 2:00 PM class, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/496491538557>; 6:00 PM class, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/496494687977>. Adults only.

Monday, January 30, 4:00 PM: VT Humanities Council's *Vermont Reads* Book Discussion. Join Leonora Dodge to discuss a nonfiction graphic novel anthology that presents stories of survival and healing told by Latin American migrant farm workers in Vermont. Copies available at the front desk. Translation will be provided as needed. *El evento es abierto al publico y habra traduccion en caso de que se necesite.* Museum Passes are available for year 'round fun! <http://Essexfreelibrary.org/MuseumPasses>

We are seeking board games. Must have all pieces including instructions, and be in very good condition. Please call/email first due to limited space.

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram for updates on events!

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313; [@essexfreelibrary](mailto:@essexfreelibrary); website <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/>.

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354

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

# 2023 Rebates for Your Home



If you're planning on improving the efficiency of your home or apartment this year, take a look at Efficiency Vermont's residential offers, including:



## Air Sealing and Insulation

- 75% off weatherization project costs, up to \$5,000 (completed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor)
- DIY weatherization: \$100 back on select do-it-yourself projects



## Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

- Air-source heat pumps: discounts starting at \$350 + income bonus
- Ground source heat pump: up to \$2,100/ton + \$500 income bonus
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$300-\$600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces & boilers: \$6,000 rebate
- Wood and pellet stoves: \$400 discount at select retailers



## Electric Vehicles

- Up to \$6,500 in local incentives and up to a \$7,500 federal tax credit



## ENERGY STAR® Appliances

- \$200-\$400 rebates on heat pump clothes dryers, \$25-\$40 for dehumidifiers



## Lighting

- \$100 rebate for qualifying LED fixtures for indoor growing, plus discounts on select ENERGY STAR LED fixtures at participating retailers
- Free Energy Savings Kit full of LEDs and water-saving devices while supplies last!



## Income-based Assistance

- Free lighting, appliances, energy consultations, and more — visit [efficiencyvermont.com/free-products](http://efficiencyvermont.com/free-products) to see if you are eligible.

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility.



## Not sure where to start?

Sign up for a **FREE** Virtual Home Energy Visit!  
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All rebates are subject to availability and eligibility.  
Visit [www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates) for the most up-to-date information.

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# MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2023

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802-453-6354 [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

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

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

We store deliver copies of the paper in Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Fairfax, Essex and Essex Junction.

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**Phone: 802-453-6354 [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)**

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

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program Preschool screening

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2023? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program invites families with eligible preschool students to call 802-521-5601, to make an appointment for a developmental screening.

Who: Community of Cambridge/Jeffersonville children (ages 3 and 4 by September 1, 2023)

What: Preschool Screening

Where: Cambridge Elementary School/ Preschool

When: Thursday, February 16; two sessions: 1:00 – 2:00 PM, and 2:00 – 3:00 PM.

How: Contact Beth Brown (802-521-5601) no later than Friday, February 3, to reserve a time for your child.

Screenings will take approximately 60 minutes. During this time, parents will fill out a brief developmental questionnaire about their child while educators interact with the children to gain information about each child's development in the areas of speech and language, social/emotional, motor, and cognitive. This is also a time for parents to ask questions about their child's skills and about our preschool program.

## SENIOR NEWS

### Friendly visiting volunteers needed

Age Well is seeking volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Help older Vermonters by delivering Meals on Wheels, providing friendly visits, grocery shopping, errands, assistance with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, respite, minor home repairs, veterans visiting other veterans, and more. Volunteers feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact they have on those they support.

Time commitment is based on your availability; it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Contact our Volunteer Department, 802-662-5249 or [volunteer@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteer@agewellvt.org) for information.

### Smuggs 55+ Ski Club

Join the fun! The Smuggs 55+ Ski Club meets every Wednesday during ski season at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville. The club is for those aged 55 and older who like to ski (alpine or nordic), snowboard, and/or snowshoe. Non-skiers are welcome, too. In the off-season, we also bike, hike, and do other outdoor activities.

We gather at 9:00 AM in the Oak Room, adjacent to the Morse Mountain Grill. Look for the club's sign as you walk through the Village. After coffee, pastries, and a brief meeting, we put on our gear and head out for the morning.

For complete details, visit <https://smuggs55plus.com/> or email [President@smuggs55plus.com](mailto:President@smuggs55plus.com).

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ad.

Call Brenda Boutin  
at 802-453-6354  
for more information  
or email  
[mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net).

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY January 25, 2023 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Don & Bonnie Morin for a sketch review for the redevelopment of 37 River Road into a possible 8 lot subdivision with existing structures. The property is located at 37 River Road which is in the Rural Village Center District CD 4 Character Based Zoning District.
- A request by Marjorie B Hunt Living Trust, Martha Prince for a final plat review for a proposed two lot residential subdivision. The property is located at Orr Road extension which is in the Village Zoning District

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Additional information related to this application may be viewed at the Jericho Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours.

Chris Flinn  
Zoning Administrator  
[cflinn@jerichovt.gov](mailto:cflinn@jerichovt.gov)

## SPORTS NEWS

### Fundamentals for safe and enjoyable ice fishing

With the start of the new year, many Vermonters are preparing for one of the state's most popular winter pastimes: ice fishing.

"If you're looking for a fun, easy way to get outdoors with friends and family this winter, ice fishing is hard to top," said Fisheries Biologist Shawn Good. "It's quick to learn, affordable, and generally more accessible and social than open water fishing."

In light of Vermont's recent warm weather, the department stresses that anglers take ice safety seriously and recommends a few basic tips and precautions.

"A minimum of three to four inches of clear black ice is safe to walk on," advised Good. "If you're unsure about ice thickness in your area call your local bait and tackle shop. You can also look for other people out fishing. Experienced anglers know how to read the ice, so if you're unsure, go where others are or have been."

It is important to know that ice thickness is not always uniform. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice. Good advises anglers to carry a set of ice picks and a spud bar, head out with a partner, and to let someone know where you will be fishing and when you plan on returning home.

For those just starting out, a hand-auger for cutting holes in the ice is the most expensive piece of equipment needed. These can be found at hardware or outdoors stores, or online, for under \$50. A scoop for clearing and keeping holes from freezing over, short ice fishing rods or tip-ups, and hooks, weights, lures, and baits are the other essentials. Safety gear including micro-spikes for traction and a spud bar for testing ice thickness, and sturdy waterproof boots and plenty of layers to keep warm, are also recommended.

No matter where you are in Vermont, an ice fishing opportunity is close by. And a successful ice fishing trip do not have end when the fish stop biting.

"After a fun day on the ice, anglers can also enjoy a healthy meal of tasty, locally caught fish," said Good. "You can find recipes from our Vermont Wild Kitchen partnership for everything from trout to crappie to smelt on the department's *YouTube* channel."

To learn more about ice fishing safety, tips for beginners, and places to fish visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Ice Fishing Basics (<https://vfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/vermonts-ice-fishing-opportunities/ice-fishing-basics>) and Ice Fishing Opportunities (<https://vfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/vermonts-ice-fishing-opportunities>) webpages.

### Vermont 2023 hunting and fishing licenses and lawbooks available

Vermont 2023 hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses, as well as the 2023 lawbooks for these activities, are now available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website and wherever licenses are sold.

License buyers can also easily add a \$15 Habitat Stamp to their purchase to further support habitat conservation in Vermont.

Print copies of the 2023 Hunting & Trapping Lawbook and the 2023 Fishing Lawbook are available from license agents statewide. The department's website (<https://vfishandwildlife.com/>) has links to online versions as well.

*The greatest glory in life  
lies not in falling  
but in rising  
everytime we fall.*

Nelson Mandela

### Registration for Browns River Little League 2023 is open

Registration is now open for the 2023 Browns River Little League season for both boys and girls aged 4-12 in Jericho and Underhill, including both baseball and softball! Register online (only) at [www.brownsriverlittleleague.com](http://www.brownsriverlittleleague.com).

Registration is open through Tuesday, January 31 for 9- to 12-year-old baseball and softball players; and through Wednesday, February 15 for 4- to 8-year-old baseball players, both girls and boys. Early registration is important for league planning so don't delay.

Softball is also coming back again this year after an extremely successful first season for 9- to 12-year-old girls. T-ball/coach pitch baseball is available to girls aged 4-8.

We also need lots of help to make this season a success! If you're interested in being part of our great youth sports program, please reach out to us at [brownsriverll@gmail.com](mailto:brownsriverll@gmail.com), or send league president Casey Knudsen an email at [caseyknudsen@gmail.com](mailto:caseyknudsen@gmail.com). Thank you everyone, and go BRLL!

### Weekly fitness class at Jericho Community Center

Join your friends and neighbors on Thursday evenings throughout the winter for an hour of movement, fun, and laughter as you discover your best body and calm mind in Your Best Body Movement Class at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center on Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM (\$8 per class).

Whether you are an elite athlete or just beginning, we are all the same when it comes to having fun and learning to find our best personal fitness practices. This class strengthens your heart, stomach, back, leg, shoulder, and arm muscles for better balance and safer movement. You'll enjoy greater strength and endurance gains that ease joint pain and enhance all your indoor and outdoor fun and games. We close each class with a bit of Pilates and Yoga techniques that stretch your muscles and soothe your mind.

The sessions are offered by Trish Densham, fitness professional, certified personal trainer, and advocate of all things in motion. To sign up or to find out more, contact Trish at [tdmover@gmail.com](mailto:tdmover@gmail.com) or call/text 802-999-1265.

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Westford, plus  
Hinesburg, Huntington,  
Richmond, Essex  
and Essex Junction.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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

**Jericho United Methodist Church**

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

**United Church of Underhill**

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

**Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville**

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

**Jericho Congregational Church**

Jericho Congregational Church — "An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message" on the Green in Jericho Center, VT. Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson. Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages, Fellowship at 9:30 AM, Worship Service at 10:00 AM. Nursery care provided. Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building. 802-899-4911; [officejcc@comcast.net](mailto:officejcc@comcast.net); [www.jccvt.org](http://www.jccvt.org).

**All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho**

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible — all are welcome! There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. Weekday online offerings include Centering Prayer. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at [www.goodshepherdjericho.org](http://www.goodshepherdjericho.org) or contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas at 802-899-3932 or [pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org](mailto:pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org).

**Calvary Episcopal Church**

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

**St. Thomas Catholic Church**

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

**Waterville Union Church**

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

**The Talk, Vermont**

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide or experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, 988 provides free, confidential, and compassionate support. You are not alone.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and *The Talk, Vermont* invite you into a wide range of topics and conversations concerning bias and bigotry in our state and the ways people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities may overcome them. *The Talk, Vermont* is sponsored by the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, Mount Mansfield Community Television, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and is financially supported by the VT Humanities Council. Hosted by the church and streamed online at 7:00 PM on certain Wednesdays, October 2022-January 2023, and moderated by the Reverend Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Past talks are archived for those who wish to stream them (see below). The program schedule runs through January 2023 as follows:

Postponed to a later date in 2023, not yet determined: Children of Color Who Grew Up with White Parents. In a racially divided nation, and one of the whitest states in the country, the challenges of White parents raising children of another race are daunting. However, the challenges of those children of color being raised by White parents in a racially divided nation in one of the whitest states in the country are equally daunting. Parents and children of such families will share their experiences. Recommended readings: *What White Parents Should Know about Transracial Adoption* by Melissa Guida-Richard; *In Their Voices: Black Americans on Transracial Adoptions* by Rhonda M. Roorda. [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dLwZfpTT6SepDDtkedQow](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dLwZfpTT6SepDDtkedQow)

January 18, 2023, 7:00 PM: A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., 39 Steps. *39 Steps*, a play written by Michael Green, founding producer and director of Shades of Truth Theatre in Harlem, NYC, is about the last week of Dr. King's life before his assassination in Memphis, TN, during which we will explore the personal dimensions of the civil rights leader's thoughts seldom seen in the public eye. Recommended reading: *The Radical King* edited by Cornel West. [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fwKQcLmTfyYSJCQtSTM9Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fwKQcLmTfyYSJCQtSTM9Q)

Other topics, with dates to be determined, include: February 2023: The Voices of Latinx Vermonters. Latinx Vermonters share their common and varied experiences of living in Vermont. Recommended reading: *Drown* by Junot Diaz.

March 2023: White Supremacist Groups in Vermont. We shall discuss the growing prevalence of White supremacist groups in Vermont, the difference between free speech and intimidating hate speech, and what is being done to protect BIPOC residents. Recommended reading: *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson.

April 2023: Developing Black-Owned Agriculture in Vermont. Black farmers share their hopes and challenges of developing Black-owned agriculture in Vermont. Recommended reading: *Freedom Farmers* by Monica White.

May 2023: The Experience of Interracial Families in Vermont. What are the experiences and challenges interracial families encounter in Vermont, especially in areas of the state where the BIPOC population is scarce. Recommended reading: *Race, Sex, and the Freedom to Marry: Loving v. Virginia* by Peter Wallenstein.

June 2023: A Conversation with the Vermont New American Advisory Council. Members of the Vermont New American Advisory Council talk about the hopes, struggles, and support networks of New Americans in Vermont. Recommended reading: *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin.

All programs are archived to stream on demand through the Mount Mansfield Community Television website, at [https://archive.org/details/@mount\\_mansfield\\_community\\_television?query=Racism+in+america](https://archive.org/details/@mount_mansfield_community_television?query=Racism+in+america).

October 5, 2022: Black Republicans in the Era of Trump.  
October 12, 2022: Progressive LGBTQ Church in a Red State.  
November 2, 2022: The Hopes and Challenges of Black Democrats.



*Dreams of winters past... hoping for more snow this winter!*  
PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

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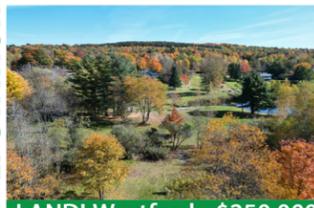
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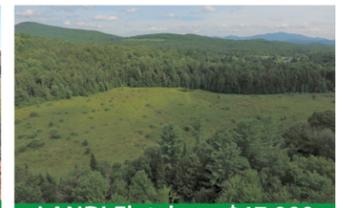
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