Mountain Gazette

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Wisdom for the season

It is the intangible lessons of togetherness and security and community, and a faith that our small world can be touched by one season. With such an end, most any means will do. –
Sue Kusserow

Barb and Matt Paggi, who with partners Don Hall and Charlotte Reed own and operate Barred Woods Maple in Underhill, producing syrup and maple crunch granola.
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Barred Woods Granola

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

About five years ago, Barb and Matt Paggi started sugaring as a hobby on their property in Underhill. Those few taps have grown exponentially and now, after joining together with partners Don Hall and Charlotte Reed, the sugarbush for their Barred Woods Maple has expanded to 2000 taps and their product line has extended to include a new line of maple crunch granola.

"We loved nature and being outdoors and we were transitioning," is how Barb describes the couple's entry into the business. Barb grew up sugaring with her family in northern New York. Both she and Matt are former IBM employees and Barb also worked as a nurse. Don is another former IBMer and Charlotte is still employed there. The foursome has joint ownership of their Poker Hill Road sugarbush and feel strongly about being good stewards of their land.

This year was a big one for Barred Woods, a company which got its named from a barred owl which followed Barb and Matt as they walked through their sugarbush and which they named Emma. "We wanted to do more value-added products," Barb said, "and granola is our breakfast of choice. We thought it would be a good starting point." Matt felt strongly about creating a product that would stay in Vermont. "There's a ton of maple syrup being made," he said, "but most of it leaves the state and we wanted to keep some of it local and combine the healthy product and Vermont brand and that led us to the idea of maple granola." The two flavors currently being sold are maple pecan with pumpkin seeds and cranberries, and maple pecan with almonds and raisins. Additional flavors are being contemplated.

Initially Barb worked on the recipe at home, trying out new varieties on family and friends, but soon she realized she needed a commercial kitchen which led her to the Center for Agricultural Economy in Hardwick. A local college student named Kristen Carl helped develop the company logo. Although the product is a new one, the response has been already been positive. "Sales have been very good," Barb said. "It's taken off both locally and beyond." Businesses in Delaware, New Jersey, and New York sell Barred Woods syrup, and this year the Paggis will be heading to Delaware to present their new product at a public tasting event. The granola can be purchased from the Barred Woods website and at Shaw's, but the company is hoping that they can be a presence at other retail venues, as well.

Matt explained that there is really no start or finish to a sugaring year. Gathering firewood is a year-round endeavor but other activities are seasonal. In the fall, the partners clean out the woods and ensure that all their tubing is still intact since sometimes moose trample the lines and squirrels chew on them. Barred Woods still has some buckets, but tubing takes up the majority of their sap. The company has switched to smaller taps, which have less impact on the trees. The partners insert the taps in early February and collect sap through that month and March and sometimes into April. They spend mud season doing clean-up and then during the summer they begin to make decisions for the following year. Work on the business plan takes place year-round.

Both Barb and Matt feel strongly about caring for their sugarbush. They have been involved with the Cold Hollow to Canada project, the vision of which is "a healthy and intact forested landscape that supports a strong and sustainable local economy through stewardship, with protection of core wildlife habitat and connectivity across the entire Northern Forest." They have also had some exploratory discussions with the Vermont Land Trust and are working to become part of the Audubon Society's Bird-Friendly Maple program. "We have a conservation interest as well as a sugaring and forestry interest," said Matt. "These lands can be managed for both timber and habitat. It all starts with a love of nature."

Jericho Elementary School students create Kindness Gardens!

Students at JES decorated rocks as part of the global project, #thekindnessrocksproject. This project encourages small acts of kindness to boost someone's day! The idea – that a message on a rock can shift a person's mindset – is powerful. Students brainstormed positive messages that would encourage a growth mindset, and decorated their rocks with uplifting art. Students and staff gathered around our "Peace Pole" on the playground to place rocks. In addition, the fourth graders made additional rocks to create a welcoming area at the front of our building for all incoming visitors. We hope that even when the snow covers the ground, you'll take a moment to uncover a positive message to brighten your day!

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Forest Service encourages snowmobile travelers to exercise caution

With additional snow expected in the coming weeks, the U.S. Forest Service is looking forward to a successful snowmobile season and wants to encourage all riders to put safety first. Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) officials are recommending that snowmobilers exercise caution when operating on the National Forest, and all lands, in Vermont this winter. GMNF officials remind snowmobile enthusiasts to heed to all gates and signs and to stay off roads and trails that are closed.

Weather permitting, snowmobile use is allowed on designated trails within the GMNF for four months beginning on Saturday, December 16, 2017 and ending on Sunday, April 15, 2018. "We are concerned about user safety. Patrols which are aimed at enforcing rules and regulations, monitoring trail conditions, and providing visitor information will occur throughout the Forest," said John Sinclair, Forest Supervisor for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. The GMNF will continue to work closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) to make sure that users of the trail system are respectful, responsible, law abiding, and safe.

The GMNF and VAST cooperate to maintain more than 470 miles of National Forest System trails that are part of the larger statewide snowmobile network. VAST is one of a few snowmobile associations in the United States that has a cooperative partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. "All of these trails allow mixed uses, so people are snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing, as well as using snowmobiles. Snowmobilers should travel responsibly and yield to other users," said Sinclair. The maximum speed is 35 miles per hour on state and federal land and Vermont has a tough Snowmobiling While Intoxicated Law that covers alcohol, as well as drugs.

The U.S. Forest Service is also warning the public of the dangers associated with riding, hiking, and skiing on frozen water bodies. Trail users are encouraged to be mindful of fallen trees and other hazards they may encounter. Operators must maintain control of their snowmobile while riding; keep to the right at all times.

Jericho – but where? *If you ever saw him...*

Gary Irish correctly identified last week's mystery photo as the Jericho Country Store. Gary writes, "One of the things that comes to mind even today whenever I go in the store is back when I was first allowed to ride a bicycle on the road, probably when I was around 11 or 12, riding over to the store with a friend. We bought something, probably a bottle of pop, from Roy Newton, who owned it [Jericho Country Store] back then, and went out on the porch to drink it. In just a minute, Roy came rushing out to yell at us to get away from the windows, as he was afraid we would do something to break one of them. It wasn't that we were doing anything at all, but just that he was a Nervous Nellie, at least when it came to his front windows. I've been in there many times in the years since, but that is the one thing that stuck in my mind about the store."

Given that the store was established in 1907 we bet there are many more stories about the store, the past and current owners, and the many social interactions that occur today at the beloved country store. The *Snowplow* breakfast sandwich was my introduction to the store and once I swallowed the bait I was hooked. The deli food, VT artifacts in every nook and corner including the old checkerboard often set in play, wide assortment of goods including VT made products, and a most cheerful and friendly/neighborly crew to greet you – a real country store. Hope to see you there sometime soon – in the store or across the street on the lovely green with tables, trees, and time for you to relax and visit as one is drawn to do at a social hub like Jericho Country Store.

Regarding this week's mystery photo – Have you seen this guy? Check your yard and rooftop especially on Christmas Eve. He surely gets around. There are telltale signs that he's been in your yard: if you are good you find presents under your Christmas tree, if you are not so good, you find reindeer poop all over your yard. Email me at *bernie.paquette@yahoo.com* with the name of the famous character in the photo *and your own story about him* so we can publish the answer in the next edition. Hint: He has seven close friends – all very popular this time of year.

Bernie Paquette and Maeve Kim collaborate on discovering by observation, then sharing, photos and stories that make Jericho, like Vermont, a special place because you make it so! To see more of their work, visit Jerichovermont.blogspot.com.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Seasons Greetings from the staff at

The Mountain Gazette

COMING EVENTS

This photo of a Pileated Woodpecker by Pamela Underhill is part of the Audubon Photography Award Traveling Exhibit that will come to Burlington Monday, January 22-Tuesday, February 6. The exhibit will be held at One Main Lobby, Main Street Landing's Union Station, 1 Main St., Burlington, and will be open to the public every day from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. There will be a reception on Friday, February 2, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

PHOTO BY PAMELA UNDERHILL

Friday, December 29

Tarot Readings with Rachel, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Join us for a Jungian-inspired tarot reading with Rachel, who has been reading tarot for six years and whose approach draws from the concept that we can access collective symbols and archetypes from our unconscious that can assist in guiding our intuition. Rachel has an MA in clinical mental health counseling from Antioch University New England and has a private psychotherapy practice. Readings are first come, first served, and are for entertainment purposes only. Suggested donation $5-10. For information, *www.phoenixbooks.biz* or 448-3350.

Wednesday, January 3

Wednesday Story Time, 10:00 AM, Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael St., Essex. Join us every Wednesday through March 28 for timeless tales and new adventures to enjoy with your little ones. Each week we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite, to read aloud together. Free and open to all ages. Information: *www.phoenixbooks.biz* or 448-3350.

Saturday, January 6

Saturday Story Time, 11:00 AM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Join us every Saturday through March 31 for timeless tales and new adventures to enjoy with your little ones. Each week we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite, to read aloud together. Free and open to all ages. Information: *www.phoenixbooks.biz* or 448-3350.

Next Community Soup and Bread Supper Thursday, February 1

2018 is fast approaching. Plan ahead and mark your new calendars: the first Thursday of the month Free Community Soup and Bread Supper will again be offered in February. On Thursday, February 1, 2018, a variety of hearty soups and breads, plus a sweet dessert will be served between 4:30 – 6:30 PM at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex, just beyond the Jericho/Essex line. Stay at the church to enjoy your meal with friends and family, or pick up to take home. For more information call Pastor Jeannette Conver, 879-4313.

Please note, there will be no First Thursday supper in January. See you February 1!

Christmas and Christmas Eve services

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – All families are welcome at the annual Christmas Eve service at the meeting house, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, across from Packard Rd. The one-hour service on Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 PM will include stories, meditations, carols, and candles.

United Church of Fairfax – Please join us for a family-friendly Christmas Eve service, 4:30 PM, Sunday, December 24. Children's pageant, carols, warmth, love, and joy. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Puppies, ice, and alcohol

By Doug Boardman
Special to the Mountain Gazette

My sister Viv and I were quite creative and somewhat adventurous. You have to be that way when you are limited to sticks, stones, assorted turds (cow flops were preferred, especially dried), and empty cans to play with. One of our favorite places to play was an old ice chest with various metal compartments that had outside latches on them. I remember inside the compartments smelled like spoiled butter. Of course, we were told to never play in it because we might latch ourselves in, so my sister and I devised a system to unlock the latches from the inside. We couldn't open our own compartment with the system but we could open each other's. We had a network of twine which was kind of old and normally would hold together unless it broke or got tangled, but we always had a backup plan so it wasn't as dangerous as it looked. We had fun playing in that for awhile until we left a string still hanging and then our parents found out and took all the doors off and threw them away.

Another favorite place to play was in top of the barn – which was strictly forbidden, because it had no floor except for some pieces of picket fence stacked on top of joists. We had a basket with five puppies in it and we decided to climb up to top of barn and play on the picket fence. I got Viv settled on a safe place with the puppies and tried to go back down to get something else to play with. I fell through a space between two rows of the pointed ends of the picket fence and gashed my back in five places. I fell about fifteen feet but my back hurt so bad, I didn't think about any other areas. I howled and my mother ran out, saw my bloody back, ran back inside and out with alcohol which she poured on my long gashes. I screamed and hollered, jumped up and down like a rooster with his head cut off. I felt like I was an Indian undergoing a tribal ritual with fire. It also reminded me of the time my cousin put turpentine on a cat's ass and the cat ran away like a cheetah on fire and we never saw him again.

I mistakenly thought my father would think I suffered enough but my brief moment of happiness disappeared when he got home. When it came to corporal punishment, he was a four-star general. As usual, my sister got off scot free. Talk about gender bias!

Mistletoe, ornaments, and other holiday hazards

By Lewis First, MD
Chief of Pediatrics at UVM Children's Hospital.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
If you eat this plant it won't be jolly,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

It's the holiday season once again. What better time to review some simple things you can do to keep you and your children safe and sound!

First, if you have a tree, secure it well to keep it from tipping. If it is a live tree, make sure it's fresh, green, well-watered, and the needles are hard to pull off. The drier the tree, the more of a fire hazard it is. In fact, keep a live tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources. If it is an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.

Keep no more than three strands of lights linked together on an extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metal tree – or you're in for a shocking experience. Don't forget to inspect those light strings each year for frayed cords, broken sockets, or loose connections.

Keep the small bulbs, ornaments, and tinsel high in the tree so children don't try to eat them and choke.

If there are children in the home, avoid candles or keep them out of reach of small children. Turn off all lights and blow out all candles when you sleep or leave the house. This will avoid a potential fire hazard. Also, it's always a good idea to make sure your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors are working.

Most holiday plants are safe, but remember that mistletoe and holly berries eaten in excess can be dangerous. If your child does snack on a holiday plant, you can always call the Northern New England Poison Center at 1-800 222-1222.

When you host a party in your home, don't forget to clean up the night of the party. That will remove alcohol or small snack foods that can be choking hazards the morning after.

To wrap up… (to the tune of *the Dreidel Song*):

I hope that with this safety knowledge
You will not flip your lids.
This is pediatrician Dr. Lewis First
Hoping you'll be First with Kids!

Christmas

By Sue Kusserow
Special to the Mountain Gazette
(Reprised from about 20 years ago)

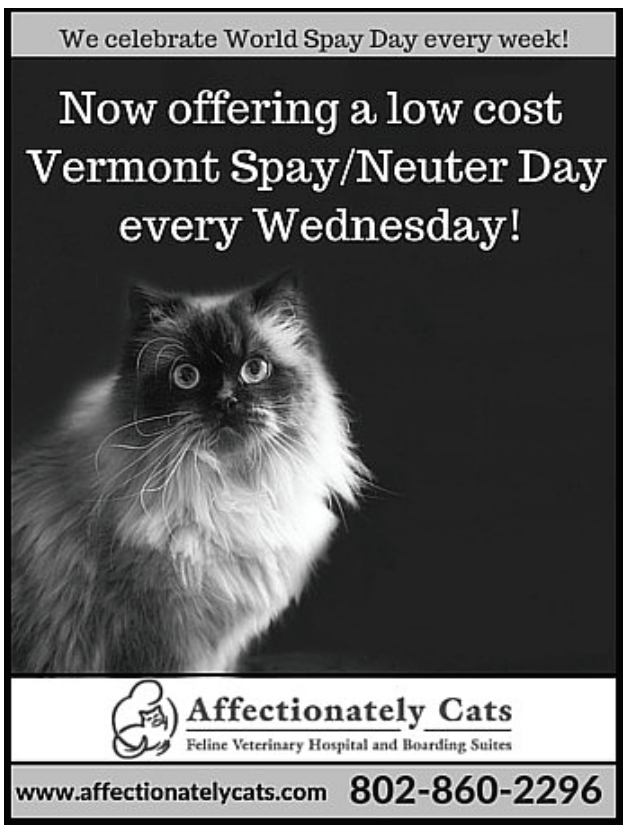
After years of having a huge 17-foot Balsam grace half of the living room, with its high cathedral ceiling, my husband and I decided it was too much work: the cutting, the dragging, the lighting, the decorations, and above all – at the very exhausted end of all this – tossing the tinsel on, hoping it wouldn't look too clumpy. My granddaughter Ana insisted that we have a tree. "If you don't, Gramma, I will go up to the woods and cut one for you and drag it down and put on lights and decorate it for you. You have to have a tree!" And so it was that my son Karl and his son George, visiting for Thanksgiving, were duly commissioned to listen to his niece – and her mother (their sister and aunt, respectively)… a powerful combination that obviously was to be obeyed. They found a young Balsam that had never been pruned and was enjoying its life among a grove of similar upstarts near the house. It took ten pulls on the bow saw and down it came. Unfortunately, for Karl, this did not please him. "I thought we were going to have a good hike, get into the woods, and drag a giant tree down through the snow, à la Currier and Ives." But despite the truncated procedure, the smaller tree did make it down the hill and into the house. The troubles began. "Where did you get this tree-stand, Mom? It has two holding screws missing, and it's so crooked the tree keeps falling over. Unfortunately, your tall grandson cannot stay here until Christmas, holding it up." So there was a small trip to the hardware store, and $18.99 later there was a shiny new red tree-stand, just about the time I found another one (down in the basement in the corner) labeled "Xmas stuff." Anyway, the tree did stand upright just fine, and the money seemed well invested.

Next joy: getting the lights on – "Mom, do you have any fuses? You know, those little things that go into the plug so the lights stay on. No?" I unraveled another bunch of lights that I had hastily packed away last January, now dangling drunkenly from a nail on the basement wall. That took me at least half an hour, and a glass of wine, and a great deal of muttering, which evidently my granddaughter found quite amusing. "Now," I said, "we need to test the lights." At which point Ana tightened a few bulbs that promptly made loud popping noises and lost all life. I had plenty of spares; I have a habit of getting to the stores right after Christmas, so I can collect bargains for next year. We needed to avoid "blinkies," since they drive my husband nuts, but we had plenty of reds… practically no blues. Oh, well. After draping the lights come the decorations. Grandson Will hung over the edge of the balcony to drop a few down on the tree, and actually had very few breakages. The top, cut a little short by the other grandson, was decorated by one of a number of crocheted medicine cups, a very clever use of resources and quite nice looking… until I finally found the stuffed dove with the bright red heart hanging from her beak that traditionally went on to cover the spike on the top. The heart, unfortunately, had disappeared, but the dove seemed just fine.

From then on it went quite smoothly, except for Karl's comment about the condition and uselessness of my ancient vacuum cleaner that was necessary to clean up last year's old needles that still clung to the lights and decorations. The lights actually went on, in a triumphant moment, much to everyone's pleasure (and relief).

And now I am sitting next to this living monument to the love of my collective family, watching the one permissible "blinkie" livening up the tree. Two ornaments are what is left from my childhood tree, in memory of my mother. There is a reflective glass ball, courtesy of a skilled craftsperson in Jericho; and a small frame holding the photo of another granddaughter, then two, now twenty. Several ornaments bear the trademark of preschool years: dough birds, lopsided tiny trees, a bleary-eyed Santa with a bright red beard, all painted with enthusiasm and lack of skill. A drummer boy in stained-glass pieces beats time on a lower branch. A carved slim piece of wood in the shape of the state of Oregon reminds me of my year as a visiting professor there, with a wonderful group of graduate nurses. Crystals claimed from an old chandelier at the Salvage Shop in Essex are in need of washing, but still glisten nicely. Someone made a Santa Claus head from a tiny gourd, the stem painted red as Santa's cap, with a cotton ball at the end for good measure. Our year in Zimbabwe is remembered by a wooden cross carved by a blind man at the side of a rural road on the way to the Elephant Park.

So the past joins with the new tree, as an example of what this holiday signifies. I do not give presents, except to the young Santa Claus believers. Thus, this tree will crown nothing but some cards signifying that a pair of rabbits has been sent to Somalia "on your behalf," or a toddler is getting a special book remembered from my childhood. This sparse, open-grown light-blessed little tree is very much like Charlie Brown's arthritic, parched, cachectic branch: its beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I am sure that your Balsam, or Fraser Fir, or even Scotch Pine, will be magnificent, and of course you and I will both give thanks equally for the freedom to erect such a symbol. So, with carols singing their way across the radio waves, and the wood stove crackling warmly, from my tree to your tree, Merry Christmas!



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COMMUNITY COLUMN

Christmas revisited

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

(Reprised from about 20 years ago)

So, you thought Christmas was all over! The tree has dried into gentle collapse, some of the lights are out, the wrapping paper has either been refolded to preserve for next year when you probably can't find it… or burned; a binding has broken on that new pair of skis. But I would like to correct a lapse of mine… or rather, a discovery among my rather ratty files, of an essay I wrote years ago… and which I still love. It brings back so many memories from Underhill Central School, when my middle son was "the biggest in his class and therefore a wise man," and my daughter was a "brown-eyed angel." This brings the date to Christmas 1972, which I realize is a huge leap in time, but for some of the now-older parents and former thespians in Underhill, I hope this recalls pleasant memories.

It is the last night of school before the Christmas break. We mothers come early – a relative time when judged by light in Vermont; it is now dark by four o'clock. We bring our angels and wise men and elves in their common disguise as school children; the accouterments to effect the coming metamorphosis are piled in the trunks of many converging, frosty cars. Most of the children hold tattered and creased pages of lines, smeared with jelly and dimmed by a trip or two through the washer. We have all been practicing the *Entry Song of the Elves*, as well as familiar carols that we mothers had learned from years of hugging them to our hearts, now acting as vessels for the traditions of both a larger world and our smaller ones.

The school smells of fresh coffee, dry heat, wet mittens, mimeo ink, and the resin of Balsam. Various sized actors begin the transformation from snowmobile suits to Santa's helpers. Experienced mothers come completely equipped with scissors, sewing baskets, pipe cleaners, magic markers (washable), eyebrow pencils for instant aging of the wise men, masking tape for stifling the chronic molt of angels' wings. I personally have one angel, because she has big melting brown eyes, one wise man, because he is the biggest in his fourth grade class, and one older brother now in middle school, trying to maintain the superior stance that such elevation deserves yet missing the bustle and camaraderie that only short months ago were his. Like all communal small-school mothers, we patch, rehearse, calm, discipline, and encourage anyone who needs, from our viewpoint, any of the aforementioned physical or emotional ministrations.

Underhill Central School quiets; each class presents its idea of Christmas, shaped by each teacher's individuality. No one seems concerned that there are Jews and atheists and agnostics of various sorts and strengths in the audience. Christmas is presents and trees heavy with wet snow and baby Jesus and elves and Scrooge's well-publicized about-face. It is the intangible lessons of togetherness and security and community, and a faith that our small world can be touched by one season. With such an end, most any means will do.

The lines get muffed and other kids giggle and blush and can't understand why the audience only smiles quietly; they know mistakes will not always stay that blessedly small. And each mother leans forward and mouths her child's lines, tapping her fingers in a telepathic effort to speed the straggling chorus up to the tinny piano notes. The baby Jesus is someone's doll in a pastel-striped baby blanket and one of the wise men is recognized as the leftover ends from newly made living room drapes. The relief, at the last speech, by the oldest and most reliable fourth grader, is palpable. Wings collapse, paper-gold crowns and greenwood staffs are discarded; boys, asserting their nascent manhood, grumble audibly and obviously to their buddies about getting the eyebrow pencil off, while girls pirouette with marks of rouge brightening their cheeks and tinsel in their braids. All wait for, and pretend to ignore, the praise of parents about their budding acting and singing potential, and then head for the poinsettia-papered tables to judge which cookies are the most appealing to both the outer eye and the inner palate.

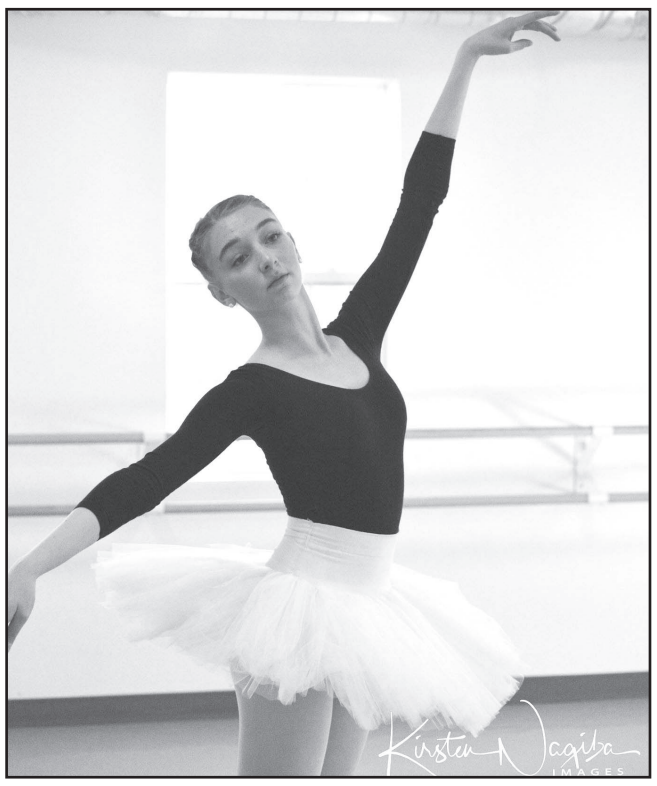
The scraping of chairs, the cacophony of relieved accomplishment, are stopped short by a "Ho, Ho, Ho!" from a ludicrous Santa in a cherry-red flannel suit donated long ago by the PTA, smelling of mothballs and summer-attic heat. The principal is easily identified by his boots below the cotton batten edges of the bright knickers and also by the physiological impossibility of a thin person trying to look fat. The padding balloons at his middle make him look like a marshmallow on toothpicks and his pristine white nylon beard wobbles and glistens in the light, uncertainly hooked over his ears. The tree, a chubby Balsam donated by a quiet family who trudged their frozen swampland to bring in their yearly offering, is bottom-heavy with construction paper chains and cutouts of stars, and Santas on pipe cleaners. And surprise! Guess what is under the tree: the worst-kept secret of the evening – a bag of presents, appropriately marked for each grade and gender, wrapped the evening before in a last-minute teachers' marathon. Of course, there are candy canes for the small siblings that had wiggled onto Daddy's lap until fussiness transferred them to Mother. One of the first social graces learned in a small school is to "Say Thank You to Santa" as a heavy-lidded child presses shyly into his mother's lap, a thumb in his mouth, while reaching for the candy cane with the other.

It is stuffy and hot and the coffee smells burnt and someone's small one is crying from the aftermath of excitement. The evening is ending. The piano gathers us with "… sleep in Heavenly Peace" and we all stand and bring our children in close. The room lights dash out and the tree rejuvenates in the darkness, glowing watermelon red and greens and electric blues. Together we sing, firmly on the first verse, reaching for and petering out on the high "Peace" … tentatively on the second verse, thinking out the words, relaxing on the chorus. I am singing softly in German as I sang many years ago, and my kids look up at me with that perplexed censoring look, deserved when a parent does not conform. But they come in close as if to protect me from my own oddities. The last note gentles in the heat, preserving itself for a moment and a forever, until the lights snap on and break into our eyes and the exodus begins… our own personal journeys of the Magi.

The cold cuts into layers of down, inexorably and swiftly dissipating the radiator toastiness of mittens and caps. Plumes of exhaust blow into the night as each car coughs its way onto the snowy road. Our lane is pure; we are the first car to track it and the dry below-zero snow flies away in wings beside the car windows. Our kids, all three, are huddled on the old-fashioned bench front seat. No one speaks. One large star hangs over the nose of Mount Mansfield and bids the others to cluster on the mountain top; as we drive up our lane of giant maples, they catch in the frozen branches like a thousand birds of light.

We tuck our children into bed, and the silence surrounds me. The moon jewels a cloud and throws heron-blue shadows in pools under the trees. Intellectually, I know that the moon is very cold and very far away. Rationally, I know that it does not give warmth. Yet, in my heart, that night in Underhill, I was sure that it did.

Dedicated to Gladys Kingsbury, Rose Lindner, Alan Pasell, Janet Stecklare, Carl Driscoll, Mary Balch, and the many other teachers and staff who took care of our kids.



Julia Spensley of Jericho, VT performed the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in two performances of the Vermont Ballet Theater and School's full length production of* The Nutcracker *at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, on Saturday-Sunday, December 16-17. She partnered with Samuel Wilson of Washington (D.C.) National Opera, who returned as the Cavalier.

PHOTO BY KIRSTEN NAGIBA

United Way of Northwest Vermont volunteer opportunities

By Sue Alenick, United Way Volunteer Columnist

GIVE THE GIFT OF TIME! United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to *www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com* or contact us at *volctr@unitedwaynwvt.org* or 860-1677 to find a more needs.

HOTLINE HELP – Steps to End Domestic Violence needs help to connect people in Chittenden County to a variety of life-changing resources. Duties range from advocacy and support to helping individuals find housing. Training and background check required. Contact Morgan Wagner, *morgan@stepsvt.org* or 658-3131 ext. 1068

DESIGN/MARKETING – Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is looking for a volunteer with a background in design or marketing to create a new rack card. One-time project that requires your own computer and software. Flexible schedule. Contact Allison DeVoe, *adevoe@vermonthabitat.org* or 318-7533.

CARING PRESENCE – at Franklin County Home Health Agency hospice, volunteers are important members of the team that provides care to people at the end of life. Give respite to family members and companionship for the patients. An eight-hour training session is required and will take place this spring. For more information contact Nancy Delude, 393-6721 or *info@fchha.org*.

DOG LODGE – Good Karma Rescue is building a new dog lodge to house the dogs in their care and need two to three volunteers with building skills to help with the construction. Flexible scheduling. Contact Teal Church, 595-5110 or *goodkarmarescue@gmail.com.*

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN – Prevent Child Abuse Vermont needs volunteers to help advocate for children in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Volunteers should be comfortable working within the Court System on behalf of children. Six to ten hours per month. Training provided. Contact Mary Fletcher Stanley, 802-309-2515 or *mstanley@pcavt.org.*

RING IN THE NEW – First Night Burlington needs volunteers to help make this annual celebration happen. Choose from the tasks that most appeal to you: Site Assistants, Button Sellers, Art Assistants, Dancing Dragon, Office Assistants, and Shuttle Assistants. Shifts are about three hours long. Volunteers receive a free First Night button. Pre-event volunteers are also needed. Contact Muffie Milens, 863-6005 or *muffie@firstnightburlington.com.*

FIRST RUN – RunVermont needs volunteer help for its 30th annual First Run 5K and Youth Fun Run on January 1, 2018. Volunteers can staff the registration table, help with children's activities, help with food set up, and more. A great, festive way to start the New Year! Contact Chuck Spear, 863-8412 or *volunteer@runvermont.org.*

Welcome home!

Erin (Bralich) Lawrence and Dr. Michael J. Chamberland of Essex, VT had a son, Nash Anthony Chamberland, on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT. At birth, Nash weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces. He joins his 2.5-year-old sister, Hatteras. Nash was also welcomed by his maternal grandparents James and Susan Bralich of Bolton Valley, VT and paternal grandparents Raymond and Julie Chamberland of Bellows Falls, VT.

Send your news, births, engagements, weddings, obits, and events to *mtgazette@earthlink.net* or call Brenda at 802-453-6354

Mountain High Pizza Pie
Monday 4:00 - 8:00 PM
Tuesday - Thursday
11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Friday - 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday
11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Sunday
4:00 - 8:00 PM
899-3718
Route 15, Jeri-Hill Plaza
Jericho

The Mountain Gazette
6558 VT Rt 116 Starksboro, VT 05487
(802) 453-6354 • *mtgazette@earthlink.net*

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Maximum 450 words; one letter per writer, per calendar month.
Must be signed for attribution with writer's address and phone number.
Send your news to
mtgazette@earthlink.net, www.mtngazettevt.com

Area Worship Services

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Fellowship at 10:30 am
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Dec. 17 – Lessons & Carols, 8 am & 11 am
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Morning Service, 9 am, Children's Christmas Pageant, 6 pm & Candlelight Service, 9 pm
Dec. 25 – Come to the Manger Service, 7 am
Signing for the deaf upon request
899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

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Health programs and classes at Northwestern Medical Center

ONGOING

Cancer Exercise Rehab Group – Ongoing every Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 – 11:00 AM, NMC Rehab gym, Cobblestone Building. Featuring Wendy Lawrence, certified NMC Oncology Rehab Physical Therapist. Pre-registration required; call 524-1064. Free for the first 8 weeks, then $40. A physical therapy evaluation is required to assure that the client is able to participate. This class pinpoints the common needs of patients, which include decreased range of motion, decreased strength, and cancer-related fatigue.

Prenatal Fitness, every Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30 PM, NMC Wellness & Fitness Room. Featuring Stephanie Preedom, AFAA. Pre-registration required; contact Stephanie, 802-288-1141 or *stephanie.preedom@gmail.com.* Free to Northwestern OB/GYN patients. Northwestern OB/GYN offers these free prenatal exercise sessions to strengthen and prepare you for a successful birthing experience. Join other moms as we lead you through a customized routine designed to make you feel energized and confident. Please consult a physician before beginning this exercise program.

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

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

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

Have You Lost a Loved One to Suicide? Second Thursday of every month, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Northwestern Medical Center's Grand Isle Room. Pre-registration required; free. If the answer to the question is "yes," please consider attending a free, confidential group that meets monthly in St. Albans. Everyone in the group, including its facilitators, has had someone close to them take their life and knows how devastating that experience can be. You can just come and listen to others share what they are going through and how they are coping or you can share your own story. The choice is always yours to do what feels best to you. For more information on dates, times, and location or to answer any questions you may have call Tony, 802-393-6503.

Chronic Disease Support Group Workshops: Various times and locations. Pre-registration required; contact Deb Robertson, 524-1031 or *drobertson@nmcinc.org*. Free. Are you or someone you know living with a chronic health condition? Then the Healthier Living Workshop is for you! Learn to feel better by learning how to deal with frustration, fatigue, and pain, manage symptoms and medications, and improve strength and flexibility. Each session is 2½ hours once a week, for six weeks.

Grief and Recovery Support Group, first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Franklin County Home Health Office, St. Albans, 3 Home Health Circle. Pre-registration required; call Lori Wright, 527-7531. Free. Experiencing a loss can be painful to face alone. Franklin County Home Health's Grief and Recovery Support Group serves as a safe place to share feelings with others who are coping with grief. This support group is offered free of charge to anyone who would like to talk to others and help one another. It also provides a resource for grief education in our community.

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

Alzheimer's Support Group: last Tuesday of each month, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Franklin Room. Pre-registration required. Free. This group is for those with Alzheimer's and caregivers, family members, and friends and is facilitated by Amanda Wilson. Please call the 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit *alz.org/Vermont* to confirm details.

Parkinson's Support Group: second Tuesday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Pillsbury Senior Community, conference room next to the library on the first floor, 3 Harborview Dr., St. Albans. Pre-registration not required. Contact Pat, 802-524-5520, or Judy 815-895-2312. Free. This group is open to those with Parkinson's and their caregivers including family and loved ones. The monthly meetings can provide an open forum to share experience with others who are coping with Parkinson's disease, gaining education and support. Wheelchair accessible.

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

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

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

Baby Bumps Support Group for Mothers and Pregnant Women, second and fourth Monday of the month, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Family Birthing Center. Pre-registration required. Contact Rhonda Desrochers at Franklin County Home Health Agency, 802-527-7531. Free. Pregnancy can be a wonderful time of your life. But it can also be a time of stress that is often compounded by hormonal swings. If you are a pregnant woman, or have recently given birth and feel you need some help with managing the emotional bumps in the road that can come with motherhood, please come to this free support group led by an experienced pediatric Registered Nurse. This group is for both pregnant women and mothers. Presented jointly by Franklin County Home Health Agency, Northwest Counseling and Support Services, Northwestern Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health.

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

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

JANUARY 2018

Living Strong in Vermont Program (Light Strength Training), Tuesdays and Thursdays (call Lynne Marie, 868-3748), January 2-March 20, 4:00 – 5:00 PM; or Mondays and Wednesdays (call Louise Doyle at 527-2194), January 3-March 21, 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Location: Hawk's Nest Senior Housing, Community Room, St. Albans. Pre-registration required; call numbers above to register or for more information. Free. This strength training course has been designed for those over the age of 40 to reduce the effects of osteoporosis, but participants of all ages are welcome. After age 40, we begin to lose a half-pound of muscle mass each year. By age 65, an inactive person has lost as much as one third of their muscle mass leading to frailty and increased risk of osteoporosis. Strength training can rebuild lost muscle and strength, while increasing bone density. Through a series of simple chair based or standing weight-bearing exercises, you will build bone and muscle strength. This is not an aerobics fitness program. Participants must have had a physical exam in the past year and will need their physician's approval to participate.

Tai Chi Classes, Mondays, January 8-March 12, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (first class), 5:15 – 6:15 PM (second class), Northwestern Medical Center Wellness and Fitness Room (Conference Center). Pre-registration required; Contact Faith, 524-1217 or *fdubois@nmcinc.org* for more information. Fee: $80 for 10-week session. Tai Chi is a form of gentle, guided movement that is sometimes referred to as "meditation in motion" and can aid in reducing stress and anxiety. It has also been found to improve balance and promote a sense of wellbeing. This 10-week program is open to all ages. A physical authorization is required, so please sign up by December 15.

The Franklin County Diabetes Support Group, Monday, January 8, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (luncheon meeting); 5:00 – 6:30 PM (dinner meeting), NMC Conference Center, Green Mountain Room (Conference Room 1). Featuring Lindsay Hoar, RD, CD. Free. This topic for this months' program is Alzheimer's Disease and Nutrition. At each meeting a complimentary meal is provided during the first half hour and the presentation takes place in the hour following. To RSVP please call Debbie, 524-1031.

Diabetes and You, Tuesdays, January 9-February 6, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Swanton Public Library (King's Daughters Room). Pre-registration required. Contact Deborah Robertson, 524-1031. Fee: NMC will bill your insurance for the course fee. Scholarships available. No one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay. Join us at this self-management educational series for people with diabetes and their families, proven to help people improve control of this disease. Learn how to keep diabetes from controlling your life and improve your blood sugar control to feel better and delay or prevent complications.

Vermont Quit Partners Fresh Start Tobacco Cessation Class: Thursdays, January 11-February 1, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Northwestern Georgia Health Center. Pre-registration required. To sign up for a session call Chari, 524-8480. Free. Join others for this four-session series to help you successfully quit smoking. Sessions include: understanding why you have an addiction and how to quit; mastering the first few days, mastering obstacles; and staying quit and enjoying it forever. As a Vermont resident, you can get free patches, gum and lozenges.

Breastfeeding and You: Thursday, January 11, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, The Family Birth Center Conference Room at NMC. Registration: Please call 524-7971. Free. Department of Health's FREE Breastfeeding Prep Class for you, family members, and other moms-to-be to plan for breastfeeding your newborn in the first month of life. Personalize your breastfeeding plan, line up your support, go over the basics, ask questions and get real-life answers. You can do it, WIC can help!

Movement for Parkinson's Disease: Friday, January 19, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Homestead at Pillsbury Manor. Registration/information: contact Sarah, 802-881-9673 or *saramcm28@gmail.com*, or Patty Rugg, *patrica_rugg18@comcast.net.* Free. Offered for people with Parkinson's disease and their care partners, this dance class is designed to engage participants' minds and bodies through many styles of dance, while exploring stretching, muscle strengthening, postural stability, and rhythm through instruction and energizing music. The class is offered in a relaxed social environment that emphasizes enjoyment, fun and creativity, with an eye towards connecting with the community. No dance experience required. No charge, donation appreciated.

Heart Healthy Classes: Wednesday, January 24, 10:30 – 11:00 AM, Cobblestone Health Commons Cardiac Rehab Gym. Registration: Please call 524-8849. Free. This heart healthy nutrition class discusses nutrition and meal planning guidelines to promote behavioral change for weight, cholesterol and blood pressure management.

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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
UNDERHILL

We are open on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Stop in for an afternoon of library enjoyment.

Mah Jongg at DRML – We play Mah Jongg on the first and third Mondays of each month. Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like card games, you'll probably love Mah Jongg!

Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM; closed Monday.

For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962. DRML is located at 8 River Rd., Jericho; *www.drml.org*.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Our new library director is Lisa Buckton. Please come in and say hello!

Board meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:15 PM at Jericho Town Library. All are welcome to attend.

Jericho Town Library is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM; and Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information on programs and library services, please visit our website at *www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org* or give us a call at 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY
JEFFERSONVILLE

Weekly Crafting Circle, Mondays, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Come and enjoy fiber and fabric with craft novices, as well as folks who have enjoyed handwork arts for their lifetimes! Have a project you're already working on? Bring it in and share your expertise and enthusiasm.

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

Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; website *www.westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com*; email *westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com*. Like us on Facebook. 878-5639, Bree Drapa, Librarian.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Looking for artists and collectors: We are currently scheduling our walls and display case for 2018 shows. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, contact us to choose your month. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of thimbles, pokemon cards, miniature trains, bird nests, or anything else that would fit in our case that you might be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Call or email.

December Display: Marilyn Cochran Brown has shared special woodcuts made by Japanese school children in the 1970s. The woodcuts depict winter athletes, including Barbara Cochran, 1972 Olympic gold medalist. They were given to the Cochran family by the Japanese Olympic organizing committee. Several of the pieces were on display at the American Embassy in Japan for six months in 2016.

All decorated for the holidays: Thank you to the many young artists who decorated a cutout tree for our walls. We have green trees, purple trees, rainbow trees, and trees with glitter, stickers, and stars. Hanging together on the walls they make a colorful and merry sight indeed. If you decorated a tree come find yours on the wall and admire those of your friends and neighbors.

Thank you to the Friends of the Richmond Free Library for helping us update and refresh our picture book non-fiction section this fall. We have many new titles on favorite subjects, like fire trucks, dinosaurs, ballerinas, trains, hurricanes, and koala bears. There are also new children's poetry books in this section by such greats at Dickenson, Frost, Shakespeare, and Whitman.

Adult Playaways – Playaways aren't just for kids! Stop at the circulation desk and view our new acquisitions and try out the new audiobook format. It works with earbuds or auxiliary cables and doesn't require changing CDs!

Book Discussions – Tuesday, January 9, 6:00 PM: The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey. A wonderful, heartwarming, sad, and beautifully told bewitching tale based on a Russian fairytale titled *Snegurochka*, *The Snow Maiden*, a girl who is believed to be half-human and half made of snow. Thursday, January 18, 7:00 PM: Borkmann's Point by Häkan Nesser. Internationally bestselling author Häkan Nesser makes his U.S. debut with this riveting tale of murder and suspense that reveals the deep humanity of the characters portrayed even as it sends chills up the spine.

Preventing Type II Diabetes – The UVM Medical Center will be offering a long-term diabetes prevention workshop in the Richmond Free Library mezzanine. The program offers education and support to help you adopt healther eating and exercise habits to reduce your risk of developing diabetes. Participants will meet once a week for 16 weeks, then every other week, then monthly over a year. Space is limited. Call Amanda at 847-5468 to sign up. Consider signing up if you:

- are overweight or obese;
- don't get enough exercise;
- have high blood pressure;
- have abnormal cholesterol;
- have a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes.

Save the dates! Friends of the Richmond Free Library Annual Booksale, Friday, February 16, 5:30 – 8:30 PM and Saturday, February 17, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The Friends offer a wonderful selection of materials in a great shopping venue! Please consider being a Friend and join in the effort. Consider being a table movers, cashier, organizer, or talliers, bakers, etc. Or, do you like to play music or sing? The booksale features live music! For questions or more information contact Mary Keller-Butler, *unnamedmtn@hotmail.com*.

Weekly Children's Programs

No one ever regrets taking their child to storytime. We offer three weekly programs for young children. Choose the one that's right for your child and schedule. While the programs are planned with the ages listed in mind, older and younger children are always welcome. No registration is required.

Baby Laptime: This short storytime is for babies ages 0-24 months and their grownups. We will share the magic of stories, songs, rhymes, bounces, and fingerplays designed to introduce these youngest children to color, sounds, fine motor skills, and body movement. Join the fun on Mondays at 10:30 AM.

Playgroup and Storytime for children age infant-5 years. Introduce your child to many new friends and to the wonderful world of books on Wednesdays. Playgroup begins at 8:45 AM. Storytime begins at 10:00 AM.

Early Bird Math Storytime: This storytime is for children ages 2-5. We will explore numbers, shapes, patterns, and sets through books, songs, rhymes, and games. This fun, interactive storytime happens in the community room. Join us on the first three Fridays of the month at 11:00 AM.

Yoga Storytime: Children ages 2-5 can join us for yoga storytime. We'll enjoy thoughtful books and engage our bodies with active movement. Join us on the fourth Friday of the month at 11:00 AM.

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

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
WILLISTON

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

Preschool Story Time: Tuesdays at 10:30 AM. Join us for stories and a craft activity. December 20: Fairy Tales. (No story time December 26; library closed). All ages.

Chess Club: Wednesday, December 20, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Have you wanted to learn how to play, revisit the game, or just love the game of chess? Come on your own or bring a friend and play with members of our community. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Preschool Yoga with Danielle: Friday, December 22, 10:30 AM. Simple yoga poses, stories and songs for children birth to age 5 and their caregivers.

Preschool Music: Mondays at 11:00 AM (except Monday, December 25: library closed), and Thursdays at 10:30 AM. Second Thursday of each month: Spanish Music with Constancia Gomez. For children up to age 5 with a caregiver. No pre-registration. Limit one session per week per family.

Thursday Playtime: Thursdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited for an informal play time following our Preschool Music program. For children birth to age 5.

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston. 802-878-4918, *www.williston.lib.vt.us*.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tuesday, December 19, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Hour. December 19: *Winter*. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. No registration necessary for Story Hour.

Wednesday, December 20, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: STEM Club. Kids age 6+ will continue to learn about motion and work on automatons with local inventor Ralph Lemnah. Must register.

Thursday, December 21, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Family Cookie Decorating. Learn how to pipe frosting onto gingerbread cookies to create beautiful cookies that are almost too pretty to eat. Kids will have their own set of cookies to decorate more free style. Please register.

Wednesday, December 27, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Stuffed Animal Sleepover Drop-Off. Kids will drop off their lovies, listen to a story, and say goodnight. Then the Stuffies will have a sleepover at the library and we'll give them a camera to record all the fun they have.

Thursday, December 28, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Stuffed Animal Sleepover Pancake Breakfast. Kids will come back to the library in the morning to collect their Stuffies and enjoy a pancake breakfast while they watch a slideshow of all the fun their stuffed animals had. Gluten free pancakes will be available upon request. Please let us know about any other food allergies.

Thursday, December 28, 5:00 – 7:00 PM: Pizza & Movie Night. We'll order pizza and watch a superhero movie. Please register so we know how much pizza to order.

Thursday, January 4, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PJ Story Hour. Kids 0-6 listen to themed stories, followed by a craft and snack. Sponsored by Building Bright Futures.

Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Hour: Hats and Mittens. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. No registration necessary.

Tuesday, January 9 and 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Sewing Club: Beginning Quilting. Youth age 8+ will make a small quilted blanket in this two-part class. Students will meet in the library then go to room #457 to work. Must register for both sessions. Space is limited.

Wednesday, January 10, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Lego Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed Lego play after school. This month we will see who can make the tallest tower. Please register.

Wednesdays, January 10, 24, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: READ to a DOG. Kids ages 5-10 can read a book of their choice to a fuzzy, friendly dog. Call to reserve a 15-minute slot.

Thursdays, January 11, 18, 25, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Chess Club. Chess club kicks off for those registered. All players will stay until 4:15 just this first day. Afterwards, Beginners will end at 4:00 PM and Intermediate/Advanced will end at 4:45 PM.

Monday, January 22, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Crafternoon: Storytelling Rocks. Kids ages 6+ will paint rounded river rocks with story elements and play a storytelling game. Must register.

Tuesday, January 23, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Hour: Special: Music with Caitlin. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. No registration necessary for story hour.

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Family STEAM Night. Join us for this new family program, where each month parents and children will complete fun activities having to do with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and/or Math (STEAM). This month our theme is "Magnets". Please register.

Monday, January 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Lab Girls. This club empowers young women to explore science and technology through hands-on experiments and activities. For grades 4-8. This month we

Library continued on page 8

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

Publication & Deadline Dates 2018

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month .
The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at noon.
The advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication at 5:00 PM.
For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin
Publisher of the Mountain Gazette
6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487
Phone: 453-2468 • *bboutin@gmavt.net*
On the web at *www.mtngazettevt.com*

PUBLICATION DATES: THURSDAY	DEADLINE DATES: THURSDAY
January 4	December 28
January 18	January 11
February 1	January 25
February 15	February 8
March 1	February 22
March 15	March 8
April 5	March 29
April 19	April 12
May 3	April 26
May 17	May 10
June 7	May 31
June 21	June 14
July 5	June 28
July 19	July 12
August 2	July 26
August 16	August 9
September 6	August 30
September 20	September 13
October 4	September 27
October 18	October 11
November 1	October 25
November 15	November 8
December 6	November 29
December 20	December 13

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2018-2019 Jericho - Underhill Community Directory
Deadline: January 15, 2018 • Distribution after July 1, 2018

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ART / MUSIC / THEATER

The Westford Music Series, collaborating with Young Tradition VT, will feature fiddler, composer, and recording artist Andrea Beaton from Ireland. She will be accompanied by Eric Wright, a cello player and member of the Canadian band* The Fretless. *Westford UCW white church, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Sunday, January 7. Free; refreshments follow the concert. For more information, call 879-4028. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sixth annual New Year's Eve Old Round Church benefit concert

The Richmond Historical Society is pleased to announce the lineup for the sixth annual New Year's Eve Concert to benefit the Round Church. The 7:00 PM concert, to be held on Sunday, December 31 in the sanctuary of the Richmond Congregational Church, will once again feature Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie. Opening acts will include *Cricket Blue*, Hadley Stockwell on fiddle and Winslow Starks on banjo representing *Young Tradition Vermont*, and blues guitarist Bill Ellis.

Vermont-based folk duo *Cricket Blue* is inspired by diverse aspects of the American folk tradition: old and current, popular and obscure. MMU graduate Laura Heaberlin and Taylor Smith write songs marked by close-knit harmonies and words about myth, confusion, love, and the ends of things.

Ellis is an accomplished blues performer. In 2007, his solo album *God's Tattoos* won the Australian Bluestar award for Best International CD Release.

With careers that collectively span decades and richly diverse musical influences that stretch from the British Isles to deep Appalachia, Tom MacKenzie and Patti Casey breathe new depth and present a refreshing take on traditional acoustic music.

Thanks to the Richmond Market and Beverage and Valley Stage Productions who are graciously sponsoring the concert. Admission to the concert is by a recommended donation of $10/person. Any profits realized will go towards maintenance of the Round Church. For more information, call 434-3654.

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Fiber, Watercolor, and Ink, used on two-dimensional surfaces to capture representational images of real objects, places, and things – these are the tools of three artists opening in a new show at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery in Jericho Center. Through Saturday, January 6. Anne Standish is an emerging artist in the field of fiber arts. Her inspiration for her quilted art work comes from the natural world. Harald Aksdal's architectural background provides the eye for detail in the everyday world but his interpretation creates beauty from unlikely subjects. Gil Myers has been painting in watercolors for over 50 years and still discovers something new as he interprets the landscape. Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho; open 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Thursday-Sunday or by appointment; 802-899-3211 or *www.emilegruppegallery.com.*

The Lamoille County Courthouse announces the second installation of artwork in the newly renovated Courthouse. Bryan Memorial Gallery of Jeffersonville has been invited by the Courthouse to install a newly refreshed exhibit of original paintings in its public spaces in anticipation of the fall season. The artworks comprise an exhibition on the theme of Vermont Landscape, and will remain in place through the end of the year. Bryan Memorial Gallery selected 37 artworks by 18 artists, all of whom paint frequently in Vermont, most of whom are Vermont residents. The paintings in oil, watercolor, pastel, and acrylics present vistas and views of mostly local scenes throughout the seasons. The works are installed in the Main Corridor and a conference room on the first floor, and outside the Courtroom on the second floor. The Lamoille County Courthouse is at 154 Main St., Hyde Park; open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (closed 12:00 – 12:30 PM). For preview of exhibits, visit *www.bryangallery.org.* For information, Bryan Memorial Gallery, 802-644-5100 or *mickey@bryangallery.org.*

Art / Music / Theater continued on page 9

Library continued from page 5

will be joined by Elissa Lee, an engineering student from Vermont Technical College. Must register.

Wednesday, January 31, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: STEM Club. Kids age 6+ will continue to learn about motion and work on automatons with local inventor Ralph Lemnah. Must register.

Adult Events

Non-Fiction book group will take December off, but our book pick, Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance, is available at the library. The discussion will be Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 PM.

All Month Long: Winter Reading BINGO. Pick up a BINGO board at the library and record the titles of books you read during January and February in different categories. If you fill in a row (across, down, or diagonal), you can turn your board in for a prize. We'll post a list of all the titles read for the game at the end!

Thursday, January 11, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Non-Fiction Book Group discusses Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance. "From a former Marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class." Copies are available at the library. New members always welcome.

Saturday, January 13, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: Tech Help. Get help with individual tech questions. You can ask any technological question and/or bring in a device with which you need help. You will be ably assisted by our techie, Josiah. Call to reserve a half hour time slot, or drop in.

Thursday, January 18, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Armchair Travels: Dominican Republic. You don't need a passport for this trip. Live vicariously through pictures and stories of a local family's trip to the Dominican Republic.

Saturday, January 27, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Board Game Café. Enjoy some free coffee or tea and spend the morning playing board games with old and new friends. Check out one of the library's collection of over 100 games, or bring a favorite from home to teach others.

The Library will be closed Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26, and Monday, January 1. The Library will open at 9:00 AM Thursday-Saturday, December 27-29.

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration encouraged. *www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org ,* 802-849-2420. Call or email *libraryprograms@fwsu.org*.

BROWNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ESSEX JCT.

Bring in a canned good for our food drive to benefit the Heavenly Food Pantry.

Tuesday, December 19, 9:10 – 9:30 AM: Story Time for Babies and Toddlers. Picture books, sign language, songs, rhymes and puppets for babies and toddlers with an adult.

Tuesday, December 19, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time for Preschoolers. Picture books, sign language, songs, rhymes, flannel stories, and early math activities for preschoolers.

Tuesday, December 19, 3:15 – 4:30 PM: Steam Tuesdays. Create and explore with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Make your own water color paint and design a greeting card. Decorate a balloon to prepare for the holiday balloon races. Make bags out of t-shirts and luminaries out of glass jars to give as gifts this holiday season. Best for grades 1 and up.

Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Brownell Library Trustees Meeting.

Wednesday, December 20, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time for Preschoolers. Picture books, songs, rhymes, flannel stories, and early math activities for preschoolers.

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: TEDxBrownellLibrary: A World of Discovery. Brownell will be hosting TEDx Events will occur the third Wednesday of the month through March. Ted Talk videos around this theme will be viewed and reflected upon. This is a great opportunity to connect with others!

Wednesday, December 20, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Read to Daisy. Daisy loves to listen to kids read. She is certified by Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Daisy's owner is Maddie Nash, retired school counselor. For all ages. Please register online.

Fridays, December 22, 29, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Story Time. Come hear some picture books, sing songs, rhyme and interact with puppets.

Fridays, December 22, 29, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Sit and Knit. Adult knitters and crocheters are invited to settle in front of the fireplace in the Main Reading Room to knit, share projects and patterns, and engage in conversation.

Friday, December 22, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: LARP. Live Action Role Play is open to all middle and high school students who want to have adventures in a mythical land.

Friday, December 22, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Dungeons & Dragons. Embark upon imaginary adventures. A Dungeon Master serves as this role playing game's referee and storyteller. For grades 6 and up.

Monday-Tuesday, December 25-26: Library closed for the holidays.

Wednesday, December 27, 12:00 and 1:00 PM: Tech Help with Clif. Offering one-on-one technology help. Bring in your new gadget or gizmo and Clif will sit with you to help you learn its ways! Reservation required. Please call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

Wednesday, December 27, 2:00 – 4:00 PM: *Wii* Love School Vacation. Come play *Wii* Sports Resort, MarioKart, and others! All ages.

Thursday, December 28, 1:30 – 4:00 PM: School Break Movie

Friday, December 29, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Comics and Cocoa. Come out and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies while discussing discussing *Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (July until after Labor Day, closed Saturdays): 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Call Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or email *frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org*.

CAUTION SLIGHT INCREASE FOR 2018

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2018

The ***Mountain Gazette*** is the hometown community newspaper
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ONGOING EVENTS

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Veterans Job Networking, Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 AM, VFW Post, Essex Junction; 1:00 – 2:30 PM, American Legion Post, St. Albans.

The Vermont Genealogy Library in Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester has the resources to help you find those elusive ancestors. We are open every Tuesday from 3:00 – 9:30 PM. We continue to be open every Tuesday. Please see our website *www.vtgenlib.org* for more information including directions and how to contact us if you are visiting the area.

Toastmasters of Greater Burlington, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Holiday Inn, 1068 Williston Rd., S. Burlington. Do you want to develop your speaking and leadership skills? Ace an interview? Ignite your career? If so, Toastmasters of Greater Burlington is the place for you. You'll find a supportive learn-by-doing environment that helps you achieve your goals. For information, 802-782-4832.

Eagles Auxiliary #3210 holds bingo at the club house, VT Rt. 109, Jeffersonville, Friday nights. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Bingo starts at 6:45 PM. For information, contact Sally, 644-5377.

Handbell ringers, Tuesday evenings, United Church of Underhill. All are welcome at rehearsals. Two ensembles; opportunity for small groups/shorter time periods. We ring a variety of music in a variety of settings and look forward to new faces joining us. Beginners welcome. Call Amy, 899-2154, for information.

Mount Mansfield Scale Modelers, 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Modelers encompassing all categories of interest and skill levels are welcome. Brownell Library, Kolvoord Community Room, Lincoln St., Essex Junction.

The **Underhill Historical Society** meets at the Underhill Town Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM. Anyone welcome.

HEALH EVENTS & GROUPS

Healthier Living with Diabetes – free six-week class at the Cambridge Health Center to learn self-management techniques to prevent low blood sugar, practice healthy eating, be more active, reduce stress, communicate effectively with your healthcare team, and more. Upcoming sessions will run Wednesdays, April 18-May 23, 2018, 2:00 – 4:30 PM. For information, contact Rorie, 644-5114.

La Leche League of Essex Junction – monthly breastfeeding support meetings, first Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex Junction. Join us whether you are pregnant, nursing your first tiny baby, or weaning your last toddler. Free! We meet downstairs in the children's area.

Al-Anon meetings, Jericho United Methodist Church, Thursdays 10:00 AM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, "Women's Big Book" group meets Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00 PM, United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Essex Junction, across from Grange Hall.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, "Keep It Simple" group meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:00 – 9:00 PM, and Saturdays 6:30 – 7:30 PM, United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats.

Alzheimer's support group, monthly on the 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, The Arbors, 687 Harbor Rd., Shelburne. Free education for individuals and families in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. For information and to register, contact Cathy Michaels, 985-8600.

Brain Injury Support Group – a place for survivors and family members, caregivers, friends, and the community to receive valuable resources and information about brain injury. The support group is a place to share experiences in a safe, secure, and confidential environment. Evening group: first Wednesday of every month 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Fanny Allen Campus, 790 College Parkway, Colchester, follow the signs; daytime group last Friday of every month at the Department of Labor, 63 Pearl St., Burlington, 12:00 – 1:00 PM conference room A. Call the BIAVT help line, 877-856-1772.

Autism – Vermont Healing Networrk, excellent autism resource 1-800-800-4005, *vermontfamilynetwork.org.*

Foot Clinics – Having trouble trimming your own toenails? Franklin County Home Health provides foot clinics around the county that can help. Call 802-527-7531 for an appointment and information. Cost: $20.

Champlain Valley Prostate Cancer Support Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, 2nd Tuesdays, Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave., Burlington. Newly diagnosed? Prostate cancer reoccurrence? General discussion and sharing among survivors and those beginning or rejoining the battle. Information: Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC, 802-274-4990.

Lamoille Home Health & Hospice: Hospice Volunteer Training. Health care professionals share their knowledge and passion for hospice. Please contact Charlene, 888-4651 or *ccamire@lhha.org* for more information.

Statewide Quit Line, Telephone Smoking Cessation Counseling. Call 1-877-YES-QUIT (1-877-937-7848). Free.

KIDS

Playgroups free of charge and open to all children birth-5 years, and their caregivers. Stories, songs, crafts, free play, local events and information, and more – an opportunity to play with the children in your life, meet other playmates, and connect with other parents and caregivers. Playgroups follow the school calendar. Come to any or all groups that fit your schedule. For information on any playgroup, contact Heather Lebeis, 899-4415 or *underhillplaygroup@yahoo.com.* Mondays: Good Shepherd Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho, 9:30 –

Ongoing events continued on page 10

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 8

Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville has gift certificates available for a bus trip, which will take place in March, to Salem, MA to see art by Georgia O'Keeffe. If interested or for more information, contact Mickey Myers, 644-5100.

Bryan Memorial Gallery presents *Fantastical Landscapes and Imaginary Places*, featuring over 100 works by 53 artists invited to depict those places that exist only in their imaginations: enhancements of daily reality or depictions of dreams. The exhibit includes three-dimensional works, photographs, monoprints, and mixed media works as well as paintings in oil, watercolor, and acrylic. All work in this exhibit is for sale through Saturday, December 23. Free. Also, *Land and Light and Water and Air*, including over 100 juried landscape paintings of New England scenes from regional artists. The gallery is open daily, Thursday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and by appointment. Free admission. Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; 802-644-5100; *www.bryangallery.org.*

Helen Day Art Center in Stowe will again dedicate its gallery walls to its *Members' Art Show and Sale*, simultaneously with the *Festival of Trees and Light*. The events run through Saturday, December 30. The eclectic group exhibition features members' artwork amongst evergreen trees decorated by master artisans and a beautiful Hanukkah display of menorahs, games, and dreidels. A variety of artwork is available for sale, from ceramic sculpture to fine art photos. For more information, contact gallery manager Amanda Marquis, 802-253-8358 or *gallery@helenday.com.* Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St., Stowe, free and open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and by appointment.

The Audubon Photography Award Traveling Exhibit will come to Burlington (One Main Lobby, Main Street Landing's Union Station, 1 Main St., Burlington) from Monday, January 22-Tuesday, February 6 – open to the public every day from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM – with a reception on Friday, February 2, 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Selected from more than 5500 entries, the winning photos were published in the summer 2017 issue of *Audubon* magazine and show bird life at its most vivid, vulnerable, formidable, and elegant. Photographers from 49 states and eight Canadian provinces submitted images in three categories: professional, amateur, and youth. A panel of five judges sifted through the stunning images and selected 100 for this exhibit based on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit.

Shelburne Vineyard has announced that Stowe-based artist Keilani Lime will display her works at the vineyard's Tasting Room through the end of December. She holds a degree in Fine Art from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and resides in Stowe. She will exhibit large format pieces that focus on design and structural texture on canvas using acrylic and found media. Through her work's minimalistic philosophy, she aims to create balance, focus, and peace, reforming the "din that consumes us." For information, *www.shelburnevineyard.com* or 802-985-8222.

Visions of Vermont Art Galleries in Jeffersonville is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Hosts Jane and Terry Shaw, 644-8183; Visions of Vermont, 100 Main St., Jeffersonville. For more information, visit *www.VisionsofVermont.com.*

Essex Art League meets the first Thursday of the month, September-May, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the Essex Junction Congregational Church on VT Rt. 15, Essex Junction. The agenda includes a business and social time and a guest speaker/artist presentation. More information including a calendar and online gallery is available at the League's website *www.essexartleague.com.*

The Milton Artist Guild offers a number of fun and varied workshops. For information, contact the Milton Artists' Guild, P.O. Box 369, Milton, VT 05468; *www.miltonartistsguild.org.*

MUSIC

In January, the Westford Music Series, collaborating with Young Tradition Vermont, will feature Andrea Beaton, an award-winning fiddler, tune composer, and recording artist from Ireland. She comes from a long line of Irish Musicians, composers, and dancers. Accompanying Andrea will be Eric Wright, a cello player and member of the Canadian band *The Fretless*. The concert will be held at the Westford UCW white church, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM on Sunday, January 7. Free; refreshments follow the concert. For more information, call 879-4028.

The Richmond Historical Society is pleased to announce the lineup for the sixth annual New Year's Eve Concert to benefit the Round Church. The 7:00 PM concert, to be held on Sunday, December 31 in the sanctuary of the Richmond Congregational Church, will once again feature Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie. Opening acts will include *Cricket Blue*, Hadley Stockwell on fiddle and Winslow Starks on banjo representing *Young Tradition Vermont*, and blues guitarist Bill Ellis. Sponsored by Richmond Market and Beverage and Valley Stage Productions. Admission by a recommended donation of $10/person. Any profits realized will go towards maintenance of the Round Church. For more information, call 434-3654.

Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble presents Songs of Good Cheer, concerts to bring hopefulness and joy to the season and make you want to dance into the New Year. Dance of the Reed Flutes, Blue Tango, City of Stars, and Wizards in Winter are just a few of the featured arrangements. Celebrating its fifteenth year, Northern Bronze is pleased to collaborate with the Bells of St. James of Essex Junction and the Austin Chimers of First Congregational Church of Burlington. Tickets are available at the door: $12 general admission, $8 children under 12. Friday, January 5, 7:00 PM, Ascension Church, 95 Allen Rd., S. Burlington; Saturday, January 6, 7:00 PM, St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction; Sunday, January 7, 3:00 PM, First Congregational Church. So. Winooski Ave., Burlington.

The Burlington Chamber Orchestra's eleventh season performances this season will include Soovin Kim, Conductor on Saturday, January 20; a Collaboration with the UVM Dance Department featuring Claude Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of Faun* and Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* on March 3 and 4; and a collaboration with *Bella Voce Chorus* Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro Overture*; Mel Bonis, *Suite en forme de valses pour orchestre*; and Gwyneth Walker's *Love is a Rain of Diamonds*, *I Will be Earth*, *Thank you God*, *The Tree of Peace* and *How Can I Keep* on May 12. The Concerto Competition winner will also perform at the May concert. The Burlington Chamber Orchestra will be holding a special performance Classical Holidays on Sunday, December 17 that will include the music of Corelli, Amy Beach, and choral movements from *Messiah*. General admission is $30 adults and $10 students (with identification). Adult tickets for the January Concert with Soovin Kim will be $40. Season tickets are $120 for adults and $40 for students. For more information go to *www.bcovt.org*, or contact Sharon Radtke, 802-893-4082 or *bco@bcovt.org*.

THEATER/FILM

Burlington City Arts presents an *Architecture + Design Film Series* – a free screening once a month until April 2018. Come for a thoughtful discussion and light refreshments to a creative gathering aimed to broaden awareness, foster connections, spark new ideas, and ultimately build momentum towards positive action. Wednesday, January 24: *I, Claude Monet* directed by Phil Grabsky. Wednesday, February 21: *Stone Rising: The Work of Dan Snow* directed by Camilla Rockwell. Wednesday, March 21: *The Salt of the Earth* directed by Wim Wenders and Julian Ruberio Salgado. Wednesday, April 18: *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf* directed by Thomas Piper. Sponsored by Burlington City Arts and the UVM Department of Art and Art History. Location: Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St., Burlington. All showings are at 6:00 PM.

Auditions for Shelburne Players' spring play *The Dixie Swim Club* by Jones-Hope-Wooten will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 5171 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne on Friday, January 12, from 6:00 – 8:30 PM and Saturday, January 13, from 2:30 – 4:30 PM. Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids, and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh, and meddle in each other's lives. Roles are available for five middle-aged women. For more information please email *shelburneplayers@aol.com*, *lfotouhi@gmail.com*, or *suemartin455@yahoo.com*. Go to *www.shelburneplayers.com* for synopsis and character descriptions. Performance dates are April 13, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 21.

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah

From

Mountain Gazette staff
and the
Boutin family
Brenda, Dave,
Christian
and Hope

Ongoing events continued from page 9

11:00 AM; Wednesdays: Richmond Free Library, 8:45 – 10:15 AM; Fridays: Huntington Public Library, 10:00 AM – 11:30 PM.

Early Literacy Storytime, Thursdays, 11:00 AM, Westford Public Library. Stories and activities using early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Drop-in; no registration needed. New families welcome. Information: Victoria, 878-5639 or *westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us*, or visit *www.westford.lib.vt.us* and click on Events @ Your Library.

SENIORS/COMMUNITY MEALS

Jeri-Hill XYZ Seniors meet at the Catalyst Church on the Raceway, Underhill on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. All seniors welcome. Dinner served at 11:30 AM. Information, Bette Workman, 899-4446, Loreen Teer, 899-1363, or Doug Keith, 899-2582.

Johnson Community Meal – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, United Church, Johnson. Come for a hot meal and get to know your neighbors. Meal followed by community gathering. Information: Ellen Hill, 635-1439, *ellen.hill@jsc.edu.*

Westford Senior Lunches – Join Westford Seniors for lunch at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common, monthly on the 2nd Monday. Lunch, 12:00 PM; short meeting or presentation after. Call Carol Howrigan 878-3090 for information or for a ride.

Bolton Up and Downtown Club meets the last Thursday of the month at the Bolton Fire Station. Meal at 5:00 PM. Open to adults 60+. Contact Doris Wheelock at 434-3769.

Huntington senior meal site – The Huntington senior meals are served monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 12:00 PM at the Community Baptist Church, Huntington Center.

St. Jude's Church senior meals, Hinesburg, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Free bingo games afterward. Everyone welcome, including caregivers. Suggested donation $4 per person. Information: Ted Barrette, 453-3087.

Starksboro First Baptist Church senior meals, Starksboro, 4th Thursday of the month, 11:30 AM. Call Brenda Boutin, 802-453-6354 for more information. **All ages are welcome**!

"Good Food for All" free dinners, 2nd Thursday of the month, United Church of Underhill, VT Rt. 15, Underhill Flats, 5:00 – 7:00 PM; and on the last Thursday of each month at Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Underhill Flats, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Everyone in the communities is invited.

TOWN GOVERNMENT & ORGANIZATIONS

Cambridge Area Rotary meets on 1st four Thursdays of the month, upstairs at 158 Main restaurant, Jeffersonville, 7:00 – 8:00 AM. Information: Susan Lassiter, 644-6600 or *Slassiter@unionbankvt.com*.

Westford Fire Department, Mondays, 7:00 PM, at the fire station next to the town garage. Information: John Quinn, *jquinninvt@aol.com.*

Jericho Village Water District Board of Commissioners meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho-Underhill Water District meets 1st Monday of the month, United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats, 7:00 PM. Information: 899-4076 or 899-3810.

Jericho Historical Society, monthly on 2nd Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho Underhill Park District Board meeting, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library project room, Jericho. Residents of Jericho and Underhill always welcome. Information: 899-2693.

Jericho Energy Task Force meets monthly, 3rd Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Jericho Town Hall, VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

THRIFT SHOPS & FOOD SHELVES

Essex/Jericho/Underhill Food Shelf, open 3rd Saturday each month, 9:00 – 11:30 AM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Meat, dairy, produce, pantry items, pet food, and some non-food items. All are welcome.

Westford Food Shelf, open monthly, 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 – 10:30 AM, United Church of Westford. All are welcome. Fresh produce, meat, and non-food items available.

The **Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop,** just east of Five Corners, Essex Junction, VT Rt. 15, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 4:00 – 8:00 PM Thursdays.

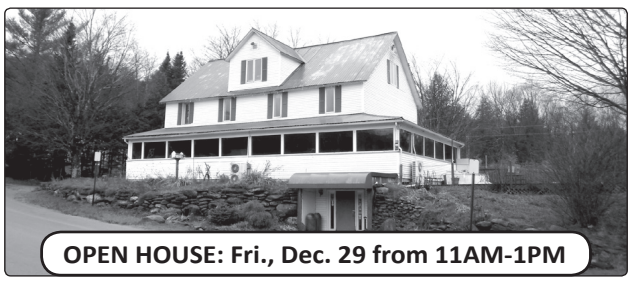
Across from Smugglers' Notch

Foreclosure: Former 100-Seat Restaurant w/Apartments, 6,200±SF on 2.75± Acres

AUCTION

Tuesday, January 16 @ 1PM

44 Desjardin Rd., Jeffersonville, VT



OPEN HOUSE: Fri., Dec. 29 from 11AM-1PM

Mountains of opportunity! This former 100-seat restaurant with apartments occupies a 6,200±SF building on 2.75± acres. What a unique opportunity to kick your business up the Notch! The 2.5 story building has more than 3,000SF on the first floor comprised of a dining room and kitchen, quaint bar area, plus additional seating on the walk-out lower level. The second floor has a 3BR apartment with full bath, kitchen, and living area. Third floor has 1BR, 1BA apartment and office space.

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TOWN OF JERICHO PUBLIC HEARING ON CAPITAL BUDGET

On Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Jericho Town Hall, 67 VT Route 15, Jericho, Vermont, the Town of Jericho Selectboard will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed FY19 Capital Budget. The public is invited to attend and offer comments on the proposed budget and plan. Copies may be viewed outside the Town Clerks office between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM or at *www.jerichovt.gov.*

LEGALS

Voters of Westford Fire District No. 1

Notice of Annual Meeting

Voters of Westford Fire District No. 1 are hereby notified as provided in Bylaws Section 2.3 that the Annual Meeting will be held:

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7:00 PM at the Westford Library

The following matters of business will be considered and acted upon:

Article 1 - Election of Officers:
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Collector of Taxes
- One Prudential Committee Member

Article 2 – Officers' Reports

Article 3 - Approval of Budget

By Order of WFD#1 Executive Board

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing **at 7:00 pm on Thursday January 11, 2018** at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following:

- A request to the DRB by John Bugbee for Conditional Use Review to amend a previous conditional use approval for an automotive repair and sales business. The application is requesting a 30' x34' expansion to the existing structure. The parcel is located at 15 North Main Street, in the Commercial District.

- A request to the DRB by Sara J. Quinn for a Boundary Line Adjustment. This property is located at 13 Hanley Lane in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zoning District (formerly the Agricultural 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

OFFICIAL WARNING

ANNUAL MEETING
JERICHO UNDERHILL LIBRARY DISTRICT

The legal voters of the towns of Jericho and Underhill in the County of Chittenden and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified meet at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, Vermont on Thursday January 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles:

Article 1. Election of a Moderator

Article 2. Act of the Report of Trustees

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

Article 4. Adoption of the budget

Article 5. Shall Article IV, Section:6 of the District Charter be amended to read "Each municipality's assessment shall be paid to the treasurer of the District on dates mutually agreed upon by the member municipalities and the District treasurer. Each party shall give six months' advance notice of intent to change the dates of payment. Should any member of the municipality fail to pay any periodic assessment when due, the District may charge interest for each month or fraction thereof after the date on which the assessment was due."

Article 6. Other business thought proper when met

Dated at Jericho, Vermont, November 16, 2017

Joann Osborne, Chair
Sven Lindholm
Anne Exler
Sue Vaughn
Kristie Kapusta
Connell Gallagher
Bill McMains
Laura Wolf
Elisabeth Lehr

The Board of Trustees, Jericho Underhill Library District

OFFICIAL WARNING

ANNUAL MEETING
JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT

The legal voters of the towns of Jericho and Underhill in the County of Chittenden and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library (project room) in Jericho, Vermont on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM to act on the following articles:

Article 1. **Election of a Moderator**

Article 2. **Act on Report of Trustees**

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

Article 4. **Adoption of a budget**

Article 5. **Other business thought proper when met.**

Proposed budget is $50,145.00

Dated at Jericho, Vermont, December 7, 2017

Livy Strong *Chair*
Marie Lynch *Vice Chair*
Carol Smith *Treasurer*
James Massingham *Secretary*
Paul Noel
Andrew French
Judie Jones

SENIOR MEALS

Age Well community senior meals

Age Well hosts Community Meals at over 70 locations. Programs vary from small rural gatherings, to senior centers, to an ever-growing array of restaurants. Menus are available on the 22nd of each month for the following month. Meals are on a first-come, first-serve, month-by-month basis; $5 suggested donation. Call Age Well, 802-662-5200, for reservations for the following month on or after the 22nd of the month. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, reservations may be made the following Monday. Milk is served with all meals.

Tuesday, December 19 – Holiday Inn, S. Burlington. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. HOLIDAY! Special event with live music. TICKETS REQUIRED, contact Pat Long, Community Meal Coordinator, at the meal sites or visit Age Well's office (76 Pearl St., Suite 201, Essex Junction, VT 05452, 865-0360). Turkey buffet, salad, sliced turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce, assorted desserts.

Wednesday, December 20 – JP's Diner & Deli, Essex Junction. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Chicken and biscuit dinner, dessert.

Thursday, December 21 – Pizza Putt, S. Burlington. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Ziti with meatballs, garden salad, garlic bread, ice cream cake.

Tuesday, December 26 – Pizza Hut, Susie Wilson Rd., Essex Junction. Check-in 11:00 AM; lunch 11:30 AM. All you can eat buffet – salad and pizza.

Wednesday, December 27 – Athens Diner, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, dessert.

Thursday, December 28 – American Legion, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Meatloaf dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert.

Tuesday, January 2 – Pizza Hut, Susie Wilson Rd., Essex Junction. Check-in 11:00 AM; lunch 11:30 AM. All you can eat buffet – salad and pizza.

Wednesday, January 3 – Athens Diner, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Roast pork dinner, rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, pudding.

Thursday, January 4 – Dutch Mill, Shelburne. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Homemade wheat bread, baked stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, strawberry shortcake.

Tuesday, January 9 – Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Fish, potato, coleslaw, squash, roll, creemee.

Wednesday, January 10 – Athens Diner, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dessert.

Thursday, January 11 – Pizza Hut, Susie Wilson Rd., Essex Junction. Check-in 11:00 AM; lunch 11:30 AM. All you can eat buffet – salad and pizza.

Monday, January 22 – Papa Nick's, Hinesburg. Check-in 2:30 PM, lunch 3:00 PM. Chicken and biscuits, mixed vegetables, rolls, dessert.

Tuesday, January 23 – Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Fish, potato, coleslaw, squash, roll, creemee.

Thursday, January 24 – American Legion, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Ham steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, dessert.

Thursday, January 25 – CELEBRATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR with Asian Cuisine served at the Champlain Café, Burlington High School. For tickets, connect with Pat Long, Community Meal Coordinator, at the meal sites or visit Age Well's office (76 Pearl St., Suite 201, Essex Junction, VT 05452, 865-0360).

Tuesday, January 30 – Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Fish, potato, coleslaw, squash, roll, creemee.

Wednesday, January 10 – Athens Diner, Colchester. Check-in 10:30 AM; lunch 11:00 AM. Turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert.

Restaurant ticket program – Age Well's restaurant tickets are available year round, and no longer need to be used the month they are purchased. Tickets are good for Age Well's fiscal year, October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018, but are nonreturnable and non-exchangeable. For tickets, connect with Pat Long, Community Meal Coordinator, at the meal sites or visit Age Well's office (76 Pearl St., Suite 201, Essex Junction, VT 05452, 865-0360). Tickets must be presented before ordering. Restaurants have the right to offer limited menus.

The Abbey Pub & Restaurant, Enosburg Falls, lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday, 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Athens Diner, Milton, Monday-Saturday, 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sundays 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Dutch Mill, Shelburne, Monday-Sunday, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM.

Halfway House Restaurant, Shoreham, Monday-Thursday, 5:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Harpers at Holiday Inn, S. Burlington, Early Bird dinner, Monday-Sunday, 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

IHOP, S. Burlington, Monday-Sunday, 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM.

Mimmo's, Essex Junction, Mondays, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Pizza Putt, S. Burlington, lunch or dinner served seven days a week.

Professional Foods Café and Bakery (formerly Colonial Room), Essex. Call 879-5595 after 5:00 PM on Monday to listen to a recorded message with menu options and days the café will be open that week. Luncheon check-in is promptly at 11:00 AM. Always closed on Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays.

Rosie's Restaurant, Middlebury. Mondays-Wednesdays, 6:00 AM – 12:00 PM (breakfast); 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM (lunch).

Ray's Seafood, Essex Junction, Sundays – Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

St. Michael's College, Colchester. Closed until January 15, 2018. Monday-Friday, dinner 5:00 – 6:00 PM; Saturday-Sunday brunch, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM; dinner 5:00 – 6:00 PM.

Trader Duke's at Doubletree, S. Burlington, Mondays, 4:00 – 6:30 PM.

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CHMS news

By Mark Carbone
Camel's Hump Middle School principal

The first trimester of the 2017-18 school year has flown by. This year the Camel's Hump Middle School community has embraced a "Kindness Matters" effort. Students are learning that their words and actions really do matter, and a kind word or gesture goes a long way.

CHMS teachers are working diligently with readers and writers to meet the literacy standards and with student scientists to implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS are a set of expectations for what students should be able to do and set the learning goals for students, but do not describe how students get there.

Many thanks again this year to Ralph and Rachel Towers as well as Dennis Bolio and Susan Turcotte, who own Industrial Four, Inc., for their generous support of the CHMS Pumpkin Chunkin' event. All proceeds from Pumpkin Chunkin' go directly to the PROSPER program, a family and student engagement program co-sponsored by the UVM Extension. PROSPER participants benefit by learning to prepare for their teen years, communicate effectively with their parents, deal with stress and peer pressure, and develop their pro-social decision making skills. Parents and caregivers enhance their parenting skills by learning to set limits, making house rules, encouraging positive behaviors, learning to handle stress, and helping their children understand the negative impact of risky behaviors. This fall's Pumpkin Chunkin' event had eight teams competing. Once again Matt and Ethan Moultroup had the longest throw of the day at 302 feet.

Did you know that one in seven Vermont children struggles with hunger? In November, CHMS students spent time discussing what it means to be food insecure and ran a food drive to gather non-perishable food items for our school's backpack program. Five years ago, CHMS established this program to address food insecurity here in our school community. Congratulations to our students who collected well over 1300 items (10 weeks of the backpack program) for the food drive and thank you to those who gave so generously.

Open House will soon be here! Once again, we will host hundreds of middle schoolers and their families over two nights in celebration of winter and the youths' progress since September. On Thursday, January 17, Open House for grades 7-8 will be from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, and on Thursday, January 24, Open House for grades 5-6 will also run from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Open House attendees will be treated to choral and band concerts as well as ice skating under the lights, weather permitting. Artwork from all grades will line the halls of the school. There will be an abundance of student projects throughout classrooms and in display cases. Open House gives students an excellent opportunity to share their accomplishments with family and friends. We welcome any and all community members to our open house.

The next meeting of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District will be Monday, January 8, 2018, 6:30 PM at Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Seasons Greetings

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Wishing you the happiest of holidays and new year! Thanks so much.
- Bill Black and staff

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Fairfax - $299,000
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in sought after neighborhood! Lg kitchen w/ SS appliances & granite counters with cozy adjoining family rm! Master w/ WI closet, tray ceilings & great bath! 2 more bdrms w/ WI closets! Hrdwd flooring throughout! Upstairs rec room w/ views of common land! Lg yard & back deck!

Fairfax - $167,500
Great upgrades including HW floors & a finished walkout basement. Bright & sunny end unit boasts 2 bdrms up & a full bath, as well as a ½ bath down. Open living room & eat-in kitchen/dining with 2 pantries! Great country community association, including 10 acres of common land right in town!

Fairfax - $150,000
Wonderful new condominiums for adults 55+. Large 1st floor unit with living room, dining room & kitchen creating comfortable flow! Granite countertops in kitchen & bath! Great 1st floor community room with fire-place. 9 acres of common land with walking trails! Relax on the rear deck & covered porch!

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