

# An act of kindness - Jerry Russin Jr. and the fireman's watch

**By Brenda Boutin  
Mountain Gazette staff**  
Bob Dylan sang, “the times they are a-changin’.” Each person can be responsible for changes that will lead to an emotional connection in others’ lives. Jerry Russin Jr. is one such person who was raised in the Underhill area and is a collector of antiques. The *Mountain Gazette* first met him when writing a piece on his *Mr. Peanut* collection.

Russin recently posted on Facebook about finding a wristwatch that he gave away and we’ll get to that story in a few lines, but first a little background on Jerry. He grew up and went to school in the area before taking a brief move to Florida. Upon his return to Underhill, Russin stepped into learning about his family’s history; this led to a much deeper dive into Vermont history. Some relatives worked on their family tree and hit a dead end in East Canada, which Jerry took to mean Québec. He was able to make a European connection.

He attributes his foray into collecting Vermont Antiquities to his good friend Duane Chase of Jeffersonville, VT. Chase collects antique Vermont medicine and pharmacy bottles from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is known for having the largest Vermont medicinal bottle collection in the state. Another collector and vendor, the late Gary Beard of Essex Junction, VT, also took him under his wing and really helped show him the business side, how to deal with customers, and how to be successful in the business. “He introduced me to all the dealers on a more professional level,” Russin said. Beard and his family ran a business in St. Albans Bay, and they were all well known in the antique field as early as the 70s and 80s.

Recently Jerry got a phone call from another dealer asking if he would have any interest in looking through some old things he had to sell, including some old watches. “I’m always looking for things specifically from Vermont,” Jerry stated. “My friend said, ‘hey, I have stuff I’m looking to sell.’” Jerry took a quick trip down and was faced with a container full of watch-related stuff. Mixed among all the watch pieces was a wristwatch featuring a Maltese Cross.

“I’m a member of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department and I recognized that as the Fireman’s Cross. So I bought the watch for a small fee and when I got home I decided to investigate further.” Russin wanted to figure out the back-story. On the watch face is printed, “Ray Davison, Member VFD, Deputy Chief.” Russin noticed on the case back that the watch was engraved, “Member A.C.F.A.” Not knowing exactly what these initials were referring to, he decided that the Internet might help him find the answer. It didn’t take too long for him to figure out that “A.C.F.A.” stood for Addison County Fire Association, and so “VFD” was most likely referring to the Vergennes Fire Department. Jerry then made a quick search for “Ray Davison Vergennes Fire Department Deputy Chief,” and was amazed to find articles and information on one of Vermont’s finest fire educators.

Russin contacted his friend Bob Stone of Underhill, who is also a Vermont State Fire Marshal, to ask him if he knew who he should try to contact in Vergennes about the watch, and was told to call Bill Brown, another Fire Marshal, at his Williston office. “When I got Bill on the phone I asked, ‘Bill did you know a guy by the name of Ray Davison, former Deputy Chief in Vergennes, I have his wristwatch and I’d like to give it to you guys.’”

Brown was beyond pleased and replied, “We would absolutely love to have it. We have a display case dedicated to Ray.”

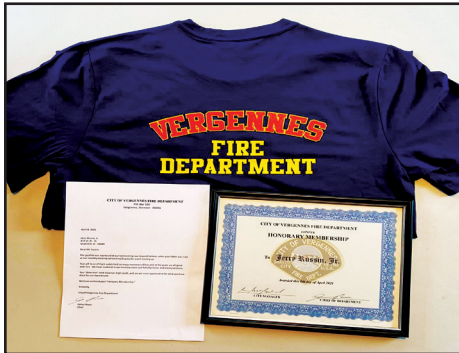
“I am so glad to know it will go into their display,” Jerry said. “A lot of guys have reached out from Vergennes and other surrounding departments in Addison County. I personally



**Jerry Russin Jr. is a member of the Uunderhill Jericho Fire Department.**



**Russin presented the wristwatch of former Deputy Chief Ray Davison to the Vergennes Fire Department,**



**Vergennes Fire Department presented Russin with a certificate of honorary membership, and to thank him. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED**

think the watch was lost because Ray had no family, so it might have been taken off in the hospital or the funeral home. Ray’s focus was fire safety and education, and much of this service was provided at little to no charge. Mr. Davison traveled all over the state to educate other fellow firefighters, how could I capitalize on another firefighter’s watch, it just didn’t seem right, being a firefighter myself. I couldn’t sell it. My gut feeling was right and I’m glad I listened to it.”

On Facebook, Russin posted, “Today I received in the mail this letter, t-shirt, and a Honorary Membership certificate from the City of Vergennes Fire Department. Needless to say I’m absolutely speechless! A few weeks back I sent my extended fire family in Vergennes a wristwatch that once belonged to their former Deputy Chief Ray Davison. Some of you longer-serving-and-wiser fire service members will most likely know that name, as he was one of Vermont’s most highly respected fire educators. I accidentally stumbled upon his

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# Lucy and Howe: Jericho’s Nano-Brewery

**By Phyl Newbeck  
Special to the Mountain Gazette**

Jesse Cronin spent many years as a teacher, working mostly with kindergarten and first grade kids. After teaching in Brooklyn, he and his wife, Libby Bonesteel, moved to Vienna in 2006 and Cronin became fascinated by the beer culture. “I guess it’s fair to say I’ve always enjoyed beer,” he said, “but the beer culture in Europe is very different from here. There is such a sense of history and place to it.”

The couple moved to Vermont in 2009 and Cronin stayed home taking care of the house, and their son Jake and daughter Lena, while doing home brewing on the side. When the kids were old enough to go to school, Cronin had to make a decision on whether to go back to teaching or try something new. He opted to take a part-time job at Four Quarters Brewing before joining the team at Magic Hat. When the pandemic hit Cronin left his job to stay home with the kids and on May 1, 2020, he launched his new venture, Lucy and Howe Brewing, from his Jericho home. The name comes from a misunderstanding by Lena when Cronin tried to tell her the story of Lucien Howe who built their 1850s-era house.

Cronin likes to describe his work as a combination of tradition and adventure. “There’s a lot of tradition to brewing,” he said. “It probably started in Mesopotamia five thousand years ago. There is a lot of history.” Cronin feels strongly about the process involved in brewing, noting that at Magic Hat he learned how difficult it is to brew the same kind of beer over and over again for mass consumption. “That’s harder than it sounds,” he said. “There’s a process to brewing that is repetitive but it’s still adventurous because you can tweak the system to make improvements.”

Lucy and Howe Brewing’s specialty is Belgian-inspired ales and world-inspired lagers. Cronin described Belgian yeast as very distinctive with a peppery or spicy flavor. Although he is interested in experimenting with different flavors, he isn’t trying anything too avant-garde. “I’m not going to put a bunch of Lucky Charms in a beer,” he said, “but I have some French/Belgian beers with seasonal ingredients. I made a sour beer with strawberries once when we had a fresh crop.” He compared



non-traditional ingredients in beer to the art style known as pointillism. “If you overdo it or underdo you can be in trouble,” he said, “but if you have balance, it can really come together.”

There are some beers that Cronin brews with regularity, like his Biere Maison which is a Belgian table beer, Plain Knowledge, a Belgian-style amber, and a few IPAs, but he is always dreaming up new flavors. Current offerings include a milk stout called Meal Ticket and two British ales called Unicorn in a Barrel and Weeping over the Unicorn. He describes his Impossible Ask beer as one brewed in honor of Vermont educators and notes that it that “pairs well with late staff meetings, tech snafus, upended expertise, existential crisis, and ongoing complications.”

At present, Lucy and Howe Brewing is open for pick-up on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 – 5:00 PM and Cronin will return to the Jericho Farmers’ Market this summer for additional sales. He has no immediate plans for expansion but is considering some upgrades. “I will eventually get larger but not too much larger,” he said. “I really like being the neighborhood brewery.” Being part of the neighborhood includes giving his leftover brewing grain to another local family for their goats and chickens.

Cronin enjoys being able to work from his home and is looking at the possibility of converting a barn on the property into a brewing facility, although he noted that this is a long-term project.

“There are some easy places to increase efficiency with equipment upgrades so there

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## Red Mill damage



**The Old Red Mill in Jericho, a National Historic Site since 1972, suffered damage during a memorable rainstorm in October 2019, with a partial collapse of the retaining wall that has held the embankment since it was built in the 1850s. (Photo shows the damage as it appeared in April 2021.) The Jericho Historical Society (JHS), which owns the Mill, obtained an estimated cost of \$293,000 to repair or replace the wall. In late 2020, JHS and the town of Jericho cooperated to obtain a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to partially fund the project, with JHS raising \$74,000 of that amount. However, the project is more complex and received no offers when it was opened to bid. DuBois & King, the engineering firm the town is collaborating with, is investigating if construction of a new retaining wall will damage the foundation of the building. Louise Miglionico, a member of the JHS board, said bringing in the engineers has brought the total cost of the retaining wall project to \$328,000 and it could go up even more. She has said the Historical Society will pursue more grants and do more fundraising with the aim of meeting the additional costs. Jericho voters on Town Meeting Day approved a plan to set up a reserve fund for future Old Red Mill projects, 907 to 206. Every year, the town of Jericho will add about \$2000 to the reserve fund, which will be used only to ensure the building’s structural integrity.**

**PHOTO BY EILEEN BRICKELL**

## Rivers property still undeveloped

**By Luke Vidie | Community News Service**  
“We are going to give you the whole farm!” Honorary Chief of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department Randy Clark announced at a Jericho Selectboard meeting on September 15, 2016. Over four years later, the farm known as the Rivers Property is still held by the fire department. The fire department is interested in giving the property to the town, but discussions have slowed.

Background:  
Alice Rivers gifted the 125 acres on Browns Trace to the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department in 1986. This came six years after Rivers and her husband gave three acres to the fire department for the purpose of constructing a fire station in Jericho Center. The 125-acre property was largely farmland, with a gravel pit and farmhouse.

The agreement also stipulated that the property donated by Rivers “will be managed or sold in a manner which offers maximum long-term benefit to the UJFD,” that any proceeds from a sale would be put in a “trust type” account, and that only interest from the account could be used to pay fire department expenses or debt.

Clark said the Rivers family maintained a unique relationship with the fire department. “We did things for the Rivers that we never did for anybody else.” He said the fire department

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NEWS BRIEFS

Voting in the Cambridge  
Special Town Meeting on May 11

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk  
You must request a ballot for early voting – please read:  
All voting in the Town of Cambridge for the Special Town Meeting on May 11, 2021 will be held via Australian (written) ballot. No floor meetings or floor votes will be held. Voting-By-

Mail is strongly encouraged for this election. Ballots will NOT automatically sent to voters – you must request a ballot, or vote in person.

Early voting ballots can be requested by contacting the Town Clerk’s Office, 802-644-2251 or [clerk@CambridgeVT.org](mailto:clerk@CambridgeVT.org), or by visiting “My Voter Page” at [www.mvp.vermont.gov](http://www.mvp.vermont.gov).

Ballots can be returned to our drop box at the top of the stairs at the Town Office building, by mail, or at the polling place on Election Day.

Of course, polls will be open on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, at the Cambridge School Gymnasium for in-person voting.

For more information on Special Town Meeting on May 11, please visit [www.cambridgevt.org/special](http://www.cambridgevt.org/special).

Recovery Act and municipalities

By Catherine McMains

To the citizens of Jericho: There has been much in the news regarding the infusion of dollars about to come to the State and municipalities from the Recovery Act. The SelectBoard has been attending various webinars, including those from our members of Congress and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). The VLCT also has updates in their weekly newsletter and will be providing a dedicated staff person to help municipalities with the process. The Regional Planning Commission will also receive funding to assist municipalities in expending the funds on projects in accordance with eligibility requirements.

Although there are several tables available showing how much the municipalities may receive, they are not necessarily correct or final. Final numbers will not be known until the funds are sent to the State, which will then distribute the money to the municipalities. This will come in two portions, the first expected in early June and the second in December or January. Broad categories were given for the funds, intending to be flexible. These include spending for COVID expenses not covered by the prior CARES Acts, providing government services to the extent of lost revenue, as well as making investments in water including stormwater projects, sewer or broadband infrastructure. Spending is not intended to be used for municipal transportation

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News briefs continued from page 2

infrastructure. However, the regulations regarding the spending have not yet been released. It is recommended that the funding be put into its own fund, to wait and take the time needed to prioritize town needs as the spending deadline is not until the end of 2024.

It is the intent of the SelectBoard to have an open dialogue with the community to get broad-based input and consensus as to what the citizenry see as the greatest needs and will provide the most impact across the Town to the most people. The SelectBoard will be using multiple mechanisms for input; for example, Front Porch Forum, surveys, SelectBoard meetings, and the Join in Jericho website. No matter what the final dollar numbers may be, this one time money could be transformitory. Even greater impact could be achieved by tying into the State spending priorities.

Please feel free to ask the SelectBoard if you have any questions — Catherine McMains (chair), Wayne Howe, Erik Johnson

Bolton Community  
Spring Plant Sale is May 22

It’s gardening season! The Bolton Community Spring Plant Sale is Saturday, May 22, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the Smilie Memorial School grounds (outside next to the playground).

Come purchase vegetable, flower, herb, or perennial plants at low cost to add to your garden. Come share the bounty of your own garden – perennials that keep reproducing! extra seedlings you planted but don’t need yourself! Come support our local school!

Thank you to those who filled out our survey regarding the Bolton/Smilie Community Plant Sale! We had several responses communicating a desire to both purchase vegetable/flower starts AND to donate their extra garden starts or perennials for others to purchase.

This sale is being organized by the Smilie Community Association, and all proceeds will go to benefit the Smilie Memorial School.

We are requesting donations of plants (peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, herbs, other vegetables, flowers, perennials). We know many of you will have extra seedlings left over from your own gardens, or perennials that you are looking to pass on.

Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, May 17-21 to Sarah Courtemanche (3418 Stage Rd., 802-881-6731), or Lexie Haselton (1257 Notch Rd., 802-318-1296). Please call or text ahead before dropping off, and label what you are dropping off (name of plant, and if it is hardened off). If you have extra pots or need a pot, drop one or pick one up at Lexie’s mailbox on Notch Rd.

Questions? Email Sarah (*Sarah.k.courtemanche@gmail.com*) or Lexie (*Lexie.haselton@gmail.com*).

Lamoille Union High School  
seeking past yearbooks

The librarian at Lamoille Union Middle and High School is seeking to fill some archival gaps, to make sure that our school has previous yearbooks for reference. We are currently missing the years 1972, 1973, 1974, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1997, and 1998.

If you have a copy of any of these yearbooks and would be willing to donate them, we would be so appreciative – please contact *mtowle73@gmail.com*.

Nano-Brewery continued from page 1

may be some expansion,” he said, “but I can’t imagine getting too big.

“My goal is to kind of subscribe to the European model, where they have small village breweries,” Cronin said. “Even in the cities there are neighborhood breweries. There are enough people and variety that we can support all the little breweries that are picking up in Vermont. It’s nice to be part of that.”

Russin continued from page 1

watch while picking through a fellow friend/dealers for sale items. Ray passed away in 2004 and the watch has been missing ever since then. It’s remarkable that it still managed to stay within Vermont after all this time. However, upon me figuring out who the watch belonged to, and realizing its historical fire related significance, I decided to donate it to the Vergennes Fire Department, as I know that Ray was a beloved chief, mentor, and friend to many of their members. While I did not wish for anything in return for the watch, the department’s gesture here is very moving to me. I’m just glad to know the watch is now right where it needs to be, and will always be cherished by those who knew him best.”

Jerry has some interesting stories about other treasures he’s found. He tells of going to an auction where there was a painting of Mount Mansfield for sale. The painting was done by William Lafayette Roscoe and it now hangs at home in Underhill. The auctioneer said if Brooks Buxton hadn’t recently passed away, that he would have paid a much higher price for the *Mount Mansfield in Winter* painting. Buxton purchased many landscape works of Mount Mansfield over the years.

Russin has also given other things away. His friend Cedric Davis from Jericho had mentioned he was looking for a glass milk bottle from his grandfather’s dairy operation. Cedric is named after his late grandfather, who bottled milk in Essex Junction. Russin says, “I finally found one and purchased it.” He spoke joyously about going to the Davis Farm on Cilley Hill Road in Jericho and meeting Cedric where he was working in a field. Jerry had the bottle with him and was hug-tackled by the young man. Davis proclaimed, “I never thought I’d ever see one of these, say nothing about getting to hold it.” He was very surprised and grateful when he was told it was his to keep.

Jerry also gave an antique lard can from a distributor in St. Albans to a friend who was related to the owner of the company.

Jerry Russin Jr. runs his own antique business, Riverside Antiques, and works professionally as the online sales manager for another local antique dealer in Chittenden County.

The *Mountain Gazette* would like to commend him for his sense of community and his given spirit.

Transparency in Cambridge

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk

Vermont’s Open Meeting Law was significantly amended in 2014. The law casts a very broad net and it generally applies whenever a majority of the members of a municipal board, council, commission, committee, or subcommittee have a conversation or make a decision about municipal business.

Agendas, Minutes and Warnings for all Cambridge meetings can be viewed in the Document Center at *www.cambridge.VT.gov*. This information has been available online for over six years.

YOU CAN SIGN UP TO RECEIVE eMAIL NOTICES AUTOMATICALLY AS AGENDAS AND MINUTES ARE POSTED.

Go to the Document Center at *www.cambridge.VT.gov*, click on “Email Notifications,” then on the next page click the link that says “Sign up?” and follow the instructions to register. You can then choose to receive notifications for one, several, or all categories of Boards, Committees, and other information. If you need assistance, contact Jessica Warren in the Town Clerk’s office, 644-2251.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEN MEETING LAW

There are specific notification requirements which municipalities must follow concerning posting of agendas in public places. In addition, there are requirements for agendas and minutes which pertain to our town website. Groups must provide electronic files of documents to the Town Office on a timely basis

SBA Restaurant  
Revitalization Grants

By John Mandeville, Executive Director  
Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

The application for this \$28 billion grant program (not loans) opens in about two weeks. For detailed information on eligibility, amounts of grants available, how to apply and much, much more, please go online to *https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/restaurant-revitalization-fund*.

Rivers property continued from page 1

responded to chimney fires and grass fires, a heifer stuck in a manure pit, and a calf that fell in a well, and saved the barn from fire on at least one occasion. Alice Rivers passed away in December 2012. In her obituary, Rivers listed the fire department as one of two organizations to which contributions in her memory could be sent.

Before and after Rivers’ passing, consideration was given as to how to best manage the property. Per the agreement between Rivers and the fire department, a committee was formed. The committee met for six months in 1986, considered developments such as a fitness track, jogging area, or Christmas tree farm, and ultimately decided on keeping the property undeveloped. A soccer field was considered two years lately, and similarly passed upon.

Following Rivers’ passing in 2012, conversation about the property resumed in earnest. The fire department announced they were looking for buyers. Clark said that the hope was to find a buyer who would pay a relatively high price without developing the land. In 2013, the 122 acres (not including the three-acre residential parcel) was assessed for tax purposes at \$731,500. The same year, the property was advertised for sale at \$5.3 million.

Multiple people, including Jericho resident Mike Kramer, took offense at plans to sell the property. Mike was a formative member of the Save the Rivers Property group. Kramer did not know Rivers personally, but he believed that leaving open the possibility of development would contradict Rivers’ wishes.

Corinne Thompson, who claimed to have been a friend of Rivers for over 50 years, expressed similar concerns: “Both her and Don (her husband) wanted it to stay open as much as possible.”

Following public input, Tim Nulty of the Selectboard put forward three goals: preserve the main part of the property as open space, allow portions zoned for village development to go forward in a responsible manner, and minimize the financial risk to the town. Nulty expressed these goals at a Selectboard meeting on September 15, 2016.

According to Clark, a town-appointed committee created four proposals for the lot in 2013, including an offer to purchase the property outright for \$600,000. Clark said the fire department declined all four proposals. In 2016, Clark announced at a Selectboard meeting that they “were going to give [the town] our whole farm!” A meeting was discussed to set up the details.

The present situation:

The Save the Rivers Property Facebook group was last active in March 2018. Talks between the fire department and the town have continued but the property is still held by the fire department, which maintains the property and mows the fields. Ideas presented to the Jericho Selectboard by the fire department were met with support, according to Selectboard member Catherine McMains.

In 2020, a solar farm was built on the property in an area formerly occupied by a gravel pit. The fire department said it began producing energy for Vermont Electric Co-op in December 2020.

According to Matthew Champlin, Chief of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department,“our plans ... are still to donate the property to the Town of Jericho; nothing has changed on that front.” If donated, the fire department would continue to own the solar farm and a small training area.

“Mat has been open in his discussions with the Board about the UJFD ideas to move forward with plans on the Rivers property,” McMains said, adding that it has been about a year since any discussions were had. “I think the last time we talked about the property specifically with Mat was in person, so that puts it early 2020 at the latest.”

Little has changed on the property and, according to former Selectboard member Tim Nulty, “there are a number of reasons and it is a long story – but the bottom line is that the property still belongs to the UJFD.”

to fulfill these website requirements.

An agenda must be created and posted in advance of every regular or special meeting. 1 V.S.A. § 312(d). At least 48 hours in advance of a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours in advance of a special meeting, an agenda must be posted in or near the municipal office and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality. 1 V.S.A. § 312(d). In addition, the public body must post the agendas of regular and special meetings to an official website, if one exists that is maintained or has been designated as the official website. 1 V.S.A. § 312(d). An item may only be added or removed from a meeting agenda as the first order of business at the meeting. 1 V.S.A. § 312(d)(3) (A). Other adjustments to an agenda may be made at any time during the meeting. 1 V.S.A. § 312(d)(3)(B).

Meeting Minutes must be taken at every public meeting and must include at least the members present, active participants, motions made, and votes taken. 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1). Five days after the meeting minutes must be available for inspection and must be posted to a website, if one exists, that is maintained or has been designated as the official website. 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(2). If it is not possible to provide the final approved minutes in five days, then a draft that is marked with words such as “subject to approval” should be posted and made available. Minutes need not be taken in executive session, but if they are, they are not subject to a public records request. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a).

Questions? Contact the Cambridge Town Office and Clerk/Treasurer Mark Schilling, 644-2251 or *clerk@CambridgeVT.org*.

Jericho conducting  
survey on ADUs

An ADU, or Accessory Dwelling Unit, is an additional, small dwelling on the owner’s property or an accessory apartment attached to a single-family home, garage, or outbuilding. Jericho’s Affordable Housing Committee is working to explore and recommend possible avenues to maintain and create affordable housing in our town. ADUs may be one such method. To find out more, we’re asking Jericho ADU owners and their

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According to Nulty, possible reason for the lack of action could be a change in the property’s value. In 2013, according to the *Burlington Free Press*, the fire department’s annual tax bill for the property was \$8817. In 2016, according to the town lister’s office, the land was appraised at a value of \$2.8 million. The UJFD appealed this, and the value was changed to \$1.5 million. Again, the UJFD challenged this evaluation. Following a hearing with the Board of Civil Authority, the land was finally appraised at \$705,000, with a current annual tax bill of \$9307.42.

Nulty thinks this reevaluation eased the UJFD’s financial obligation. He supposes that this, combined with other projects like installing the solar panels, developing their training site on the gravel pit, and selling the property’s house, have occupied the fire department.

In an email, Champlin added to this, saying, “The fire department got busy doing the job of the fire department and we have put the Rivers land on the back burner.”

The Mountain

Gazette  
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Editing - Sara Riley

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HEALTH NEWS

Copley welcomes Patricia Rick, VP of Development & Marketing



Copley Hospital was pleased this winter to welcome Patricia (Trish) Rick to the hospital’s senior management team. Trish took on the role of Vice President of Development and Marketing Services in February of this year. “Trish’s broad depth of development and marketing experience makes her an ideal fit for our community hospital,” said CEO Joe Woodin. “She is well acquainted with the healthcare industry both in and outside of Vermont, and she brings a warm, caring, and inclusive leadership style to her work. Her more than 25 years’ experience in development, relationship building, and people management will be an enormous boost to our organization.”

Prior to Copley, Trish served as Vice President, Philanthropy Operations and Services, at Beth Israel Lahey Health in Burlington, MA. In that role, she provided leadership and strategic direction on all aspects of administration, Human Resources, and fundraising, including oversight of development operations across six Lahey Health affiliate hospitals. Her expertise in financial oversight, analytics and reporting, effective communications, events, and creating and maximizing donor opportunities will serve her well in her new role.

Before entering the healthcare industry, Trish co-owned and operated North Common Associates in Chelsea, VT, a full service-consulting firm providing resource development counsel to non-profit organizations. In her role as Principal Owner/Consultant, she advised and counseled numerous non-profits, supported their fundraising efforts, office infrastructure and operational effectiveness. She also served as Director of Development at Thetford Academy in Thetford, VT.

Trish earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT and her Master of Science in Organizational Development at Barney School of Business, University of Hartford in Hartford, CT. She is a member of the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and the Association for Advancement Service Professionals (AASP) and Women in Development. She also served on the AASP Best Practices in Information Management Committee.

“I’m so grateful to be back in Vermont,” Trish said, “and especially to have landed here at Copley. This hospital has such a special reputation, not only here in north-central Vermont, but throughout New England, as a caring, patient-centered organization committed to improving the health of the communities it serves. I’m excited about the possibilities I see here, and thrilled to be a member of this exceptional team of professionals.”

The most important dietary supplement

By Mary Kintner

If I were allowed only one dietary supplement it would be Omega 3 Essential Fatty Acids. What is that, you might ask? It is commonly known as fish oil, and is also found in krill oil and flax seed oils.

Why would it be my first choice? In nutrition, “essential” means something is vital and cannot be made from anything else. (Vitamin A, commonly found in animal fats, can be made from beta carotene, found in orange plant foods, as an example of something being made from something else.) Essential fatty acids (EFAs) are a part of every single cell membrane in your body. (I tell people you can make your house of straw or brick!) EFAs also modify the inflammatory response and participate with the intercommunication between cells. Omega 3’s “cousin” Omega 6 is found in corn and safflower oils, and can be either pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory. If there are enough Omega 3s, the Omega 6s become anti-inflammatory; if not, Omega 6s become inflammatory. There is one other EFA: Arachadonic Acid (AA) which found in meat, shelled fish, poultry, and eggs. These EFAs are strictly inflammatory.

Inflammation gets a bad rap. Inflammation is the first step of the healing process, but it should be an “on” only in the first stage of injury. Chronic inflammation – that is, inflammation that is on all the time – IS a problem and at the root of ALL our chronic conditions. Most people eat highly inflammatory foods and consequently are in a state of chronic inflammation. So unless you eat like an Eskimo, supplementation is necessary.

The quality of the Omega 3 is critical. First, what is the source of the oil? I use products from small fish like sardines and anchovies because they are lower on the food chain and therefore less likely to contain heavy metals. People often eat salmon as a source of Omega 3. There are two problems with this approach. One is that most salmon is farmed. These fish are fed corn, an inflammatory food, causing the fish to be inflammatory. The other issue with salmon is it is a predator, which means it may have high levels of heavy metals in its body.

An important consideration affecting the quality EFA is how it is processed. If not processed properly (expeller pressed at low temperatures) the chemical structure of the oil is altered. Many people try to get Omega 3 from flax seed but is not the most useful form. There are many substandard nutritional supplements on the market. I carry products that are certified four times a year by the FDA that they have in them what they should and do not have heavy metals or other contaminants.

The chronic use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as Advil and Aleve is a sure sign of EFA deficiency. Why not use what you are supposed to have? Just make sure of the quality! I always keep in stock because it IS the most important supplement!

*Dr. Mary Kintner is a Chiropractor and Nutritional Consultant on VT Rt. 15 in Underhill Flats.*

Lamoille Tobacco Prevention Task Force meeting May 14

Healthy Lamoille Valley has been awarded the Tobacco Community Prevention Grant from the VT Department of Health to continue our work on tobacco, smoke, and vaping prevention work in the Lamoille Valley! Join us to discuss our tobacco and vaping prevention plans for the summer and next academic year. Visit [www.healthylamoillevalley.org/tobacco-taskforce-meeting](http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/tobacco-taskforce-meeting) to register for this meeting that will take place on Friday, May 14, 12:00 – 1:00 PM.

The Tobacco Task Force and Lamoille Area Youth Council also have smoke- and vape-free signs and cigarette buttlars available to the community. Email [alison@healthylamoillevalley.org](mailto:alison@healthylamoillevalley.org) if you are interested.

National Prevention Week begins Sunday, May 9! Watch our website [www.healthylamoillevalley.org](http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org) and social media for our Prevention Week Challenge!

Copley Hospital update

By Jill Baker, Copley Hospital

We are several weeks into our vaccination clinics at the Morrisville VFW, where we are averaging between 450-500 shots per clinic. Their efforts are helping our staff progress toward a 50% adult vaccination benchmark that will begin to drive down new daily infections. It takes many hands to ensure the clinics run smoothly and with that said, we extend our thanks to the COVID vaccination team, the many Copley staff and volunteers, and our area health partners: Lamoille Health Partners, Lamoille Home Health and Hospice, Tamarack Family Medicine, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, Northern Counties Health Care, as well as Medical Resource Corps, private practitioners, and members from the VFW. It is a team effort – one our community truly appreciates.

Vaccination clinics are by appointment only – you must pre-register via the VT Department of Health’s website at [www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine), or by calling 855-722-7878.

Last Thursday, we were honored to host U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy. Senator Leahy, accompanied by his wife Marcelle, visited Copley Hospital. Prior to his hospital visit, the Senator joined VT Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine at the Morrisville VFW. There, Senator Leahy and Dr. Levine thanked staff as well as visited with community members receiving their vaccine. Channel 5 news was onsite to capture the Senator’s visit; its coverage can be viewed at <https://www.mynbc5.com/article/at-morrisville-hospital-leahy-announces-new-funding-for-rural-states-vaccination-effort/36067542>.

At the hospital, Senator Leahy and Marcelle toured a number of departments. The visit provided the Senator an opportunity to pay tribute to the staff for their hard work and diligence during this uncertain time. His morning concluded with a press conference where the Senator discussed plans to help rural health care facilities rebound from losses inflicted by the pandemic.

More great news! Effective Monday, April 12, we have extended our visitor policy. The new policy allows two fully vaccinated visitors per patient on the Acute Care Nursing Unit, as well as patients to the Emergency Department. Please note that visitors will not be permitted with patients suspected of having COVID-19, or who test positive for COVID-19.

As your community hospital, we thank you for doing your part in keeping our community safe as we continue to live through this pandemic. Getting your vaccine, wearing your mask, frequent hand washing, and physical distancing are bringing us closer to ending this pandemic.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the bed with me. I wrote a short reflection on this unique local feature for Northern Woodlands Magazine, and it’s in the current issue and at this link:

<https://northernwoodlands.org/articles/article/tracing-the-track>

Thank you also to the landowners who own pieces of the railroad bed and keep it unposted for others to safely explore!

Allaire Diamond  
Jericho

Thanks for the masks – here’s another fun project!

To the Editor,

Thanks to those in our community who have been making masks this past year, and to Barbara Felitti for her diligent coordination and distribution. It has been fun seeing the masks around town made out of familiar fabric! It had been such a great community effort – thank you!

Here is a new one, if you are a knitter and not a sew-er, or want a tiny break from from sewing masks.

Knitted Knockers! Yes, you read this right and that’s what they are. Hand-knitted prosthetics provided free for women who have had breast cancer surgery and have undergone mastectomies or lumpectomies and are awaiting healing of scars or may not be able to afford the commercial types. They also fit into regular bras instead of requiring specialty camisoles or bras.

They are free with no requests for donations from the recipients although the organization is a nonprofit and will take donations, as the postage alone for mailing out the requests is over \$4000 per month.

A friend sent me the link to the video and it is inspirational. The demand is high and the project is encouraging grassroots organization. The effort now is to try to connect the knitting groups with local medical providers who would distribute them – free, with no insurance needed. If someone in our town has the time to organize, that would be a bonus since there are only five groups in Vermont.

Here is the information: <https://www.knittedknockers.org>. So, if you have time to knit and would like to do a worthwhile project, here is a good opportunity. The need, sadly, will be ongoing until there’s a cure.

Heidi Racht  
Huntington

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Daffodils and depression

To the Editor,

Spring and early summer are wonderful times of the year, and for many a welcome shift from the darker cold days of winter. It is also the time of year when depression and suicide rates are at their highest. Reach out to your loved ones, your therapist, a trusted friend, or one of the resources below. Talking about it with someone who is compassionate, curious, and validating can make a difference. You are not alone, there are many people who struggle with suicidal thoughts. It is possible to live, probably not without sadness but perhaps with the addition of joy. What is going on that might make someone want to leave this earth? Get curious and get compassionate. There are legitimate reasons for being in such deep pain, let’s talk about it and normalize it. Let’s continue to be here for one another in the difficult times.

Sending neighborly love and solidarity.

Resources:

- Alternatives to Suicide Peer Support Groups: <https://wildfloweralliance.org/online-support-groups/>
- Pathways Vermont Peer Support Line: Call of text 833-888-2557

- Vermont Suicide Prevention Center’s Crisis Text Line: Text VT to 741741

- Howard Center’s First Call Line: 802-488-7777

*“Ring the bells that still can ring*

*Forget your perfect offering*

*There is a crack, a crack in everything*

*That’s how the light gets it”*

— Leonard Cohen

In honor of our dear friend Scott, June 5, 1989-May 14, 2018

Dana Williams  
Underhill

CAC thanks Christy Liddy

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC), I’d like to express our gratitude to Christy Liddy for her years of service at the Varnum Memorial Library. We were welcomed at the Varnum for a number of monthly happenings (Poetry People, Open Mic) and miscellaneous events. From May 2018 until the library closed due to the pandemic, we held our monthly board meetings at the Varnum and Christy (an Arts Council member) would sometimes attend to see what we were up to or because one of her ideas was on the agenda. She researched and recommended programs that we co-sponsored with the library, including a number of Vermont Humanities Council presentations and the monthly Spanish Musical Kids program. Christy is a techie. She publicized all of our mutual events on social media and obtained a grant which will upgrade the Varnum’s Internet speed. In celebration of Poetry Month (April), the Cambridge Arts Council partnered with the Varnum on two online poetry programs: Poetry People and The Value of our Stories with Rajnii Eddins. The upgrade of the Varnum’s Internet will improve virtual participation in future collaborations. Thank you Christy, we wish you well.

LN Bethea  
Teresa Bobel-Mazzarese  
Laurie Baron  
Monica Hawkes  
Jeffersonville

Discarded beer cans

To the Editor,

Good Morning Neighbors!

I just finished a half-mile walk on the 101 Road and collected 58 cans. Most were craft beer cans. I know that this is only from the past few months as my wife and I cleaned up the area late last fall.

Obviously the 5¢ deposit is outdated and ineffective as a deterrent.

Most were expensive craft beers. My guess is that this is not the act of minors, but rather adults who can afford the higher expense of craft beers.

We enjoy walking in our beautiful area, looking at the trees, and listening to the birds. How do we stop or at least reduce this problem, so we can spend more time enjoying nature and less time collecting discarded cans ?

Bob LaChance  
Jeffersonville

Reflection on Burlington & Lamoille Railroad

To the Editor,

Last spring I posted here asking for information about the Burlington & Lamoille Railroad, whose bed runs through my neighborhood. Several people responded with very helpful information and connections, and I’m grateful for all that I learned from each of you. In particular, Gary Irish shared some excellent resources and Jerry Fox visited to walk a section of

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# HOME & GARDEN 2021

## Spring lawn equipment: get ready for backyarding in high style

**Properly maintained equipment can help you have a beautiful backyard.**

(NAPSI) — Backyarding is the new trend that’s emerged during the pandemic. Our backyards are where we eat, work, play, relax, and socialize, and the green spaces around our homes have proven to be vibrant places for connection and vital to maintaining mental health.

So how do you get ready for lots of springtime backyarding? You organize your yard and ready your landscaping.

“Take some time to plan out your yard with your family. Once you know the purpose you want it to serve, it’s time to start working with it,” said Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing outdoor power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf cart, and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

“A well-cared for lawn and landscape provides the canvas for a year-round backyarding lifestyle. You’ll want to get out there with your outdoor power equipment, like your lawn mower and trimmers, as soon as spring arrives, and you want to do it safely,” said Kiser.

He offered the following tips to get lawn equipment ready for spring:

Refresh your knowledge. Read your equipment owner’s manuals and follow all manufacturer’s guidelines. If you find a manual online, save a digital copy for future reference.

Look over equipment. Lots can happen in a garage or storage shed over the winter. Check the air filter, oil level, and gasoline tank. Watch for loose belts and missing or damaged parts. Replace any parts needed or take your equipment to a qualified service representative. Check to be sure that you have the appropriate batteries if needed.

Drain fuel tanks. If you didn’t empty the gasoline tank before storing equipment, drain it now. Fuel should never sit in outdoor power equipment for more than 30 days. Untreated gasoline (without a fuel stabilizer) will deteriorate, which may cause starting or running problems or damage the fuel system.

Protect your power. Use only E10 or less fuel in gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment. Most manufacturers recommend a fuel stabilizer be used, especially if you don’t use up all the fuel in the tank right away. Any fuel containing more than 10% ethanol can damage small engine equipment not designed for it. Store fuel safely. Label fuel cans with the date of purchase and ethanol content of the fuel. If you don’t know the date of

purchase, dispose safely of the fuel and buy fresh gasoline. Always store fuel out of the reach of children or pets and in approved containers.

Don’t mix up your battery packs. For battery-powered equipment, use only the charger specified by the manufacturer. A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may create a risk of fire when used with another. Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or tool outside the temperature range specified in the instructions.

Stash batteries safely. When the battery pack is not in use, keep it away from other metal objects, like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws or other small metal objects, that can make a connection from one terminal to another. Shorting the battery terminals together may cause burns or a fire.

Tidy up. Clean equipment will run more efficiently and last longer. Clean equipment and store it in a dry place. Remove dirt, oil or grass. Never store equipment in a place that is damp or wet. For further information on safe fueling, go to [www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com).



### Bee’s early spring snack

*Who made marigold a flower  
and dandelion a weed  
who conditioned us  
Vermonters who take pride in independent thinking  
to cherish one golden buttercup  
and abolish another?*

*Will you take a pledge to help save the honeybees, native solitary bees, and bumblebees who work so efficiently to pollinate our flowers, trees, and food crops? They wake up as hungry as bears in early spring, looking for food that dandelions bring. Will you take the pledge to appreciate the beauty and value of dandelions, the roses of children everywhere? Find Bernie Paquette’s ode to the lovely golden flower on his blog at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2019/04/yellow-rose-of-vermont-bees-first.html>.*

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

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# HOME & GARDEN 2021



## Tips from the DRML Master Gardeners

It's finally May and the daffodils are blooming. The cold winter has melted away and the warm spring days turn the earth green. The garden is waking. Now is the time for spring cleanup. Here's a checklist from the DRML Master Gardeners to help you get your landscape and garden back in shape.

1. Remove the matted leaves from the garden.
2. Get rid of weeds, making sure that you get the roots, so the weeds won't grow back.
3. Edge your garden beds. It is a good time to cut sharp edges along all garden beds. This not only neatens the landscape, but it also creates a "lip" to contain mulch.
4. Divide perennials. Right before new growth begins is an ideal time to dig and divide most perennial flowers that are growing beyond where you'd like them. Replant divided clumps ASAP, and water them well in their new home. Or give away pieces or compost any excess
5. Trim old plants. Plants that survived the winter will need to be pruned so they'll grow anew in the spring.
6. Revitalize the soil. Top dress the soil with an inch or two of compost, humus and/or manure in early spring as a part of cleanup.
7. Add a fresh layer of mulch to garden beds. It just doesn't look good, it also helps the soil retain moisture for your plants and keeps down weed.

Most important! Remember do not put out your tender plants until after Memorial Day.

## Sleep on it

*Seven tips for buying a new mattress*

(NAPSI) — A mattress is one of the most important purchases you'll ever make — after all, you spend approximately a third of your life in bed. Although the number of choices can feel overwhelming, you don't have to lose sleep over it if you heed these hints:

1. Size matters. If you're sharing a bed, you should buy at least a queen-size mattress. A healthy person moves 40 to 60 times a night and makes lots of full-body turns. For sound sleep, you need freedom of motion.
2. Test-drive different models. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes you can easily slip off so you can lie down. Compare a variety of support levels and styles within your budget.
3. Look under the hood. Ask the salesperson to show you illustrated or actual "cutaways" of the interior of the different mattresses and foundations. The mechanics of innersprings and foams vary widely, which can greatly affect comfort.
4. Use a reputable dealer. Furniture stores, department stores, and sleep specialty shops all sell mattresses. Ask friends and family for referrals. If you don't feel your salesperson is knowledgeable or helpful, take your business elsewhere.
5. Buying online? If you choose to buy a mattress online, you won't have the chance to try it out, so read the reviews, carefully check return and shipping policies — and be certain there's customer support should a problem arise.
6. Go for the best value, not the lowest price. To ensure long-term performance, buy the highest-quality sleep set you can afford. View it as a seven- to ten-year investment in your health and well-being.
7. Be sure it contains certified foam. A key consideration is that the flexible polyurethane foam in the mattress meets standards set by CertiPUR-US — a certification program administered by a not-for-profit organization — for content, emissions, and durability. This internationally recognized foam certification program was established to combat substandard imported foams, some of which contained substances banned in the U.S. or listed by environmental and regulatory groups as containing chemicals that may cause cancer or genetic defects or damage fertility. The foam used in pillows and upholstered furniture can be certified, too.

What certification means: When you buy products containing CertiPUR-US-certified foam, you can be confident that the flexible polyurethane foam inside has been tested and analyzed at least annually by independent accredited laboratories and is:

- made without ozone depleters;
- made without PBDEs, TDCPP or TCEP ("Tris") flame retardants;
- made without mercury, lead, and other heavy metals;
- made without formaldehyde;
- made without phthalates regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
- made with low VOC (volatile organic compound) emissions for indoor air quality (less than 0.5 parts per million).

Learn more: For further facts and tips and a list of participating companies, visit [www.certipur.us](http://www.certipur.us).

## Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District has compost

Lamoille Soil Compost Sales: Buckets of compost are available now. We have pre-filled five-gallon buckets at all of our locations at \$5 for five gallons and you get to keep the bucket! Stop by the Johnson or Stowe Transfer Station anytime during regular hours of operation to refill it for \$3. You can also bring your own five-gallon bucket to fill with compost, too.

Lamoille Soil compost is also available for purchase by the cubic yard, at \$50/yard, on a first-come, first-served basis every Friday and Saturday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, until we run out of finished compost. Compost is available for pick up only at Lamoille Soil, which can be accessed through the Johnson

Transfer Station (941 Wilson Rd., Johnson). <https://lrswmd.org/lamoille-soil/>.

Masks are required: To keep our public and our employees healthy, face coverings are required whenever you are on-site at any of our LRSWMD locations. Thank you for your cooperation!

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District & Lamoille Soil: Serving the towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morrisville, Stowe, Waterville, Wolcott, & Worcester

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**Homemade Weed-Be-Gone:** 1 gallon vinegar, 2 cups Epsom salt, ¼ cup Dawn dish soap (blue original). Just mix and spray in the morning after the dew has evaporated. Walk away; go back after dinner and the weeds are done for. This is said to kill anything you spray it on, so apply carefully!

FOLK KNOWLEDGE

## Wet basement? Tips from Efficiency Vermont

No surprise... that crazy spring weather is here, and mud season is upon us. Which means your basement could experience leaks, dampness, condensation, or even standing water. A wet basement can cause issues for your home and even your health, so it's important to address the source and dry it up for good.

This guide can help. Learn how to dry out your wet basement by diverting water runoff, fixing leaks, eliminating condensation, and covering damp floors.

We also have rebates on qualifying ENERGY STAR dehumidifiers.

Visit <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/blog/how-to/how-to-fix-a-wet-damp-or-downright-leaky-basement>.



# HOME & GARDEN 2021

## Energy matters

### Residential Solar + Battery Storage Solutions Protect Against Utility Outages

(NAPSI) — The market for energy storage is growing — and with good reason. With power disruptions from electrical utilities driven by wildfires, storms, hurricanes, and the continued decay of the power grid across the country, homeowners have turned to new solutions to keep the lights on.

At the center of the upswing in interest, solar power continues to rank highly with energy-conscious homeowners nationwide. However, as residents in California have discovered through Public Safety Power Shutoffs in 2019, their current photovoltaic (PV) solar systems do not power their homes during utility outages, primarily because safety shut-off protocols are designed into the systems to protect utility workers. This has boosted the appeal of battery-based energy storage and software systems that can harness the sunlight and store it for later use.

The Public Safety Power Shutoffs were put in place to mitigate wildfire risks that could be caused by sparking power transmission lines when high winds and dry conditions create dangerous circumstances. The state of California recently earmarked \$675 million under a new round of its Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), one of the first state-level incentives for battery energy storage in the country. The program — which now has a cumulative historic value of over \$1 billion — has helped California lead the nation in residential energy storage. The SGIP Equity Resilience incentive program could essentially

offset the entire cost of a battery storage system by providing up to \$1/watt of backup power for qualified homeowners.

Hurricanes on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts also have inspired many homeowners to consider battery storage as an addition to their solar power systems or to add natural gas or propane-powered home backup generators in place of or in addition to the solar assets. This demand has helped backup generator giant Generac move into the clean energy arena with its PWRcell Storage System, which is considered an ideal solution for resilience to utility grid outages and a way to significantly lower energy bills by avoiding the utility company’s peak rates. Generac is the only company that offers both battery storage systems and whole home backup generators. Its dealers can provide “touchless virtual quotes” for both systems that let homeowners make the best decision for their specific needs.

The PWRcell storage system is an all-in-one platform that offers 8 kilowatts of continuous power and a 10 kW surge capacity to start heavy loads such as two-ton air conditioners and well pumps, but what sets this apart from other options is its ability to scale up to 17.1 kW of usable capacity. The system is equipped with an energy monitoring technology called PWRview, which offers smart device linkage to track household energy consumption, monitor battery usage, and track energy spending and savings.

Such residential clean energy solutions bring smart home energy storage and management into the mainstream for homeowners, cutting energy costs and providing protection from electric utility disruptions. As a result, people have more options when deciding where to get their power.



### Turn an eyesore into an eye-ful

*Utility structures need not be an eyesore. The look of this solar array is softened by the container-grown vegetables and the flowers, mostly self-seeded annuals and perennials, that surround it.*

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

## What are the different types of broadband Internet?

### From Lamoille FiberNet

There are many different types of broadband, or high-speed Internet. But how fast they are, and what types of usage they support, varies from type to type.

- High earth orbit satellite Internet is one of the slowest broadband Internet options, but often the only one available for rural or remote addresses. High orbit satellite Internet is delivered via wireless signal from space to a receiver dish mounted on the recipient’s building.

While this wireless technology means satellite dishes can be installed at almost any location, it also means data is transmitted very slowly, usually between 5-25 Mbps (Megabits per second), and with a lag that usually makes video conferencing impossible. Satellite ISPs may also come with a data cap that limits how much data you can use per month, with extra fees if you go over the limit. These limitations make satellite Internet suitable only for basic browsing, email use, or limited streaming for one device at a time.

- DSL (digital subscriber line) is Internet transmitted over existing copper phone lines but transmitted at a higher frequency than telephone communications. This makes DSL much faster than dial-up Internet and it doesn’t tie up the phone line while it’s in use. DSL is available to just about any building that has a physical phone line, but it may not be much faster than satellite Internet. Depending on what providers are in your area and how much you’re willing or able to pay, speeds can range from 10-100

Mbps. This makes DSL suitable for email, browsing, streaming on two to three devices simultaneously, or video conferencing for one device at a time.

- Low earth orbit (LEO) satellite Internet, such as Starlink, is Internet provided wirelessly like regular satellite Internet, but delivered from satellites which are positioned much lower in the earth’s atmosphere, allowing the signals to transmit much faster than with regular low-orbit satellites. This makes low-orbit satellite Internet a great option for addresses in remote areas, as it can be deployed to almost any address, but it still manages to provide speeds anywhere from 50-200 Mbps, which can support simultaneous streaming on several devices, or video conferencing for one device at a time.

A recent survey by NEK Broadband showed that more than half the 44 respondents reported notable downtime, however. Also, Starlink needs a clear view of the north sky — steep mountains and trees can block reception.

- Cable Internet is one of the fastest broadband options, but it is usually only available in densely populated areas such as cities or village centers and is rarely offered in rural or remote areas. Much like how DSL transmits signals over existing copper telephone wires, cable Internet is transmitted over existing coaxial cables normally used for providing cable TV. Cable Internet is much faster than DSL, ranging in speeds from 25-300 Mbps, which once again are largely determined by which providers are in your area and how much you’re willing or able to pay per month.

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# HOME & GARDEN 2021



Be creative when creating pleasant garden views.  
PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

## Skunk Rinse Recipe

You'll never know when your adventurous pet will get skunk sprayed. Keep this recipe on hand in times of skunk-related emergencies!

### Mix the following ingredients:

- 1 quart hydrogen peroxide (the 3 percent hydrogen peroxide variety)
- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 2 teaspoons dishwashing liquid

### NOTE

If you have a large breed dog, you may need to double, triple or even quadruple the mixture.

This solution should be made **FRESH**, right before you apply it to your pets, otherwise it won't be effective.

For the detailed procedure, visit: [mercola.com/SkunkRinse](http://mercola.com/SkunkRinse)

Wear dishwashing or other household gloves if you like during the whole de-skunking process.

**Healthy Pets**  
HealthyPets.Mercola.com

### Protecting your assets

**Get Ready: 10 tips to help home and business owners prepare ahead of storms, hurricanes and floods**

(NAPSI) — The preparations you make now, ahead of storms, floods, or hurricanes, can help you recover faster and stay safe during cleanup. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, and battery power, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars, reminds home and business owners to get ready before a storm strikes and make preparations now.

“Weather can be unpredictable, so it’s important to always keep your equipment in working order, to have the right fuel on hand, and to know where your safety gear is. This is doubly true during storm season, as the weather can change quickly,” said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of OPEI. “You also want to know how to use your equipment safely and use caution when cleaning up.”

These tips can help homeowners and businesses plan ahead for storm cleanup:

- Take stock of your outdoor power equipment. Make sure it’s in good working order. If needed, take the equipment to an authorized service center for maintenance or repair. If you need to buy a new piece of equipment, get it before the storm and learn how to use it.
- Find your safety gear. Avoid the scramble for sturdy shoes, safety goggles, hard hats, reflective clothing, and work gloves, which should be stored in an accessible area with your equipment.
- Review the owner’s manuals. Read product manuals to ensure you know how to operate your equipment safely.
- Have the right fuel on hand. Fuel stations may be closed after a storm. Store your fuel in an approved container. Use the type

of fuel recommended by the equipment manufacturer. It’s illegal to use any fuel with more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment (for more information on proper fueling visit [www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com)).

- Charge batteries. Collect the batteries for your outdoor power equipment and fully charge them ahead of the storm.
- Use safety precautions. Be aware of fundamental dangers that can occur. For instance, chainsaw kickback may happen when the moving chain at the tip of the guide bar touches an object or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain in the cut. Always stand with your weight on both feet, and adjust your stance so you’re angled away from the blade. Hold the chainsaw with both hands. Never over-reach or cut anything above your shoulder height. Have a planned retreat path if something falls.
- Ensure portable generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should never be used in an enclosed area or inside a home or garage, even if the windows or doors are open. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide inside. Keep the generator dry. Do not use it in rainy or wet conditions. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.
- Drive Utility Type Vehicles (UTVs) with caution. Keep the vehicle stable and drive slowly. Do not turn the vehicle mid-slope or while on a hill.
- Be aware of others. Keep bystanders, children and animals out of your work area. Don’t let other people near outdoor power equipment when starting or using it.
- Pay attention to your health. Storm cleanup can be taxing on the body and the spirit. Don’t operate power equipment when you’re fatigued. Drink plenty of water and take regular breaks.

Keep this advice in mind and you may be better prepared to weather any storm.

### Electric fencing offers protection against chicken predation

Keeping a small flock of chickens at home to provide eggs and meat has become increasingly popular, but many first-time small-scale poultry farmers are discovering that several species of wildlife like the taste of chicken as much as we do. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department urges poultry owners to use electric fencing and follow other precautions to protect their birds from predation.

“We are already getting reports of bears hitting bird feeders and expect to be receiving additional reports soon about bears, foxes, raccoons, fisher, coyotes, skunks, and bobcats preying on chickens,” said Forrest Hammond, Vermont’s bear biologist. “Many of the calls will be coming from people who are new at keeping chickens and who do not provide sufficient protection for their birds.”

“In 2020, we received a record 167 reports of bears getting after chickens. This number has been increasing in recent years, with an average of 31 reports per year from 2011-2017 and an average of 122 reports per year from 2018-2020.”

Hammond urges people to keep their chickens contained inside electric net fencing and to make sure any wire fencing is secure. Use of one-quarter-inch hardware cloth, especially along the bottom of an enclosure, will block most small predators. Weasels can get through a one-inch opening. The electric netting, however, is good extra protection even outside the wire netting – especially against black bears, which are strong enough to break into most unprotected chicken coops. Several types of electric net fencing are available. The netting is portable and can easily be used with moveable chicken pens.

Here are additional tips to help keep your chickens safe:

- Apply bacon grease or peanut butter to a spot on the electric fencing as an added deterrent.
- Cover the tops of pens with wire or plastic netting to guard against attacks from avian and climbing predators.
- Bury galvanized hardware cloth or netting 12” deep around the perimeter of the pen to prevent access by digging predators.
- A motion-activated light to illuminate the coop after dark will discourage some predators. Motion-activated alarms also can help deter them.
- Store poultry feed in a secure indoor location in tight containers, and only feed poultry the amount that can be consumed in one feeding.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife has more helpful information about living with bears on their website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## Award Winning Homes

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### Hints for homeowners in kitchens

(NAPSI) — An increasing number of families are finding how much fun it can be to cook and eat at home — but an easy-to-clean-and-work-in kitchen can make a big difference.

Here are six ideas on how to have one that can help you save time, effort, and expensive cleaning supplies.

1. Be clever about cabinetry: Choose simple, flat door cabinets without molding or raised panels, which can collect grease and dirt. Soft-close doors help reduce touch points.
2. When you get down to it, the right flooring and a well-thought-out floor plan can reduce the likelihood of messes. The “work triangle” — from sink to refrigerator to cooking appliances — should be designed with an ergonomic flow in mind so moving around the room is easier, faster, and less likely to result in spills. Avoid textured linoleum or any flooring with wide seams and gaps.
3. Apply the same principles to appliances: Stainless steel is both beautiful and enduring and can now come in a fingerprint-resistant finish. If you store them in cabinets instead of on countertops, that’ll keep them cleaner.
4. Hot ideas for stoves: Get sealed burners on gas cooktops; flat glass electric, and induction tops make it far easier to wipe up spills. A strong ventilation hood with dishwasher-safe filters will reduce dust and grease in the kitchen so it doesn’t settle on surfaces.
5. Be smart about sinks. Food-safe surfaces that reduce bacterial growth are important. A hygiene-friendly sink material solution, SILGRANIT by BLANCO, has a non-porous surface with a smooth stone-like finish that resists stains, scratches, chips, acid, and heat. The Hygienic Plus surface acts as a shield against dirt and germs while reducing bacterial growth by up to 98%. Plus, the material needs no harsh chemicals to keep clean — just soap and water or baking soda, since the hydrophobic surface pushes away dirt and water so it easily drains away.
6. A fact about faucets: Engineered with a solid brass body and a flexible, high-quality hose encased in stainless steel, the SOLENTA semi-pro faucet is both durable and easy to clean. It also provides the ultimate hands-free experience by combining reliable materials with a sophisticated start-stop technology so there’s less to clean while you’re keeping clean.

Learn more: For further facts and tips, visit [www.blancoamerica.com](http://www.blancoamerica.com).

### HOW TO UNCLOG A SINK!

Pour in half a cup of this.

Pour in half a box of this.

QUICKLY plug the drain with this.

Hold in place until fizzing stops.

WAIT 30 MINUTES

Pour boiling water down sink.

Drain should now flow freely!

©2019 good things



COMING EVENTS

**IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL and SOCIALLY DISTANCED**  
**Wednesday, May 5**  
**Lions Club Blood Drive**, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. Hosted by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood, so please consider donating. We will observe all possible precautions to maintain a safe environment while you donate. Please schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>, entering “COVENANT” in the search bar.

**Thursday, May 6**  
**What in the Woods?** 12:00 – 1:00 PM, online. Interested in learning about what is popping up in the woods or the birds returning? Join Coverts staff Lisa Sausville and Alicia Carlson as they discuss what they are seeing, how they document their observations and work to learn about their woods. This informal lunch time chat will inspire you to get out in your woods! Register in advance for this meeting: <https://vtcoverts.org/calendar.html>.

**Friday, May 7**  
**Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health**, 7:00 PM, online. Join the Vermont chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) for a virtual family read-along of *Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health!* Children ages 5-11 and their trusted adults can learn the basics of mental health in a safe and supported environment with Gizmo, a 3.5 pound therapy dog! This “upstream” approach to mental health for young children will start the conversation about mental health and the concept of mental health, share how to care for your mental health daily, and define a “trusted adult” – who they are, and how to connect with them. To register your family, go online to <https://afspvtgizmo1.attendee.com>.

**Saturday, May 8**  
**VEC Annual Meeting**, 9:00 AM, online. Please join Vermont Electric CoOp (VEC) members at VEC’s 2021 Annual Meeting Saturday. CEO Rebecca Towne will offer a look at emerging grid innovations at VEC; there will be a conversation with Vermont Lt Gov. Molly Gray; hear the results of the Board of Directors election; and more. Information about this virtual meeting is available online at <https://vermontelectric.coop/annual-meeting>.



**Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9**  
**Pony Club Manure Sale**, Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sunday 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM, next to the Dollar General, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. The bags of fully composted manure are \$5 each, or five for \$20. Proceeds will go towards maintaining the property where Pony Club is held, acquiring guest instruction for a variety of different skills, holding competitions, and more. The manure comes pre-bagged in recycled grain bags. You know these kids are committed when a group of teenagers voluntarily shovel poo to raise money for something they love. Please come support Pleasant Valley Pony Club and buy some manure. It’s the only time it’s ok to give your mother a load of poo!

**Thursday, May 13**  
**An Evening with the VT Respite House**, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, on Zoom. UVM Health Network Home Health and Hospice invites you to *An Evening with the McClure Miller Respite House: finding connection and resilience in a year of grief and loss*, for conversation and reflection to deepen understanding, nourish through connection, and make room for our experiences as integral parts of ourselves so we may move forward. Ally Parker, Bereavement Care Coordinator, and Bronwyn Becker, Hospice Spiritual Caregiver will reflect on this past year, and will then be joined in a panel discussion by UVM Home Health and Hospice President/COO Adrienne Johnson Ross and Executive Director of Hospice and Palliative Care Tara Graham. Free and open to all. To register, go online to [https://uvmhealth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JXah00R6ShG-Mc45BpeB\\_w](https://uvmhealth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JXah00R6ShG-Mc45BpeB_w).

**Friday, May 14**  
**Coffee with the new Washington County Forester**, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, online. Join Vermont Coverts and Vermont Woodlands Association for an informal discussion over coffee with the new Washington County Forester Robert Nelson. We will have a chance to meet Robert and he will answer your questions about forests, trees, forest ecology, the Current Use program, and whatever else comes up. Join us as we bring back this popular program to meet Vermont’s newest County Forester. A cup of coffee is a great way to start the day. It’s even better when you can get together with others to chat about all things related to the forest. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://vtcoverts.org/calendar.html>.

**Wednesday, May 19**  
**Women’s Estate Planning Workshop**, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, online. Vermont Land Trust’s popular workshop is online this spring: from the comfort of your home, let our panelists walk you through the steps to confidently begin – or wrap up – your plans. To register, <https://vlt.org/event/estate-planning>.

Women on the Land  
spring webinar series

Women Owning Woodlands is hosting four webinars in May based on “Women on the Land: A Landowner’s Guide to Stewarding Her Woodlands.” Join us to hear women landowners and forestry professionals from across the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes regions address topics on forest dynamics and stewardship. Each session is interactive and will offer opportunities to connect with fellow women woodland owners and enthusiasts. For all dates, the Wednesday sessions run 12:30 – 2:00 PM:

- May 5 – Forest Ecology and Forest Succession
- May 12 – Creating a Plan and Working with a Forester
- May 19 – Active Stewardship
- May 26 – The Future of Your Woodland

For more information and to register, <https://foreststewardsguild.org/event/women-on-the-land-spring-webinar-series/>.

SUMMER CAMPS



**Vermont’s 2021 summer camp regulations**  
On April 23, 2021 the state of Vermont issued guidance for overnight summer camps this summer. It is available at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Overnight-Summer-Camp-Guidance.pdf>.

Green Mountain Conservation  
Camp this summer

VT Fish & Wildlife’s Green Mountain Conservation Camp (GMCC) offers hands-on learning experiences about fish, wildlife, ecology, botany, forestry, hunter firearm safety, outdoor first aid, and so much more. GMCC offers opportunities for hiking, canoeing, fishing, archery, .22 rifle and shotgun shooting, orienteering, and other fun activities. Campers have a unique opportunity to meet Vermont State Game Wardens, foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, and others who work in the outdoors. Wildlife education and outdoor skills are the focus of GMCC and the program’s goal is to cultivate a caring attitude among our youth for Vermont’s fish and wildlife resources. As of April 7, 2021: All GMCC Sessions (Basic and Advanced) starting with the week of Sunday, July 4 will accept applications for the full number of campers. This change is based on new protocols outline by the Governor of Vermont. Due to current Vermont travel restrictions, no out-of-state residents will be permitted to attend GMCC this summer. Age exceptions will be made in 2022 to accommodate any campers affected by these regulations.

For information about registration and more, go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>. Camp locations: Buck Lake Camp, 1051 Buck Lake Rd., Woodbury, VT – pleasantly nestled in the woods alongside Buck Lake; and Edward F. Kehoe Camp, 636 Point of Pines Rd., Castleton, VT – located on Lake Bomoseen, with a particularly beautiful mountain view.

Virtual summer camp: TDI@Home!

TDI@Home 2021 is a virtual summer camp/academic program for advanced, creative, and gifted students entering grades 4-9, held on Zoom Monday-Friday for two weeks: June 21-25 and June 28-July 2, 2021, with morning and/or afternoon options available for one or both weeks. The cost is \$230 per morning or afternoon session, with scholarships available. There are classes of many types – from science to language to arts to tech to humanities – which are designed to be engaging and fun, and to nurture students’ creativity and their love of learning. Go to <https://www.tdivermont.org/camp-info> for more information about our organization and TDI@Home 2021. Register at [app.campdoc.com/register/tdi](http://app.campdoc.com/register/tdi) by Tuesday, June 8. We look forward to celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TDI back on the Northern Vermont University campus in 2022! The Talent Development Institute (TDI) is under the umbrella of the Green Mountain Center for Gifted Education, and is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with the mission of affirming, educating, and supporting Vermont’s gifted and talented youth and their families. We welcome participants and staff of all colors, creeds, ethnicities, nationalities, orientations, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Summer Camps at the  
Barn School in Westford

The Barn School will be offering summer camps this year most weeks between June 14 and August 20. Register online at <https://forms.gle/WYiWX9iVnjJY5nCB9>. Lots of outdoor play, fun activities, projects, and time to play! Camps will follow all protocols and safety procedures for safe operation. Please email with any questions: [Kara@thebarnschoolvt.com](mailto:Kara@thebarnschoolvt.com).

Equine camps at Freedom Farm

Synchrony Dressage at Freedom Farm, just off VT Rt. 15 on Cilley Hill Rd., Jericho has children’s camps coming this summer. Please go to <https://www.synchronydressage.com/summer-camp> for more information.

Kids summer activity  
camp June 21-25

Does your kid need something fun to do this summer? Do they need to stay active? Do they need some structured yet fun time to keep from getting rusty with school skills or catch up? Who doesn’t after this crazy COVID year? Skill work tailored to meet individual needs. Or do they just want to connect with other kids? If so, tell them to grab a buddy and get them off the couch or screen and out of your house! This summer activity camp runs Monday-Friday, June 21-25, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. This camp focuses on fitness, soccer, nature, art, skill work; alternative activities available. Staff includes a licensed K-12 teacher (BA Art, English, and Elementary Ed; Masters in Education with a concentration in Reading; with summer recreation programming experience). CPR and first Aid certified; practices COVID protocols. The Soccer Clinic has a four-year lettered MMU Girls Varsity Soccer offensive player: striker and Striker Clinic coach for CCS. There will be guest appearances by MMU Girls Varsity Soccer players.

The camp is located on five acres at 11 Covey Rd., Underhill, with field, woods, and pond adjacent to hiking trails for nature and fitness experiences. Snacks and beverages are included. Call or email for schedule and information: Connie Esmay, 802-858-9171 or [connieesmay@gmail.com](mailto:connieesmay@gmail.com).

Chittenden County  
Soccer School 2021

Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2021, July 12-16 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho, VT. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the “love of the game” to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan! Half- and full-day camp options for all ages! Age groups range from 4 and up. Please email Eric Barker, [barkereric15@gmail.com](mailto:barkereric15@gmail.com), with any questions. Or visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/chittendencountysoccerschool/home> to register!

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News briefs continued from page 3

tenants to please complete a survey about your experiences: <https://jerichovt.org/jericho-affordable-housing-committee>. We will use this information to understand how ADUs are serving our community today and how we can make them a more accessible option in the future. We will not be sharing identifiable information with the community or town officials. If you have further questions before or after taking the survey, please contact committee chair Bob Robbins at [robbsin@together.net](mailto:robbsin@together.net).

The peregrines are back!

**By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer**  
It has been confirmed that the peregrine falcons are back at the Upper Upper West cliff (adjacent to Notch Road, and accessible from the Preston Pond Trail), and choosing their 2021 nesting site. Closure signs were already placed in the area in mid-March to alert climbers to the cliff closing, and additional cliff closure signs will be placed at the trailhead once the nesting area has been identified. March through July is the typical period that peregrine falcons are most sensitive to human disturbance; cliff closures will remain in effect during this period, and monitoring will continue throughout the breeding season. If you see nesting peregrines, you can report your sightings to Margaret Fowle at [margaret.fowle@audubon.org](mailto:margaret.fowle@audubon.org). Thank you in advance for respecting and obeying the closure areas and supporting these efforts to look after the wellbeing of Vermont’s peregrine falcons.

Be tick smart year  
Vermont Dept. of Health

Most cases of tickborne disease in Vermont are caused by bites from the blacklegged tick during early spring and late fall. The best way to prevent tickborne diseases is to prevent tick bites. Take these steps to protect yourself and your family from the diseases ticks spread!

Protect:

- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you>
- Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, brush, and leaf litter.
- Wear long pants and long sleeves.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tick prevention for pets.

Check:

- Check your body, clothing, gear, and pets for ticks after being outdoors.
- Put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes.

Remove:

- If you find a tick on your body, remove it as soon as you can using fine-tipped tweezers and pull straight up. Flush the tick down the toilet.

Watch:

- Watch for symptoms of tickborne illness for three to 30 days after a tick bite. Symptoms may include fever or chills, rash, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, or fatigue.
- Contact your health care provider if you get any of these symptoms after a tick bite.

Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/BeTickSmart>.





Camps continued from page 9

### Summer camps at Burlington Surf Club

Looking for something fun, outdoor and active for your kid this summer? Check out our half-day Windsurfing (ages 10-16) or SHE Girls (girls ages 9-12) camps at our Burlington Surf Club waterfront location. We provide the gear. You provide the kids. For more information, go online to <http://www.wndnwvs.com/camps/>.

### ECHO summer camp registration is now open

The ECHO Center on the Burlington waterfront offers one-day and week-long science, stewardship, and design themed day camps during summer break and school vacation. A day at ECHO camp can move from a behind-the-scenes observation of ECHO’s animal care activities to a LEGO engineering challenge. Led by STEM educators with an instructor-to-child ratio of approximately 1:6, our program adheres to physical distancing guidelines with small groups, extra time outside, and cleaning protocols. Please note: masks are required.

Program offerings for grades 1-3 include: S.T.E.A.M. Camp, Science of Superheroes, and Animal Adventures. For grades 3-5: Ecosystem Explorers, and Fantastic Forces

ECHO has limited scholarship funds available for those requiring financial assistance to participate in our camps. Questions? Contact [camps@echovermont.org](mailto:camps@echovermont.org).

For more information, go online to <https://www.echovermont.org/events-programs/camps/>.

### Registration open for Part 2: the Early Years summer camp

Enrollment is now open for *Part 2: The Early Years* Summer Camp at Richmond Elementary School! We will offer six weeks of fun weekly themes, on-site water play, and lots of outdoor time! We will differentiate activities to gear them towards the different age groups’ interests and abilities. The children will be able to go on field trips throughout the summer.

There are flexible enrollment options to work with your summer plans. For more information, please visit our website ([www.parttwokids.com](http://www.parttwokids.com)) or contact Joanne, [joanne@part2kids.com](mailto:joanne@part2kids.com).

### YMCA summer camp registration is open

We are excited for summer, are you? Have your kids join us at camp locations in Burlington, North Hero, Underhill, Georgia, Waterbury, and Fletcher.

- Burlington – three day camps, each with eight one-week sessions, for ages post-K to age 12, ages 8-14 (girls and gender non-conforming), and ages 8-14 co-ed;
- North Hero – Camp Abenaki, tech-free overnight and day camp for boys;
- Underhill, Georgia, Waterbury, Fletcher – Camp Koda, post-K to age 12, with three- and five-day options.

The Y offers financial assistance to qualifying families. For more information, visit [www.gbymca.org/camp](http://www.gbymca.org/camp).

### Bolton Valley Summer Camps

Get back to the mountains, and into nature at Bolton Valley’s Summer Camps for kids age 7-14.

Together we’ll climb, run, jump, and hike all around our massive outdoor playground with thousands of acres of outdoor playground. We incorporate a diverse mix of games into all of our camps programming, including soccer, tennis, volleyball, badminton, disc golf, ping pong, foosball, manhunt, stoke-ball and many more.

Our more specialized camps spend more time on our incredible Mountain Bike and Skatepark terrain, but all camps have access to this as well. Our beginner to advanced Mountain Bike trails as well as the Progression Zone are ideal for teaching youth of all ability levels to love biking like we do. And our Skate Camp takes advantage of our expansive skatepark with a wide range of features for all ability levels. For those looking to progress, we are proud to host a new Vert Ramp and the legendary Talent Skate Bowl that made the trek here from the old Talent Skate Park a few years back.

Every week has a fun continuing theme and we end with awards and an ice cream party on Friday. Don’t miss all the fun!

For more information and to sign up, go online to <https://www.boltonvalley.com/summer/summer-camps/>.

### Underhill Summer Day Camp

The Greater Burlington YMCA is excited that our Camp Koda will return this summer to Underhill Central School. We will offer seven (7) one-week sessions, the week of June 21-25 through week of August 2-6. Children can be enrolled for one week or all eight!

The Y’s Camp Koda is for kids who have completed kindergarten to age 12. Camp Koda is a licensed program, and therefore accepts state subsidy. In addition, Y financial assistance is available to eligible families. The Y wants to ensure a fun summer experience for all kids who are interested!

Learn more and register at: [www.gbymca.org/camp-koda](http://www.gbymca.org/camp-koda).

### Historic Homes of Jericho: Irish House, Mansfield Barn

Brown-Day-Irish-Blades-Pyles/Knapp-Angelano-Allendorf  
By Gary Irish

(Edited by Bernie Paquette, Maeve Kim and published on Bernie Paquette’s blog, <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/04/heritage-in-historic-homes-of-jericho.html>;

historic photos used with permission from Gary Irish)

The house my grandparents, Elmer and Mable Irish, owned, at the corner of Route 15 and Brown’s Trace (now part of Grant Allendorf’s Mansfield Barn complex), once had an evergreen tree growing in the front yard, and the story I was told was that one summer day, the tree was struck by lightning. A ball of lightning flew from the tree into the house, and exited the house by the

### COMMUNITY COLUMNS

### Gospel Singing Workshop Part 4 The concert finale... and the morning after

By Sue Kusserow  
*Special to the Mountain Gazette*

The next day, Sunday, I write a note to them all, saying I had been honored by their plaque and that I would treasure it. I go to the bakery and buy six dozen cookies for their after-service gathering. I drive through the early mists of fall in Portland, and park near the church. A woman with a shiny badge labeled USHER greets me from her car where she is having a last cigarette before assuming her duties. “Hi. Nice to see you. Are you coming to church? Glad you could join us last night. I’ll see that Sister Wilder or Sister Smith gets these.” She pauses, then grins and says: “And please ask us to supper. We’d come, you know.”

As I drive home, I notice touches of color: the black woman dressed in purple with her Bible in her hand, coming out of her house where the windows and doors are trimmed with purple and pink; a bicycle is lying in the middle of the front walk, with red and blue streamers from every possible appendage. Then the gradual transition into a white neighborhood, where the lawns and hedges are clipped, the flowers kept in order, the colors restrained. A white woman jogs by on her morning run, with her dog on a leash. A hippie-type with blond dreadlocks saunters out of a local market, his flipflops dragging behind his natural gait. Living between two cultures, I wonder how successful he

### Gear up for bike safety

With the weather getting nicer, I’d like to pedal some important information to help keep children safe when they go for a bike ride.

*Make sure your child’s bike fits properly.* Don’t buy a bike that is too big with the expectation your child will grow into it, because they could lose control of the bike and hurt themselves. A bike is sized right when your child can sit on the seat with feet flat on the ground and the handlebar no higher than the shoulders. A first bike should also have foot brakes and not just hand breaks, since your child’s coordination may not be good enough to control hand brakes.

*Provide the right safety equipment.* That means helmets, even for short rides, since most accidents happen near home in driveways, on sidewalks, or on bike paths, not just on streets. A properly fitted helmet should meet standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. A helmet should sit level and not tilt forward or backward, and should not be worn on top of a baseball cap or other hat. The straps should fit snugly under the chin and only one finger maximum should fit between the chin strap and the chin. A football helmet or ski helmet is not a substitute for a bike helmet. Parents should be good examples and use helmets at all times as well when they ride a bicycle.

### Protected Key West roosters and the cat whisperer

By Douglas Boardman  
*Special to the Mountain Gazette*

After we had gone to the various Caribbean islands, we started taking longer vacations. We used our timeshare to go to Key West a couple times, but we found out that it is impossible to get any sleep with the college crowd using the pool all night, even though the sign said “closed.” They were hooting, hollering, kerplunking, and splashing until 3:00 AM or longer. I finally was so tired that I fell asleep, so they must have gotten tired of jumping off the diving board, or I just passed out.

There were lots of roosters running around Key West – on the street, on people’s lawns, and in stores – rooster poop was everywhere. I have no idea why the roosters were free, but I do remember they contracted some local guys to catch the roosters and relocate them. We watched a video about why they didn’t catch any roosters. They built a trap, which consisted of an old milk crate and a stick to hold one end of the crate up. They put food inside the crate area. They would hide in the bushes and if a rooster came along and went to get the seed, they would pull on the string and the stick would let the crate down and catch the rooster. That’s what they designed it to do, but unfortunately, they didn’t count on the locals taking their afternoon siestas. After they woke up, they saw that the roosters had been there, ate the seed, and left. They didn’t catch any roosters; therefore, they didn’t make any money. They blamed the roosters as being too smart for them. They didn’t last very long, of course; not pulling the string when the rooster is eating the food is proof that the rooster is smarter than they were, and a rooster isn’t a very smart bird.

We also went to Mallory Pier where they put on shows, and the show that impressed us most was the cat show. This act included stray cats that the guy had caught and trained to jump through a ring of fire and water, which regular cats are usually afraid of. As he gave the cats oral instructions, the general consensus was they

rear door, in the process leaving some of the bark from the tree embedded in the wall of the house near the rear door. Apparently, it did not do a great deal of damage to the house, but it was the end of the tree!

This photo dates from May 30, 1911. It is my grandparents, with my grandmother holding my father. She told me that they had just gotten home from the Memorial Day doings in Underhill, and Mr. Morton, a photographer from Underhill Center, happened to come by, stopped, and said “Elmer, hold your horses and I will take your picture.” In the background, you can see the old house mentioned below that was attached to the west end of the new barn, but before it was attached. And if you look at the far end of the main barn, you can just barely see a bit of the other small barn that was attached to that end (not the building next to the tree).

(Find the rest of this blog entry and more at the link shown above.)

is in either? My anthropologist daughter would say that such a definition is up to him.

In teaching, when one is in power (as a teacher and a member of a majority culture), how does one truly reach and teach the disempowered? This experience, among many occasions in my life, makes me wonder at all the teaching I have done to the homeless, the ill, the poor, the minorities... most fitting into cultures that I don’t/can’t truly understand. How effective was I? Our birth into one culture obviously inculcates its expectations, its rules, norms and behaviors, its social constructs. Those early years are a total immersion that surrounds and molds us as young ones, as it did for our parents. We can open our senses to other groups, to enjoy, emulate, adapt, yet continuing to realize that living in our own culture is what gives us the necessary contrast for learning. It reminds me of an old adage: “If everything were green, we could never know what blue was like.” Therefore, we need to be open to new experiences in which we are personally involved; curiosity needs to be allowed; *aha!* moments enjoyed.

Change is constant, a contrast between past and present. And even small events and observations can help us parallel the similarities and differences of two groups who stand near each other. In watching these children being acculturated into their church, their gospel singing, their religious world, I realize how little I fit, but how much I enjoy and how much I can learn. Sometimes, I wonder whether labeling ourselves teachers negates the sharing and caring that we try and preach and do? Maybe it’s better to be labeled a learner!

I go to my class on Monday, wearing my red dress, telling the students all about it!

*Children should wear fluorescent*, or at least brightly colored clothing, to help motorists see them on the road. Pant legs shouldn’t be too loose-fitting, so they don’t get caught in the chains. Make sure shoes can grip the bike pedals, and remind your child not to wear headphones or earbuds while riding so they can hear the traffic around them. Even with bike reflectors or a reflective vest, it is never safe for a child to ride at dusk or after dark.

*Remember that a well-maintained bike is a safe bike*, so make sure it is tuned up at least once a season with tires inflated, chains oiled and cleaned, handlebar and seat adjusted for height, and brake pads checked for wear and tear.

*Children also need to learn the rules of the road* before they go off riding without you. Those rules include riding with, not against traffic; stopping and looking both ways before entering the street or at intersections; using proper hand signals before turning; and respecting and following traffic signals even if they were put in place for cars.

Hopefully, tips like these will put the brakes on any concerns you have when it comes to keeping your child safe on a bicycle this summer.

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

guy talked special cat language. Those cats did every trick that dogs did including riding tricycles.

We ended up going to Key Largo in later years because it was quieter. Along the way or on our way back to Vermont we were able to visit our son Jeff in Kingston, NY and stay a night or two. Then we would go to Baltimore to see my brother Greg’s oldest child Heather and stay overnight, and then on to Blacksburg, VA to visit my brother. We also stopped to visit nieces in North (Jessica) and South (Kristina) Carolina, my sister Vivian’s house near Ocala, FL, and then headed to Key Largo for a week at our timeshare.

Our nieces said that if we ever stayed more than one night with any of them, we had to spend two nights with all of them. I thought they were kidding. I guess they weren’t, but they are great girls, and they have great husbands and kids. We were able to visit my family on our way to the timeshare. My nieces are very special to me and I hope I can see them again soon.

We also visited one of my cousins who rented a trailer in the winter and worked at a restaurant. We had no idea she was in Key Largo until Sandy and I went to the Fish House for supper and couldn’t get in right away. So we went next door to another seafood restaurant and Sandy said, “I think that looks like your cousin over there.” And sure enough, my cousin was greeting and seating people. Small world! We love seafood, and also caught shrimp and crabs near our hotel. There is nothing more tasty than fresh-caught seafood. We would eat the bigger ones and refrigerate the rest to use as bait.

We were lucky to be able to take time to “smell the roses” while still working. Because my son is my business partner, I was able to take more vacation days. Our oldest daughter Pam moved to Yellowstone National Park years ago and worked at the Old Faithful Inn as the head bartender. She has lived near the park ever since. We used to go out and visit her every chance we could and always took time to visit Yellowstone while we were out there.

Next column: Crystal River and the manatees



LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Adult Programs

Annual Bird Slideshow with Evergreen Erb and Friends, Thursday, May 6, 6:30 PM, on Zoom. Join us for a presentation on our resident and newly arrived bird species with Evergreen’s very popular slideshow. She pairs photos with the actual bird songs and calls to better familiarize us. Evergreen’s storytelling about the birds is especially memorable. Co-sponsored with the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT). Emails used to register for this program will be shared with JULT for the purpose of coordinating this program. Registration required; please register at 802-899-4962 or [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org).

Annual Bird Walk with Evergreen Erb and Friends, Saturday, May 8, 7:00 AM. Evergreen Erb has dedicated herself to leading our JULT bird walks at Mills Riverside Park for many, many years. Even though she now lives in Huntington, Evergreen wouldn’t want to miss her yearly birding adventure at the park. We are very pleased to have her continue this tradition. This is a casual bird walk and suitable for all ages. We also welcome Sabina Ernst, JULT board member and conservation commission member, to help lead our walk so that group size can remain small. Please wear boots and masks and bring binoculars. We will meet before the covered bridge. Expect to see a lot of birds! Co-sponsored with the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT). Emails used to register for this program will be shared with JULT for the purpose of coordinating this program. Registration required; please register at 802-899-4962 or [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org).

Spring Wildflower Walk with Michele Tulis, Saturday, May 15, 10:00 AM. After a long, cold winter, spring brings us robust wildflowers that add new color to our landscape. We will walk the trails and explore the wide variety of early wildflowers growing at the park. Michele will help us identify them and also explain some of the medicinal uses for these wild plants. This is a casual walk; the trails can be muddy so wear boots and we will be donning masks. In person at Mills Riverside Park; please wear face masks and practice social distancing. Group size limited to eight. Co-sponsored with the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT). Emails used to register for this program will be shared with JULT for the purpose of coordinating this program. Registration required at 802-899-4962 or [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org).

Mah Jongg, Monday, May 17, 1:00 PM, on Zoom. Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you’ll love Mah Jongg! Registration required; please register at 802-899-4962 or [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org). This program uses the website MyJongg.net. A National Mah Jongg League 2021 card is required to participate.

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers, Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 PM. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month’s selection is Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month. For more information on how to join in, contact [Christine@cstaffa.com](mailto:Christine@cstaffa.com).

Legislative Update — Tuesday, May 18, 6:00 PM, on Zoom. Join local representatives George Till and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session. Registration required; please register at 802-899-4962 or [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org).

Mystery Book Club, Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM. We will be discussing Full Dark House by Christopher Fowler, available on Libby through the Vermont Department of Libraries. If you need a book, please call the library (802-899-4962) to request a copy.

Due to delays with our courier you should request soon so that it has time to arrive. Please register by calling 802-899-4962 or emailing [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org). We will be meeting in person in the library garden, weather permitting. Please bring a chair! A Zoom meeting will also be available for those who prefer a virtual option.

Youth Programs

Curbside Crafts (all ages). Crafts on Wednesdays. They will be put out with the curbside pick ups starting Wednesday at 1:00 PM, and are first come first served. If you would like a copy of the instruction sheet for a craft, please email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org).

Outdoor Story Time Returns! - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM (baby/preschool). Warmer weather has arrived! Join Ms. Abbey on the back lawn of the library for stories, songs, and felt board fun! This program is weather dependent. If it is a rainy morning we will not meet. If you are not sure if storytime is happening, check our Facebook page or call 802-899-4962. For the safety of all who attend, everyone must maintain 6’ of social distance, and everyone over the age of 2 must wear a mask. Please bring a blanket or a towel for your family to sit on. Call 802-899-4962 or email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org) for more information.

Sign up for these great programs!

Young Writers Group, Thursday, May 20, 4:00 PM. For teens/tweens. Mad libs, guess who, ridiculous writing prompts, and free write time, oh my! Come hang out with the young writers and all this fun could be yours to have. Call 802-899-4962 or email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org) for a Zoom link.

Drawing and Animation Club — Thursdays, May 13 and 27, 4:00 PM. For teens/tweens. Formerly the Graphic Novel Fan Club, we’ve switched focus to our love of drawing, doodling and animating! However, you can still get the scoop on the newest comics at the library, talk about your faves, or suggest what we should get next. Want comics anytime? Visit our elibrary web page to get set up with ComicsPlus and get access to thousands of comics online: <https://www.drml.org/collections/elibrary/>. Call 802-899-4962 or email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org) for a Zoom link.

Among Us, Fridays, May 14 and 28, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. For teens/tweens. Join your friends and deduce who’s totally sus and who’s safe in a librarian-moderated online environment. The app is free on Android and iOS systems, or costs \$5 for PC play through Steam. Call 802-899-4962 or email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org) for a Zoom link.

Ongoing at your leisure

Digitally browse new youth books at our website! Find what you want, place a hold and give us a call to let us know when you want to pick them up curbside.

Pre-Recorded Online Story Time: Check out Ms. Abbey’s recorded story times online any time on our YouTube channel. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjNvaBc6ECdlrei58PtcDQ> or just search “DRML Youth” on YouTube!

Board Games: Looking for a screen free family activity? Check out one of our brand new board games! Place a hold through the online catalog, or call the library to reserve one for your family game night. Here is a brief description of our games: Pictureka is a game of visual hide and seek. Catan is the classic game of collecting and trading resources to build settlements. Telestrations is kind of like Telephone and Pictionary had a hilarious baby. Lanterns is a beautiful, peaceful tile matching game. Codenames is a team based guessing game great for deductive reasoning.



FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

# Mother's Day Photo Holders

Mother's Day is just around the corner! Learn how to make a cute, simple photo holder to display all of your happy memories. Materials provided. Call 849-2420 or email [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) to register.

MAY 7, 4 PM



Check out our Youtube channel for video instructions on how to play these games. <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmLG9hSKPW1d1s3dhORdnKlL5HT6iUmlu>

Beanstack Reading Challenges: Beanstack is a free and mobile friendly reading tracker app with reaching challenges specially curated for you by Vermont librarians. Sign up today and get started on the Red Clover, Golden Dome, and Green Mountain book award reading challenges. Be on the look out for even more coming soon! Visit <https://vermont.beanstack.org/> to get started.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Did you know that you can jump into the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program at any time? Visit their website for reading logs or to get the app, <https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/>. When you’re ready, schedule a curbside pick up to get books. Have questions? Email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org) for more information.

Library hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates. Contact information: email [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org); website [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org); phone 802-899-4962.

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Congratulations to MMU**s**ic performers

The students in the Mount Mansfield Union High School music department have been rising above and beyond during the coronavirus pandemic. They have adapted to online learning, virtual ensembles, and changes in their routines. MMU**s**ic wants to recognize several students who have reached above and beyond during this time!

Each year, students have the opportunity to audition for the Northwest District Music Festival, Vermont All-State, and the New England Music Festival. These are festivals in which students have the opportunity to work with other high level students from across the state and greater New England. They gain valuable information and experience to improve their musicianship and collaborate with hundreds of students! MMU**s**ic was represented well through all of these festivals, held virtually this year. Congratulations to these students for participating in the New England Music Festival: Molly Billings (flute), Kaitlyn Ford (voice), Grey Perham (voice), Jayme Billings (alto saxophone), and Kate Lavanway (voice).

Senior Kate Lavanway was not only selected for the festival but is featured in the 2021 New England Music Festival Virtual Performance. Her audition was selected from all the vocalists

who performed from throughout New England. In addition to this honor Kate was awarded the Burton O. Cowgill Scholarship for attending New England Music Festival all four years of high school, and receiving the highest average score from all four years’ performances. This award is given to one vocalist each year from throughout New England. Congratulations Kate!

Students who audition for Vermont All-State have the opportunity to be selected for the All-Eastern Honor Ensemble, in which students from across greater New England are chosen to come together and participate in workshops, master classes, and high level rehearsals to create an unforgettable performance. MMU**s**ic junior Sophia Rosacker (clarinet) was chosen for this incredible experience and was seen performing on the virtual concert on April 23, 2021. The full concert can be seen on the NAFME Youtube channel. Congratulations Sophia!

Junior Jayme Billings (alto saxophone) was featured on the NPR program From the Top, in which she performed the second and third movements of Scaramouche by Darius Miyoy, and was interviewed by Peter Dugin. Jayme studies with Kenneth Radnofsky through New England Conservatory’s Preparatory School and Steven Klimowski, Affiliate Artist at the University of Vermont. She is a member of several ensembles including the NEC Prep Saxophone Ensemble. Two of Jayme’s proudest accomplishments have been attending National Honors

Ensemble in Orlando, FL and winning All-State Scholarships for Wind Instruments as a sophomore. Outside of music, Jayme is interested in math, psychology, neurology, and sustainability. Congratulations Jayme!

If you are interested in hearing more about the many talented and hardworking students at MMU**s**ic, please visit Mary Bauer (MMU**s**ic/@wudwindmom) or Caleb Pillsbury (@MMU**s**icChoirs or on YouTube for virtual choir performances) on Facebook and Twitter.



*Pictured are Kate Lavanway, Sophia Rosacker, and Jayme Billings of MMU**s**ic.* PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Music Education in the time of covid

It is no secret that the pandemic has forced many schools and communities to flip curriculum and ways of life on their heads. When schools went online a year ago, teachers turned to online programs to keep students engaged through the uncertainty of the beginning months of the pandemic.

As schools began making plans for reopening in the fall, music educators had a major hurdle to conquer: how does one teach music without playing or singing? The VT Agency of Education did not allow music programs to play instruments or sing in general music or choir settings because of the higher velocity of the aerosols spread during playing and singing.

“It was like going to teach math without numbers!” remarked Mary Bauer, music educator at Mount Mansfield Union High School. “We had to get creative, fast.”

Band and chorus classes quickly turned to online programs like Smartmusic and Sight-Reading Factory to have students continue to play and sing at home. Programs like Soundtrap and WeVideo allowed educators to create virtual ensembles for students, allowing them to have a performance at the end of the fall semester of 2020. Students would play or sing into Soundtrap and record a video of themselves simultaneously. The educators would then compile the videos and sound recordings into one cohesive video.

“We are all self-taught; there was a huge learning curve at the beginning of this process. Compiling student audio, video, and editing it to sound cohesive is a very time-consuming process. Some of these videos can take anywhere from 40-60 hours to edit,” Mary Bauer commented. The MMU**s**ic choirs have been assisted by alum Zac Burns, who is studying sound engineering and recording at the Hartt School of Music. Burns has also done the audio design for the virtual performance of the MMU musical A Killer Party.

In March of 2021, the VT Agency of Education provided guidelines based on a peer reviewed study of aerosols for music making by the University of Colorado and the National Federation of State High School Association, after advocates from the VT Music Educators Association presented the AOE with safe practices and protocols. This included masking with special Merve-13 material, bell and footjoint covers, six-foot distancing between players (9 feet for trombones) and a limit of 30-minute rehearsals with time to for appropriate amount of air exchanges.

Students are happy to be back and playing in person, even if it is only for a shorter amount of time than they are used to. “It’s a lot better than playing all hybrid!” says Emmeline Dodd, a freshman cello player at MMU.

In the spaces where they cannot sing or play in an ensemble, students are learning about music theory, composition, music history, and music production. They are also participating in units for ukulele, bucket drumming, world drumming, and piano.

“As music educators, we often focus more on the ensemble experience as students grow older rather than a more general music curriculum. The pandemic has given us the chance to teach what we usually run out of time for in the year. Our students at Mount Mansfield will be exploring composition and writing their own piano pieces, something they may not have gotten the chance to do previously,” says Stephanie Aurenz, student teacher at Mount Mansfield.

This spring the orchestra, wind ensemble, symphonic band, and choruses at MMU will have the opportunity to perform a live virtual/live stream performance towards the end of May. “It will be wonderful to perform in person again, even if it is just to a virtual/live stream audience,” said Aurenz, “I can’t wait for the students to have that opportunity again after over a year without playing together.”

For more information on the happenings of music education in the Mount Mansfield Union School District, please visit [www.mmuusd.org](http://www.mmuusd.org). For more information on the happenings at Mount Mansfield Union High School music programs, please visit Mary Bauer (MMU**s**ic) and Caleb Pillsbury on Facebook and Twitter.





*Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) is excited to announce that Andrew Jones has accepted the position of MMUUSD Director of Curriculum and Innovation and will begin on Thursday, July 1. Jones has a Doctor of Education and Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Vermont and a Bachelor of Arts from Western Washington University. He is currently the Director of Curriculum at Mill River Unified Union School District, and Education Consultant and the President of the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association. MMUUSD is thrilled to have Mr. Jones join the team – please join the board in welcoming Andrew to our school community.*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Libraries continued from page 11

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Jericho Town Library is excited to announce the start of our new Homebound Access Service! We are now providing delivery services to anyone who is homebound (permanently or temporarily) and can’t come to the library to pick up their books in person. Patrons can request materials via phone, email, or a snail mail paper form. We’ll deliver orders between 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and patrons can return books at that time as well. The community’s health is our priority: for everyone’s safety, deliveries will be made completely contactless and outdoors. We’re hoping to reach as many people as we can with this service, so please share widely to anyone you know who may be interested. All anyone needs is to be a Jericho resident; we can easily issue a library card if they don’t already have one. You can reach us or ask for a paper request form to be sent to someone at library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686. Thanks for your help and interest! Read more at [www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/homebound-access-service.html](http://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/homebound-access-service.html).

We are open by appointment, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Tuesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday, and are still filling curbside pickup orders, so keep ’em coming! You can sign up for a 30-minute browsing session, submit a curbside request, and read more about our COVID-19 policies here: <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/covid-19-policies.html>.

We do a very brief health screening at the door, including a temperature check with a contactless thermometer and a question about if you have left the state in the past 14 days and followed state-mandated quarantine policies. Masks and 6’ social distancing procedures are still absolutely required. You can read our full reopening plan on our website: <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/covid-19-policies.html>. If you are sick, please stay home. If a family member is sick, please stay home. We are doing our part to keep the community safe, and we ask you to do the same.

We look forward to having everyone back and happy reading — Gretchen Wright, Director, Jericho Town Library

Library hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Warmer days signal that spring is finally here! With this season of renewal, the Varnum Memorial Library (VML) is looking forward to reconnecting with our community.

VML offers something for everyone, and there are many ways to get involved. If you are interested in supporting the library through a donation, one of the easiest ways to do this is through the Crescendo Club’s AmazonSmile account. By searching for “Crescendo Club Library Association Inc.” via Amazon Smile ([https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/change/ref=smi\\_se\\_mds\\_change\\_cycsc](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/change/ref=smi_se_mds_change_cycsc)) you will automatically donate .05% to the library with every Amazon purchase made. Alternatively, we accept donations directly through our website: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/donate>.

VML also accepts donations to our Wish List, currently posted on our Facebook page. Contributions to our Wish List can be dropped off in the donation box outside the library during curbside hours. Access our Facebook here: <https://m.facebook.com/thevarnum/>.

Many members of our community have graciously donated their time to support the library. If you are interested in volunteering with the library via one of our committees, please contact [varnumboardofdirectors@gmail.com](mailto:varnumboardofdirectors@gmail.com).

Lastly, we’re excited to announce faster internet at the library! We’ve boosted our speed nearly 10x. As always, we welcome members of our community to continue to utilize our WiFi for drive up hotspots.

Stay tuned for more information on the reopening of the library. We are looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

If you haven’t checked us out on social media in a while, check in and get a preview of our new releases, hear about virtual events, links to book reviews and more. Follow us on Instagram @thevarnum and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thevarnum>. You can also visit our website [www.varnumlibrary.org](http://www.varnumlibrary.org) for our curbside hours and links to search our catalog.

The Varnum is continuing curbside pickup and printing services (.25/page): Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Wednesday, 1:30 – 6:00 PM; Thursday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and Saturday, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Please send your requests to [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com). Please stay safe and let us know (644-2117) how we can help.

To view our catalog, please visit <https://varnum.kohavt.org/>. When you find your selections, please send a request to [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com).

If you are having difficulty with your Libby/Overdrive login, your credentials are your library patron card number (beginning with 2C1400...) and your pin number is your last name, all lowercase.

We have been trying to find ways to show more of our newer titles since library browsing is not an option at this time. If you follow this Facebook link, it should take you to a photo album with a bunch of newer materials we have available for checkout: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=thevarnum&set=a.3612772452092956>. We will be updating this monthly, so please check back regularly.

If you would like to search our catalog, you can find it online at <https://varnum.kohavt.org/>. Please let us know how we can assist you by emailing us at [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com) or calling us at 644-2117.

With gratitude – Wanda Cochran, Courtney Hale, Krista Huling, Michael Moser, Carol Plante, Jayson Rivard, Jan Schilling, and April Tuck

Westford Rec: Sunday morning yoga

Sunday Morning Yoga with Doris Continues! Sundays through May 23, 10:00 AM, 75 minutes. Combat the stress created by the global pandemic and start your week with a Yoga asana practice. After some breathing exercises to quiet our minds and a warm-up, we will go through a number of standing poses to improve strength, flexibility, and balance. We will conclude the class with gentle stretches and take time to absorb the benefits of the practice in a final resting pose.

This event is open for every adult. However, due to the class being online, pre-existing experience with Yoga is encouraged to avoid any kind of injury. Aside from a mat, props like a strap (or something similar like a belt or scarf), blanket, cushion or bolster and blocks will come in handy. Please send registrations to [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us).

This program is brought to you by the Westford Recreation Department and the Westford Public Library. We hope you enjoy!

contest! Submit a photo of you and/or your family to [gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu](mailto:gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu) to be entered into a statewide raffle, and to [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) to be entered into our own local raffle. Further details on the photo contest will be included with the activity packet. These activity packs are first come, first served; no signup required!

Wednesdays and Saturdays, through Wednesday, June 30, 4:00 PM and 9:00 AM: Kids Yoga with Jessica Turner. Join Jessica for twice weekly kids yoga classes! Sign up for the full course, or pick and choose the classes you want to attend! Starting Wednesday, May 19, Wednesday classes will be hosted outside (weather permitting) with Zoom as a rainy day option. To sign up, or for more information, go online to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-yoga-classes-with-jessica-turner-tickets-141741664133>.

Star Wars Coding Challenge: learn the basics of programming with Rey and BB-8, and celebrate Star Wars Day with some coding! Try out the game here!

Adult Events

Saturday, May 29, 1:00 PM: Virtual Knitting Club. Relax and chat while working on your latest knitting or crochet project! If you would like some basic knitting materials, let us know and they will be provided at curbside pickup on Thursday from 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Join the Zoom meeting on Saturday at 1:00 PM! Please register with [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link!

Thursday-Friday, May 13-14: Make your own seed bombs! Add some fun to your spring gardening and learn how to make seed bombs! These are great to give as gifts, and to make with kids – with some adult supervision of course. Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday, 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and join the Zoom meeting on Friday at 7:00 PM. Please register to receive the Zoom link!

Thursday, May 27, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Virtual Book Club. The Library Book Club will meet outdoors, weather permitting, at the library. Book club book will be announced soon! To request a copy of the book for curbside pickup, please contact 802-849-2420 or [libraryprograms@fwsu.org](mailto:libraryprograms@fwsu.org). All are welcome!

Curbside pickup hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM.

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Please note, there is lots of information on our website, <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>, on homeschooling resources (on our home page), finding books and more, a long list of online resources, book clubs, and more.

Regular curbside pick-up hours are: Monday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Tuesday 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Saturday 12:00 – 2:00 PM. You may request anything from the Library’s holdings: books, audiobooks on CD or Playaway, DVDs, music CDs or magazines. Browse the catalog at [rfl.kohavt.org](http://rfl.kohavt.org). Need help deciding? Just call or email us and we’ll be your “personal shoppers.” Remember that items are quarantined for seven days before circulating again. If you’ve returned an item and it still shows on your record, be patient, we’ll be checking it in soon.

Electric vehicle charging is available at the Library/Town Center Municipal Parking Lot. Anyone with an electric vehicle (EV) can take advantage of the Town’s new ChargePoint Charging Station, providing level-2 charging for up to two vehicles. Energy is provided “at cost,” and is equivalent to paying about \$1.50/ gallon for a gas vehicle. Users can check if the chargers are in use on [chargepoint.com](http://chargepoint.com) or your favorite EV app.

Discover *Between the Covers*. Join Stacey Symanowicz (Huntington) and Rebecca Mueller (Richmond) for monthly book chats introducing readers to hidden gems and latest titles, on the third Wednesday of the month (May 19) at 1:30 PM, via *Google Meet*. Hosted by the Community Senior Center. Contact the library for the connection link.

Contact us at 434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or [rfl@gmavt.net](mailto:rfl@gmavt.net).

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

As part of our next phase in the library reopening, the library will send overdue notices on a regular schedule again. It has been several months since we contacted patrons about overdue materials through email and the postal service; this is another step toward normal library procedures. Please consider these notices as reminders to return any overdue materials to the library. Books and other items can be dropped off in the outside book return bin, or on the return cart at the curbside pickup table on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Also, if you would like to set up an appointment to come to the library for a 20-minute in-person visit, feel free to bring your returns with you! If you have any questions about this, don’t hesitate to contact the library.

In other news, the library has tax forms available. We can also scan documents of any type easily to your USB thumb drive.

All programs are still virtual. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for any updates.

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; please sign up at least one week before the program date. Contact 802-849-2420 or [libraryprograms@fwsu.org](mailto:libraryprograms@fwsu.org).

For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website: [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org), where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

Curbside hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM.

Fairfax Community Library, 75 Hunt St., Fairfax, VT 05454; [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org), 802-849-2420. Call or email [libraryprograms@fwsu.org](mailto:libraryprograms@fwsu.org).



LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Legislative update

By Theresa Wood, State Representative  
Washington-Chittenden

*April 11*  
It’s been a busy couple of weeks in the halls of the virtual legislature. My apologies for the length of this update, but I’ve tried to capture the highlights.

In addition to a number of bills that have passed the House, there has been considerable activity around teacher and State employee pensions. After two intensive public hearings on the subject, the Speaker of the House has decided to focus on pension fund governance during this legislative session and to convene a working group during the summer to reach consensus on future directions to address the pension fund liabilities, which are estimated at \$5.6 billion. The State’s budget has \$316.2 million in required contributions from taxpayers, along with another \$150 million being held to apply towards the pension liability.

We also continued work on COVID relief, namely:

H.315 – this is the continuation of COVID relief bills; this bill spends or reserves one-time funds of \$29,502,500 State funds; \$5,000,000 new Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF); \$59,048,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; and \$4,000,000 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSR). In addition, there is \$3,200,000 Reallocated and Reauthorized CRF. Specifically, it:

- provides \$10.5 million for businesses; \$500,000 is added for microbusiness assistance through the Community Action Agencies;
- includes 2020 income tax forgiveness for unemployment on the first \$10,200 of benefits for incomes below \$150,000; this matches up the state income tax with the federal income tax provisions;
- provides housing funds of \$15 million to provide shelter for homeless individuals or individuals at risk of homelessness;
- provides \$5.54 million for mental health;
- Supports \$700,000 for new Americans, refugees, and immigrants;
- provides \$1.3 million for Reach Up recipients;
- provides \$1.4 million for the Vermont Food Bank to pay the costs of the Vermont Farmers to Families Food Box Program;
- provides \$100,000 for the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired to provide technology assistance to address social isolation;
- provides \$200,000 for data collection and analysis regarding health equity and health disparities;
- provides \$8.2 million for LPN education and classes for recent high school graduates via the Vermont State Colleges and UVM;
- provides \$15 million to continue a school indoor air quality grant program with Efficiency Vermont;
- provides \$9.5 million for after school and summer programs, including summer meals;
- provides \$10 million for broadband connectivity; funding for communication union districts and LifeLine;
- provides \$3 million for Working Lands, slaughterhouses, and soil health;
- provides \$10 million for Investments in Recreational Infrastructure;
- provides \$950,000 in Technical Assistance to Local Governments to assist municipalities in understanding federal rules surrounding COVID relief funds going directly to towns.

H.157 – this is an act related to the registration of residential construction contractors. This bill requires residential contractors who are performing jobs in value of \$3500 or more to be registered with the Office of Professional Regulation at the Secretary of State’s Office.

H.153 – this is a bill that impacts older Vermonters and people with disabilities who receive support from home and community-based services providers. Examples of these providers include home health agencies, adult day programs, designated mental health/developmental disabilities providers, etc. It instructs calculations for adequate Medicaid reimbursement rates to be reported to the Legislature each year. I was a lead sponsor of this bill.

H.171 – this is an act related to the governance and funding of Vermont’s child care system; it expands eligibility for financial assistance up to 350% of the federal poverty rate and requires a study to determine what it would cost to expand child care financial assistance to all families, and implements year three of a five-year redesign of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. I was a lead sponsor on this bill.

H.210 – this is an act promoting equity and addressing disparities in Vermont’s health care system. The Department of Health has determined that there are significant barriers in accessing health care based on race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability status.

H.183 – is an act relating to further definition of sexual violence, and specifically adds a definition for determining when a person is incapable of giving consent.

H.438 and H.439 – these two bills make appropriations for the operation of State government; the capital bill provides funding for various projects for which the State will issue bonds. Included in the capital budget is partial funding to begin a significant rehabilitation of the dam at the Little River State Park. The State Budget (or the Big Bill, as it’s referred to) makes numerous appropriations for state government, which I will provide a more detailed summary of once the bill passes the Senate.

JRH.2 – this is a joint resolution sincerely apologizing and expressing sorrow and regret to all individual Vermonters and their families and descendants who were harmed as a result of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and practices.

S.18 – this is a bill that corrects an error in legislation passed last year with regard to earned time for sentence reductions for individuals who are incarcerated.

H.225 – this bill is another method to reduce overdoses as a result of opioid addiction; it decriminalizes a small amount of buprenorphine without a prescription. This serves as a bridge to physician-prescribed medication assisted treatment.

If you’ve gotten this far, thanks for sticking with it.

*April 20*  
Before I give updates on last week’s action in the Legislature, I wanted to make sure that people in the general Waterbury area who are in need of a hot meal know they can grab one at Zenbarn

every Tuesday evening from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. This week’s menu is spaghetti and meatballs (vegetarian option available). This is part of the Everyone Eats Program! Please stop by to grab a meal for you and a neighbor in need.

Here’s an update on legislation that the House passed last week:

S.60 – this is an act that relates to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovate rates and services under certain circumstances. It allows implementation of minor rate adjustments (typically below inflation) to absorb costs without added expense of full rate case and the ability to offer innovative rates on a pilot basis with the option for these rates to become permanent following a pilot period. This bill has been passed by the House and Senate and is headed to the Governor’s desk.

H.175 – this bill proposes to update the current beverage container deposit-redemption system to include water bottles, wine bottles, and containers for all noncarbonated and carbonated drinks, except for milk and plant-based milks. This bill is headed to the Senate.

S.53 – this bill started out in the Senate to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products; in the House it was amended to include updates to corporate income tax provisions, including applying the sales tax to Cloud-based services and software. This bill is headed back to the Senate for consideration of the amendment.

S.88 – this bill proposes updates to the issues related to banking, insurance, and securities for businesses regulated by the Department of Financial Regulation. The House amended the bill so it is headed back to the Senate.

In other items of interest, the State employees’ and teachers’ pension bill has moved out of the House Government Operations Committee and is now in the House Appropriations Committee. This bill establishes a Pension Benefits, Design and Funding Task Force to work during the summer to identify potential solutions to the pension issues. The bill also makes modifications to the Vermont Pension Investment Commission. A copy of the current draft of the bill (H.449) is located online at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0449/H-0449%20As%20Introduced.pdf>. I expect the bill to be up for a vote in the House this week.

Thanks everyone, and please feel free to reach out to me at [twood@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:twood@leg.state.vt.us).

**Update from the House: education equity**

**By Lucy Rogers, State Representative, Lamoille-3**

In its Brigham v. State of Vermont decision (1997), the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the legislature has a mandate under the Vermont Constitution “to make educational opportunity available on substantially equal terms” for all children throughout the state. This led to the passage of Act 60 later in ’97, which reorganized school funding such that school districts spending the same amount per pupil in their school budgets would have approximately the same property tax rates, regardless of which communities were property-rich and which were property-poor.

The passage of Act 60 took strides toward education equity in Vermont, but it was also lacking in at least one crucial way: its failure to adequately incorporate the different costs of educating pupils in different circumstances.

Specifically, our current education funding formula fails to sufficiently account for the substantial additional cost required to provide an equitable education to students in poverty, students living in rural areas with low population density (particularly those attending small schools), and students who are English Language Learners (ELL).

The Pupil Weighting Factors Report, released in December 2019, was commissioned by the legislature and prepared by education researchers at the University of Vermont and other national research experts. The report documents in great detail that our current pupil weights, which slightly adjust for poverty, ELL, and secondary-level grades when determining a district’s equalized pupil count, are wholly inadequate in capturing the magnitude of additional cost required to truly provide an equitable education to these students. In addition, new weights need to be added to account for the increased cost of educating rural students in low-density areas that attend small schools.

In short, the report concludes what anyone who knows anyone who teaches or attends public school in an underprivileged district already deeply understands: that our education funding formula is not working. That low-income, rural, or English Language Learner districts can raise astronomically high property taxes and still have insufficient school funding, whereas wealthier, less rural, and low-percentage ELL districts can easily provide high-quality education and much higher teacher salaries with the same or lower tax rates. That the state has failed on our mandate “to make educational opportunity available on substantially equal terms,” and that we must correct our wrong.

In the House, I was a sponsor of H.54, an act calling for the phased-in implementation of accurate pupil weights. A bill that passed through the Senate, S.13, instead asks legislative chairs of key House and Senate committees to work during the summer/fall legislative break to determine how to proceed.

I am worried that S.13 in its current form leaves educational equity open to political influence. This is a dangerous approach because designing equalized pupil counts based on political popularity rather than empirical evidence is exactly how we got into this inequitable position in the first place. For legislators from over-weighted districts that have historically benefited from our unjust funding formula, transitioning to a system with greater equity will be an adjustment, but it an adjustment worth embracing. Everyone, particularly all of our state’s children, benefits from belonging to a state with a fair education funding formula.

As a legislator who myself attended underweighted schools in the district that I now represent, I have been working on the House side to strengthen S.13 so that we as legislators are doing no less than our constitutionally mandated duty. I firmly believe that the only acceptable solution is complete implementation of the pupil weights outlined in the Pupil Weighting Factors Report, in order to provide equitable education throughout Vermont regardless of student circumstances.

Building the runway for a safe reopening

**By Kesha Ram, State Senator, Chittenden District**

To those who observe, Ramadan Mubarak and a happy Earth Day. As you hopefully know, all Vermonters 16 years of age and older are now eligible to receive their COVID vaccine. Visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine> to find out more and schedule your appointment.

We are now entering into what is likely to be our last month of the full 2021 legislative session. With so much uncertainty remaining about federal relief guidelines and parameters, it is possible we will hold a special session later in the year when we have better information.

Much of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has a four-year timeline so we will not be appropriating a majority of it for this fiscal year, though we are trying to get a large infusion of dollars to families and communities who need them most. Currently under discussion are funding allocations that include \$11 million for housing and homelessness; \$29 million for health, well-being, and justice; \$103 million for workforce and economic development; \$130 million for water and sewer infrastructure; \$200 million for broadband; and more. These numbers could change rapidly depending on eligible uses and negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor.

Also under discussion is \$200 million over the next few years to fund climate change initiatives. I support this use of funds and am working to promote a climate service component for young people to be able to gain an entry point into the green jobs of the future. We are anticipating additional federal money from the American Jobs Plan. This plan seeks to revitalize rural communities while focusing on rural infrastructure and climate justice solutions.

Many of you have also reached out about a provision in a recently passed relief funding bill that taxes PPP grants in the upcoming tax year. I do not support the taxation of PPP grants and have relayed this concern to the Senate Finance Committee, which is actively considering removing this provision. As we look to support businesses through General Fund grants, it would be contradictory of us to tax what was already given, and have to make small businesses jump through additional hoops to get that relief back in the future.

Finally, since I last wrote, the State Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of two constitutional amendments: one that explicitly prohibits slavery and indentured servitude, which was not yet clear in our Constitution; and another that seeks to enshrine reproductive liberty and freedom for all Vermonters. I was proud to support the advance of these two amendments to heal from a history built on enslavement and the subjugation of women. With the House also likely to vote in favor of these amendments, they will be placed on a statewide ballot in November of 2022, where I will be honored to vote alongside my fellow citizens as we bend the arc of the moral universe further toward justice.

**Update from the State Senate**

**Rich Westman • State Senator, Lamoille District**

*April 21*  
The pandemic and the state of emergency resulting from the pandemic have created difficult consequences in many ways for all of us, as we all have our own story. Each of us has felt the effects and many of us have experienced difficulties we’ve had to deal with. The moratorium on evictions, limits on gatherings, limits on travel, and the many, many, many consequences of this pandemic have created situations many of us never could have imaged.

The Legislature took testimony from the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC) on one such consequence. The PUC recently extended the state’s disconnection moratorium on electrical power through the end of May, with the support of the Department of Public Service, utilities, and many organizations. This is a short-term solution, as it is clear Vermonters need help. The PUC recommended that additional funding be made available to help Vermonters struggling from their overdue utility bills due to the pandemic. For more information about the moratorium, visit <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/announcements/public-utility-commission-extends-utility-disconnection-moratorium-through-may-31-2021>.

However, all utilities have growing overdue balances, and they are concerned about long-term impacts to customers. I’ve been contacted by Vermont Electric Coop, Morrisville Water and Light, and Johnson Village Electric with concerns about their arrearages. As of March approximately 10.6% of Morrisville Water and Lights Customers were behind on their bills, Johnson Village Water and Light during the same time period currently has 31% of their customers behind on their bills, and Vermont Electric Coop has 1787 customers over 60 days behind. Green Mountain power as of April 1 had nearly 27,000 customers more than 60 days behind on their bills.

It’s clear that support is truly needed to help electric and other utility customers. In early 2020, arrearages across all Vermont utilities were just \$3.9 million. By the end of 2020, that had ballooned to \$16.1 million – and that number as of the end of March has risen to over \$18 million today and it continues to grow. This growing balance is after the infusion of \$8 million in help provided by the Vermont legislature in 2020, showing more is needed to help our neighbors and friends recover.

A proposal is before the Appropriation Committee to provide \$15,000,000 to minimize the financial hardship caused by COVID-19 and mitigate utility rate increases ultimately shared by all customers and members.

While this is being considered there is already help for renters who are income-eligible, made available from the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance. Eleven million dollars in funds will be available and accessed through the Vermont State Housing Association’s website soon. The \$15 million ask before us now will provide help for homeowners and business owners.

The \$15 million if included in the Budget and the \$11 million for renters has lots of support in the Legislature. These arrearages are a real problem we can help solve, helping everyone emerge stronger from an event we could not have imagined. I hope we move quickly to address this difficult issue.



OBITUARIES



**Denis John Poley** of Richmond, VT passed away on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at McClure Respite House, with his family by his side. After a short but valiant battle with an aggressive cancer, it was fitting he left us on National Beer Day as Denis loved a good IPA. Born to Louis Casper Poley and Helen Joan Ranonis in 1945, Denis grew up in Teaneck, NJ and spent his early summers on the Jersey shore where he met his wife Maria in high school. Moving from Jersey to Stowe, VT in 1965 with Maria, they settled in Richmond in 1970 where he remained until his final days. Growing up with Maria and his two sons Denis and Erik, he used to ride the high spring waters in the annual raft races down the Winooski River and could be found hiking, cross country skiing, canoeing, and camping around the Green Mountains. Denis and Maria loved family and always put on a big spread and decorated for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Richmond for anyone that wanted to watch the parade from their lawn. Denis and Maria’s biking adventures would include biking from Richmond to the North Hero (VT) house, rides on the Stowe Bike Path or the Rail Trail from Jeffersonville (VT) to Morrisville (VT), stopping for lunch at Lost Nation Brewery. He was an avid birdwatcher and gardener and loved to canoe and kayak, fish the streams, and hunt for mushrooms at Waterbury Reservoir. Denis had a particular talent for hand-illustrated cards on special occasions, sketches, and wood carvings. Starting every morning with a crossword, Denis also kept a detailed log of events through the years – birthdays, birds seen, readings from his personal weather station, the height and width of each Christmas tree and how well it held onto its needles, and a detailed blueprint of the garden layout each year. Denis spent time volunteering for Meals on Wheels and COTs. For 30-plus years, Denis enjoyed his work as a chemist for IBM in Essex Junction, VT, followed by his work in pharmaceuticals at Mylan Technologies in St. Albans, VT. Denis leaves behind his loving wife of 56 years Maria; son Denis with wife Renee; son Erik with wife Amy; along with four grandchildren and their spouses; and five great-grandchildren: Chris and Melanie Poley with Benson, Luca, and Hallie; Josh and Majken with Emelia and Ariya; Mikaela and Tristan Butler; and Joey Poley. Denis also leaves behind a twin sister Denise and husband Alan Kerner; and a niece, Amy Sanderson and family. There is no public service planned. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester VT, Meals on Wheels, or COTS.

On Sunday, April 11, 2021 the world lost a man of integrity with the soul of a craftsman. He was adored by his family, respectful of all, and always willing to lend a hand to his neighbors. Born



October 24, 1956 in Greenwich, CT, **Harman Bradley Dinwiddie** of Underhill, VT was the fourth child and only son of Harman Anderson Dinwiddie, Jr. and Janet Brookover Dinwiddie. He attended Greenwich Country Day School and graduated from Greenwich High School in 1975. He was a lacrosse player and varsity wrestler, and loved nothing more than waterskiing with his friends in Long Island Sound. Brad graduated from John Jay College in 1979 and Computer Programming Institute in 1981. He married Rhonda Field, also of Greenwich, in 1981 and they moved to rural Guilford, VT, where Brad helped build a passive solar house for his growing family. Brad and Rhonda had two children, Jessica and David. In 1997, the family moved to Brattleboro, VT. Brad worked as a programmer analyst at Holstein Association from 1988-2001. He was a hard worker by nature and liked to keep busy. Over the years, he trained for triathalons, tackled countless home improvement projects, coached his children’s soccer and softball teams, and eventually started his own software development company, Dinwiddie Software, Inc. By 2012, Brad was looking for new challenges. He retired early and practiced on a lathe until he became a master wood turner, selling his fine bowls and peppermills at craft fairs, farmers’ markets and galleries around New England. He started home brewing and neighbors were soon dropping by the house with their mugs to sample his wonderful ales. Brad was a member of the Brattleboro Outing Club, where he enjoyed cross-country skiing and volunteered to groom trails. He also served on the board of the Brattleboro Area Farmers’ Market. In his spare time, Brad enjoyed cycling, kayaking, disc golf, gardening, and playing with his golden retriever, Bailey. Brad and Rhonda relocated to Underhill, VT in 2017 to be near their daughter’s family. Brad joined the Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont and finally built his dream workshop – on a sunny hilltop with a mountain view. Brad is survived by his wife of 40 years, Rhonda (Field) Dinwiddie of Underhill, son David Bradley Dinwiddie of Canton, MA, daughter Jessica Brooke Pileggi and her husband Nicholas of Underhill, VT, grandsons Griffin and Grayson Pileggi, sister Cheryl Andre of Windham, ME, and sister Pamela Close of Hobe Sound, FL. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Laura Michele Dinwiddie. A small gathering of family and friends will be planned for this summer. Anyone considering a gift to honor Brad’s memory may direct contributions to the Brattleboro Outing Club, P.O. Box 335, Brattleboro, VT 05302, Attn: John Ungerleider; or to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network ([pancan.org](http://pancan.org)). Please visit [awrfh.com](http://awrfh.com) to share your memories and condolences.



**Peter Bruce Schuyler**, 80, of Jericho, VT died unexpectedly of natural causes on Monday, April 12, 2021. He was born in Philadelphia, PA on August 22, 1940 to Howard Sterling Schuyler and Lucy Marion Bloomer Schuyler. He grew up in the Schenectady, NY area. He received a BS degree in Physics from Bates College and afterward served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including one tour in Viet Nam. After leaving the Marine Corps, he received an MS Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Catholic University. He was married to Sonja Algren Schuyler in 1966, and they recently celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They moved to Vermont in 1969 so that Peter could work at General Electric in Burlington. In 1988, he formed the environmental engineering and science consulting firm Griffin and in 2004 joined a partnership in the environmental science and engineering consulting firm, KAS. He retired completely from KAS in 2020. Peter was an avid family man and outdoorsman. He enjoyed fishing, hiking, cycling, canoeing, and camping. He most enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. He was also a cat whisperer and fine gardener. He and Sonja led a 4-H hiking group for many years and he was a member of Richmond Rescue when it was founded. They also enjoyed hosting foreign exchange students and exchange professionals for Project Harmony. Two of the exchange students, Oscar Mejia-Costaño and Yana Tamlyn, have become part of his family. After retirement he became a Guardian Ad Litem. In addition to his wife, Sonja, he is survived by brothers J. Philip Schuyler and his wife Lois Schuyler of Tiverton, RI; Timothy James Schuyler of Mill Valley, CA; sisters Susan Walker and husband Jeff Walker of Sandy, UT; Sarah Schuyler of Ukiah, CA; sister-in-law Joanne Bowles of Bethesda, MD; son Andrew Schuyler and wife Sarah Ryan, of Colchester, VT; daughter Rebecca Holder and husband Timothy Holder, of Ballston Spa, NY; foster son Michael Potvin and wife April Potvin of Bangor, ME; grandchildren Emily Holder, Brian Holder, and Sophie Schuyler; the Mejia family of Culver, OR: Oscar, wife Maria-Antonia, children Maria and Uriel; the Tamlyn family of Shelburne, VT: Yana, husband Michael, daughter Maya; dear friend and business partner, Amy King of Jericho, VT; dear friends Terrence Grau, wife Marlene, and daughter Amanda of Queens, NY; and nieces Cimarron Schuyler, Providence, RI; Jessica Walker, Salt Lake City, UT; and Lucy Walker, of Lafayette, CO; Christine Bowles, Reston, VA; and Caroline Bowles Stedman, Bethesda, MD. Memorial donations may be made to Spectrum Youth and Family Services, Burlington, VT, or to Richmond Rescue. A celebration of his life will be held later this year when gatherings of family and friends

Obituaries continued on page 15

Legislative continued from page 13

Legislative update, week 13

By Alyssa Black, State Representative, Chittenden-8-3

It’s been a couple weeks since my last update and I apologize. In all honesty, I’m really struggling to keep up with communications, and I really feel like I’m failing in that endeavor. As we near the end of the session the pace has really picked up on the House Floor, and we’ve done some really important work and had some long days and evenings. A few of the highlights:  
Modernization and Recalibration Of Vermont Tax System: S.53 a modernization of the Vermont tax system was approved by the VT House last week. It updates aspects of the sales and income tax system, brings Vermont in line with other states, prepares us for the future of our economy, and supports businesses to invest in people and property. It lowers the minimum tax rate for small businesses, while ensuring that companies with more than \$300 million in sales receipts pay their fair share. It repeals the state’s current exemption on the so-called “cloud tax” for vendor-hosted prewritten software or “canned software accessed remotely.” Consumers in 21 states already pay these fees. The bill also concurs with the Senate by eliminating the sales tax on

all menstrual products, including tampons, pads, and cups. And finally S.53 creates an exclusion on the first \$10,000 of federally taxable U.S. military retirement pay, recognizing the service of 3,900 Vermonters who derive some of their income from this.  
H.175 Vermont’s Bottle Bill: In 1972, Vermont passed its first bottle bill as a way to clean up litter along our roads. Since then, it’s become a successful statewide recycling program that allows Vermonters to redeem beer bottles and soda cans for a nickel per container. H.175 updates this landmark environmental bill by expanding the redeemable list to include plastic water bottles, wine and hard cider bottles, and containers for all carbonated and non-carbonated beverages (except for dairy products).  
H.265: Creating an Office of the Child, Youth and Family Advocate. H.265 creates an independent, impartial office composed of an Advocate and Deputy Advocate whose job it is to provide oversight of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and to promote effective reforms that prioritize the best interests of children. The Department of Children and Families holds a massive responsibility to provide compassionate care, services, and interventions for hundreds of children and youth

in their custody, including those participating in therapeutic programs that span eight states. Vermont has been the only state in New England without an office of this kind, one of the fastest growing areas of state government. The Child, Youth, and Family Advocate will work in collaboration with state agencies and contracted agencies to ensure that evidence-based best practices are employed, that youth transition successfully to adulthood, that racial and social equity are prioritized across systems, and that investigations are conducted with an eye towards systemic reforms.  
Health Care Committee Work: The committee spent significant time during the past two weeks reviewing sections of S.3 (an act relating to competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense). S.3 was referred to House Judiciary, but certain sections are being reviewed by Healthcare, due to areas of intersection. The sections reviewed in our committee initiate an inventory of mental health services provided for individuals under DOC supervision and create a Forensic Care Working Group. The collaborative committee work with S.3 provides important opportunities to address the intersecting challenges of criminal justice, corrections, and mental health.  
The committee also heard testimony on S.42, the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission bill, which calls for a creation of a commission to address the effects of trauma on all Emergency Service Providers statewide (professional and volunteer), and to examine the secondary impact of trauma on ESP families. After making minor changes to the makeup of the commission, we voted this bill out of committee and it will be on the floor next week for a full vote.  
Also this week, House Healthcare heard testimony on Vermont children’s mental health (MH), specifically to grapple with documented trends in emergency department MH service wait-times which range from an average of 60 hours to several weeks. A confluence of reduced bed capacity by 30%, dramatic uptick in emergent cases, and reduction in community-based services, have served to create a distressing scenario. The committee will hear more and discuss short-, medium-, and long-range fixes to this dire problem.

Thank you all for your patience with me, these will be a busy few weeks until we adjourn and I will definitely work on strategies over the off season on how to up my communication game! Never hesitate to reach out with concerns of assistance at 802-598-1026 or [Ablack@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:Ablack@leg.state.vt.us).

Emergency Mortgage Assistance available

By George Till, State Representative, Chittenden-3  
Vermont’s COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program re-opened on May 3, when the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) began accepting applications from Vermont homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded through the Federal CARES Act, the program was first available in July-December 2020.  
This latest round of program funding provides grants for up to 12 months of past-due mortgage and property tax payments for eligible Vermont homeowners. Homeowners with a mortgage that originated no later than March 2020 and who have missed at least one payment since that date are eligible (other requirements apply). If applicants are approved, payments will be made directly to your mortgage servicer or to the town, if property taxes are past due and are not escrowed with the mortgage.  
Read more and apply at [www.vhfa.org/map](http://www.vhfa.org/map) or call 888-714-2260.

LEGAL NOTICE

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 WEDNESDAY May 26, 2021 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Ed Trottier for final plat review for a two-lot subdivision. This property is located at 201 Orr Road which is in the Low Density Residential Zone District.
- A request to the DRB by Darrell and Belva Meulemans for a sketch plan review for a 9 lot, 8 unit PUD. This property is located at 163 Plains Road which is in the Low-Density Residential Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB by the Underhill Jericho Fire Department for a conditional use review to amend a previous approved training facility. This property is located at 275 Browns Trace which is in the Low Density Residential Zoning District.

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

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



WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Virtual Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June (June 13, 2021). Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Check the website for upcoming speakers and topics. For the time being, services are being held exclusively via Zoom. Please contact *president@mmuuf.org* or 899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at *www.mmuuf.org* and *www.uua.org*.

Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service

Jericho United Methodist Church welcomes you to grow in Christ with us. We hold dear the United Methodist Church’s motto: “Open doors. Open Hearts. Open Minds.” We believe that we grow together or not at all. All are welcome! Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM. There will be music, prayer, and message from our pastor Rev. Sean Delmore on Zoom for virtual worship. For updates or a Zoom invitation, please contact 802-899-4288 or Jen (*luitjens@yahoo.com*). Located at 71 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children’s sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see *https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/*. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor’s office (with voicemail) 899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 899-4583.

Services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. You are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! *https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch* or *https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC*

Jericho Congregational Church

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

Worship at Good Shepherd, Jericho

Good Shepherd Church SERVICE at 9:00 AM every Sunday. Services continue to be live-virtual for the coming month. To join in: Zoom links are provided via Good Shepherd’s communication document called the E-Bulletin. Subscribe ahead of time, by the Tuesday prior to a service you hope to attend, at *www.goodshepherdjericho.org*. Pastor Arnold leads Tuesday Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM, also via Zoom. Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is offered on Fridays at 8:30 AM; access information is at *http://goodshepherdjericho.org/*. WContact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information at 802-503-9666 or *pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org*.

Calvary Episcopal Church on Zoom

Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. While the church building is currently closed, worship services are being held on Sundays at 9:30 AM via Zoom. All are warmly invited to attend! The Zoom link can be found on Calvary’s website: *http://calvarychurchvt.weebly.com/*. Hope to see you soon!

Obituaries continued from page 14

will be possible.

**James P. Genest**, 64, of Jericho, VT passed away on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 in Burlington, VT. James P. Genest was born in Burlington to Robert and Lena (Shattee) Genest on January 29, 1957. He went to school at Rice Memorial High School in Burlington. He married Lori Beeman on October 11, 2012 in Jericho. He worked as an Operating Engineer for the University of Vermont for 43 years. He served in the U.S. Navy, including a deployment in foreign sea service to the Persian Gulf. James P. Genest was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Lena (Shattee) Genest. In addition to his parents, James was predeceased by his brother Robert and brothers-in-law Ronald Gonyea and Dennis LaBonte. James P. Genest is survived by his wife Lori (Beeman) Genest, his sons, James Genest II of Wakefield, RI and Skyler Genest and his wife, Jenna Rae of Georgia; daughters, Erin Saylor and her husband, Heath, Richmond, KY; Kaitlyn Luce and her husband, David, of Benton, TN; and stepdaughter Samantha Fuller and her husband Dave of Elmore; one brother, Joseph Genest and his wife, Rosalie; and two sisters: Sandra LaBonte and Victoria Gonyea. James P. Genest deeply loved his 14 grandchildren: Javen, Lena, Eli, Jackson, Eden, Maddox, Harmoni, Ivy, Haisley, Kyla Rae, Jaxson, Kelynn Rae, Haddie, and Kasen. Visiting hours were on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at LaVigne Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 132 Main St, Winooski, VT 05404.

**John A. McClellan Sr.**, 79, of Essex Junction, VT died peacefully Friday, February 26, 2021 at the McLure-Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT. A graveside service was celebrated on Saturday, May 1, 2021 in Underhill Flats Cemetery, Underhill, VT, with Father Charles Ranges officiating. Following the interment the family gathered for a reception at John’s son’s home in Essex, VT. Arrangements are by Champlain Cremation, S. Burlington, VT.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

VT National Guard to build light demolition range at Jericho site

Construction for a light demolition range will begin this summer on the Vermont Army National Guard’s Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho.

The new range will allow traditional soldiers who usually drill one weekend a month and two weeks a year to maximize training time by avoiding travel to Ft. Drum, NY.

“The United States Army has charged the VT Army National Guard to provide ready soldiers who are prepared to fight and win anywhere in the world,” said Brigadier General James Pabis, assistant adjutant general – Army, Vermont Army National Guard. “Rather than spending over six hours just traveling to Ft. Drum, our soldiers can spend their time conducting hands-on training.”

Prior to construction approval, the VT Army National Guard prepared an Environmental Assessment, which included a public comment period from February 9-March 20, 2020, which was subsequently extended to April 9, 2020 at the request of the town of Underhill. After review of the Environmental Assessment, the Army National Guard has approved construction of the range.

“The Vermont Army National Guard works diligently to communicate with the communities impacted by training on the range,” said Lt. Col. David Fabricious, director of range operations. “We will continue to share our training schedules with town administrators, who may post on town websites and provide residents with as much awareness as possible of planned events.”

Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, sometimes referred to as Ethan Allen Firing Range, resides on 11,219 acres of federal property licensed to the State of Vermont Military Department. The property encompasses parts of the towns of Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill, in Chittenden County. The proposed light demolition range is a live-fire demolition and explosive facility that would meet Army specifications and allow VT Army National Guard units to train on the use and employment of explosives in various applications such as timber cutting, steel cutting, and obstacle reduction.

For more information contact Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Officer Maj. Scott Detweiler, 802-227-2779 or *john.s.detweiler.mil@mail.mil*.

E911 address signs available through Richmond Rescue

By Michael Chiarella, Operations Director  
Richmond Rescue

One of our greatest frustrations during an emergency is being unable to find the home or business that we are looking for. By marking your home with a reflective address sign you can ensure that ambulance, fire, police, and package delivery services can locate your home.

Thanks to a donation from the Ketover family, we were able to start a program to outfit homes with reflective address signs. A stipulation of this donation is that we make signs available at no cost to residents on Medicaid, WIC, and Dr. Dynasaur. For everyone else, signs are available for \$10 and can be easily ordered and paid for online. We’ll even mount the sign to your wooden mailbox post for no additional fee if you live in an area served by our ambulance (Richmond, Huntington, Bolton, southern Jericho, and northern Starksboro). Head over to *https://www.richmondrescue.org/e911-signs* to get yours today.

The signs are 14-gauge aluminum and coated in 3M high intensity prismatic green sheeting. They are either 6x12” or 6x18” depending on the length and orientation of the number, and pre-drilled for mounting. The numbers are also reflective and 3” tall. Mounting screws are included for mounting on wood. Landlords or anyone else with a challenging marking situation can get in touch with me and we can work out the best marking option. We’ve made 890 signs so far. Just another 2000 and we’ll have our entire service area covered.

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Ph 802-899-8900  
Fax 802-899-4957  
Cell 802-363-4445

Jericho Farmers’ Market needs your help

The Jericho Farmers’ Market has always replied on a small group of dedicated volunteers to help make the market run smoothly week in and week out. This includes using personal vehicles and storage space in garages and sheds to transport and store market equipment. This year, the market’s board has decided the time has come to purchase a small cargo trailer to make this process easier. This will allow these wonderful volunteers to spend more time supporting our vendors, providing access to local products, and creating community through the market.

Because the market operates on a lean budget to keep our vendor fees low, we need your help for this investment in your market! If you can help support this community market effort, please go to the following GoFundMe page:

*https://www.gofundme.com/f/jericho-farmers-market-trailer-needs*

As well as our heartfelt thanks, we will be creating signage for the trailer to acknowledge everyone that donates \$25 or more to this effort. This will be on display at every market for all the world, or at least all market attendees, to see!

Thank you so much for your support!

Outdoor fire danger high until plants green up

By Steve Willard, Westford Volunteer Fire Department

It’s a beautiful spring day in Westford and the burn permits have been coming in hot and heavy. I want to take a moment to remind people that the peak wildfire season in Vermont started a couple of weeks ago and goes into May, until full green up.

Last year’s dead and dry grass, leaves, and brush are plentiful. Since they are “fine fuels,” it means that they change moisture content very quickly. A couple of hours of sunshine, especially with some wind, and the fuel moisture is low enough to carry a fire very well.

Our neighboring towns have all had wildfires this season, though we have not responded to anything so far (April 14). So please be aware and plan to do the necessary yard cleanup away from areas containing these hazardous materials. If possible, delay burning until after green up – when there is less danger of a fire spreading out of your control.

Respite House virtual Fun Run fundraiser May 7-14

The Annual Fun Run is back this year and we hope you can join us in supporting our Respite House! With health and safety concerns, we will again be hosting this event virtually.

This event is the annual fundraiser by UVMHN Home Health & Hospice (formerly known as the VNA) to support operations at the McClure Miller Respite House – Vermont’s only inpatient hospice facility. Our mission of providing the very best hospice care to people at the end of life regardless of ability to pay depends on the generosity of you, our community.

The McClure Miller Respite House has served our community for close to 30 years, providing medical care and compassion to those at the end of their lives. The Respite House has always been driven by community support and we thank everyone that has helped us throughout the years!

Please support the McClure Miller Respite House 2020 Fun Run, happening May 7-14, in any way you can – no amount is too small. And join a team to walk or run!

Register and donate online at *https://secure.frontstream.com/2021-virtual-5k-fun-run*.

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Welcome Home



Kara Burnett, daughter of Bob and Kathy Bergeron of Jericho, and her husband Griffin Burnett are happy to announce the birth of their second daughter, Addison Blake Burnett , born on Sunday, February 21, 2021 and was 7 pounds 3 ounces. She joins her sister Olivia Jade Burnett. The young family resides on City Island in New York. This is Bob and Kathy's eighth grandchild.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Underhill Historical Society thanks Scott Tower

Scott Tower, former president of the Underhill Historical Society (UHS), recently retired after 10 years of service to this town committee. There couldn’t have been a better person to help rejuvenate this group, as his ancestry dates back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century: from c.1800-1850, Scott’s great grandfather John Tower lived in Underhill Flats. He built a potato starch company and a grocery store. And to the town’s great benefit, he donated the land on which the Underhill Cemetery is located.

After those years, Scott’s family moved to Wisconsin and eventually came back to Vermont. Not really knowing about great-grandfather John’s history, Scott chose to move to Underhill, then subsequently learned of his ancestor’s contribution.

Scott joined the UHS about ten years ago and has given hours of his time to meetings, events, negotiations, historical searches, and renovation of the District 5 schoolhouse. He has been a faithful chairman of many meetings. He is a Civil War expert and plans to continue working with historical archives.

Scott lives with his wife Amy and works part time at ACE hardware. It is worth noting that during the pandemic, Amy sewed and donated many masks to the store, where they were available for free.

New and returning officers of the Underhill Historical Society are: President Roger Frey; Vice President Susan Thomas; Secretary Judy Boardman; Treasurer Carolyn Leighton; Archivist Connell Gallagher.

To contact the UHS, write to Roger Frey at [dukeofearl1@comcast.net](mailto:dukeofearl1@comcast.net) or the website at [underhillhistoricalsociety.org](http://underhillhistoricalsociety.org).

Take on the Way to Go! Spring Transportation Challenge

Spring is here! Grab your bike, rollerblades, or sneakers and join thousands of Vermonters May 1-16 for the *Way to Go!* Spring Transportation Challenge. This fun two-week challenge is your chance to “Get up and Go” walking, rolling, biking, carpooling, and riding the bus for a chance to win great raffle prizes including \$50 gift cards to grocery stores, Darn Tough Socks, walk/bike safety gear, and our grand prize, a foldable fat tire DJ eBike.

Let’s celebrate everyone who walks and bikes and shares a ride. Log two trips between May 1-16 to be entered to win great prizes.

Learn more about the challenge and stay tuned for more prize announcements at [www.connectingcommuters.org/waytogo](http://www.connectingcommuters.org/waytogo).

Right, The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Rd., Jericho is currently showing impressionistic interpretations of landscape by Williston artist Elizabeth Allen in a show titled “Coming Home.” Allen’s oil paintings do not shy away from color, and light is what she strives for. She is a fan of Emile A Gruppe and uses his palette for her landscape painting. The show will hang through Sunday, June 20. Due to covid there is no opening reception but the artist will be in house at work on Saturdays, May 22, June 5, and June 19, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Please, when you visit, wear masks and observe social distancing. The Gallery is open Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, or by appointment (802-899-3211).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Browns River Little League needs umpires

The Browns River Little League, which serves Jericho and Underhill families, is looking for umpires! Our season begins in early May. We will follow youth sports guidance in place while enjoying the sunny spring outdoors.

You can help our players, parents, coaches, and umpires have a fun season of baseball. We offer support and equipment, plenty of learning opportunities, and a flexible commitment. No in-depth knowledge is required, just a willingness to help our kids learn and have fun. We welcome all ages and genders from teens to adults.

If you’re interested or just have more questions, contact Bob Robbins, [robbins@together.net](mailto:robbins@together.net) or 899-2436. Come out and join the fun. Season runs early May to mid-June.

MMYBL basketball clinic location change

The location and time for the MMYBL Clinic hosted by MMU Boys basketball Coach Dan Hamilton has changed. The new location is the Cambridge Community Center, 22 Old Main St., Jeffersonville. The time is now 10:00 – 11:00 AM.

This clinic is 100% free of charge and there are a few slots remaining. Players will need to follow COVID guidelines for masking for attendance and only players and clinic staff will be allowed inside CHMS for the clinic.

Players can register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/40905444AB2CAAFCl-danhamilton>.

Please email Brian Huyler at [bhuyler@gmail.com](mailto:bhuyler@gmail.com) for any questions.

Free educational program for renters

The Vermont Tenants and Financial Futures programs at the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity have teamed up to create the Rent Right program available to any renter in Vermont.

The Rent Right program is a free series of classes and one-on-one coaching that provides participants with the skills, materials, and confidence necessary to find and maintain stable housing. Class content includes tenant rights and responsibilities, strategies for overcoming barriers, how to organize a housing search, building a budget, building or repairing credit, strategies for saving for an apartment – and more.

After completing the program participants receive a Preferred Renter Certificate. When a landlord receives an application or has a current tenant with this certificate, they will know the applicant or tenant is invested in being a successful renter, knowledgeable about resources, and connected to service providers, such as a financial coach.

All classes are free and open to the community. To learn more about Rent Right or to sign up for classes, please visit the Vermont Tenants website at [www.cvceo.org/rentright](http://www.cvceo.org/rentright).

Vermont Tenants is a statewide resource for renters. The Vermont Tenants Hotline (802-864-0099), free classes, and educational website offer information and support for renters in Vermont.

We have room for your ad.  
Call Brenda Boutin at 453-6354  
for more information or email  
[mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

Right, As one friend wrote on Tony Shull’s art website ([www.tonyshull.com](http://www.tonyshull.com)): “After a brief alien abduction as a young man, Tony was sent back to Earth for the sole purpose of inspiring and entertaining us humans. Besides painting, he also enjoys beer, potatoes, and playing his fiddle.” Shull’s exhibit at Sequoia Salon in Burlington is open to the public by appointment; call 802-540-8333, Monday-Saturday, to arrange a viewing.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Westford: draft Selectboard meeting minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

The draft minutes from the Thursday, April 8 Selectboard meeting can be viewed at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-04-08-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Draft minutes from the meeting on Thursday, April 22 are at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-04-22-Draft-Selectboard-Minutes.pdf>.

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

United Way’s Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, so the opportunities are limited. Here is a link for Volunteer Connection to learn more about these and other opportunities: <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/>.

A DRIVING NEED – Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired has an on-going need for Volunteer Drivers to get clients in Chittenden County to where they need to go. Their volunteer driver pool is desperately low and they are currently unable to fulfill all the rides needed. Just a few hours a week can help someone with vision loss get to a vital medical appointment, put food on their table, and run important errands. You can drive as much as much or little as you want. Even one ride per week helps our clients to remain independent. Drivers are reimbursed mileage for the use of their cars. Background checks are required. Contact Vicki Vest, [vvest@vabvi.org](mailto:vvest@vabvi.org) or call 1-800-639-5861 ext.243.

BLOOD DONOR AMASSADORS NEEDED IN FRANKLIN & CHITTENDEN COUNTIES – American Red Cross needs volunteers to make blood drives a success. Responsibilities include greeting donors, explaining the donation process, and assisting with intake. These volunteers do not assist during the donation process. To learn more and apply, visit <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html>.

DELIVER MEALS IN WINOOSKI – The Age Well Meals on Wheels program through the Winooski Senior Center provides nutritious meals and a friendly check-in to ensure the health and safety of those being served. The Winooski route is expanding as more residents are requesting meals and currently needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday – Friday. Meal pick-up starts at 9:30 AM at the Winooski Senior Center and the current route takes about 1.5 hours. Email Molly Schneider to learn more, [volunteer@winooskivt.gov](mailto:volunteer@winooskivt.gov).

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**Milton - \$549,900**  
3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath 5-Star energy efficient lakefront property w/ 14+ acres of privacy. Kitchen w/ induction range, SS appliances and island, living room w/ Hearthstone woodstove. Finished lower level w/ full bath, guest space & screened-in patio for summer dining. 2 car attached garage, 1.5 story barn & 10 x 16 shed.

**Fairfax - \$274,000**  
Spacious 2 bed, 1 bath in a great country location. Open floor plan, updated kitchen & sprawling dining and living room leading to the three season sunroom. Finished basement is the perfect place for overflow guests and recreation. Oversized 2 car garage. A full acre of open land for recreation, gardening, & partially fenced.

**Fairfax - \$269,000**  
2 bed, 2.5 bath townhome in Fairfax's Eastfield community. Open concept has well appointed kitchen w/ soft close cabinetry & tile backsplash, sunny living room. Primary suite w/ en suite bath, bonus room/office, full basement and 1 car garage. Amenities include playground, shared fire pit, community garden, & dog park.

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