

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Jericho Market and Union Bank customer parking

During recent months, Union Bank has received complaints from customers that there is no place to park in its parking area in front of the bank. The bank is asking that Jericho Market customers please respect the Union Bank customers and not occupy the bank's parking spots unless you have banking business to do during the bank's hours of operation (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM). Outside those hours, all are welcome to use the eight spots in front of the Jericho branch. Thank you!

### December 12 Westford Selectboard meeting draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Town Clerk

The draft minutes from the December 12, 2019 Selectboard Meeting can be viewed at: <https://westfordvt.us/2019-selectboard-minutes/>.

### Foothills JFD#1 Annual Meeting

JFD#1 will hold its Annual meeting on Tuesday, January 21. All are invited and encouraged to attend. We need new members for our Prudential Committee.

For information, contact Fred Lavenberg JFD#1 President, at [bearmaggie4@comcast.net](mailto:bearmaggie4@comcast.net).

### Lamoille County Republican county meeting January 11

Lamoille County Republicans announce the first monthly Breakfast Club meeting of the new year, Saturday, January 11. Open to the public, the meeting will be held at 158 Main restaurant, Jeffersonville. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 – 9:00 AM, with the meeting starting at 9:00 AM.

Program: Bill Sayre, host of *Common Sense Radio* on WDEV, will discuss the important issues in public policy facing our state, using the principles of free market economics to do so. Bill's command of the issues, insight, humor, and of course common sense, will make for a must-see presentation, and start our new year on a high note!

Also, Joe Luneau from Franklin County will share insights on voter strategy, part of the Franklin County success story that has transformed their political landscape.

And we will introduce our legislative candidate from Johnson for the Lamoille II district. (Belvidere, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Wolcott).

Finally, there will be a wrap up of the state meeting held this past December 14.

Please RSVP to Ken Hoepfner, [kenandsue@hoepfner.com](mailto:kenandsue@hoepfner.com), as soon as possible (by January 7) to determine a count of whether to order breakfast from the menu, or if the attendance is large enough a buffet will be prepared.

### Westford Future — Community Visit Report & Task Forces

Westford Planning Coordinator Melissa Manka is pleased to announce the *Westford's Future — Report & Action Plan* from the Vermont Council on Rural Development Community Visit, now available at <https://www.vtrural.org/programs/community-visits/report/westford>. Paper copies will also be available at the Town Offices and Westford Library soon.

Your local task force chairs are good contacts for information about getting involved and/or for task force updates, and there are meetings coming up! You can reach them at:

Improve Traffic Safety, Walkability, and Bike-ability – Pat Haller ([phaller@veic.org](mailto:phaller@veic.org))

Boost Local Business and Economic Development and Improve Broadband and Cell Connectivity – Mark Drapa ([markdrapa@yahoo.com](mailto:markdrapa@yahoo.com))

Advance the Arts, Community Events, and Communications – Eric Ford ([efordvt@gmail.com](mailto:efordvt@gmail.com)), Julia Andrews ([Julia.andrews@westfordvt.us](mailto:Julia.andrews@westfordvt.us)), Tara Pereira ([sweetsciencevt@gmail.com](mailto:sweetsciencevt@gmail.com))

### Underhill Skating Rink

The Underhill skating rink in Moore Park across from the town hall has been flooded and the cold weather is thickening the ice as you read this. The rink is scheduled to be open as long as the temps permit and the ice passes a few stress tests.

(Unhappy update from the Underhill Recreation Committee on January 2: The warm weather has not been kind to the ice. The rink is currently closed until we can get it cleared and resurfaced. There is an open/closed sign at the rink if you get curious about the status. We will update here as needed. Thanks to all the secret shovelers out there! Always appreciated.)

There will always be very clear OPEN and CLOSED signs posted at the rink, please heed them!

Note that the ice may not be in very good condition — a bit of snow after flooding can make it quite gritty. Mother Nature will buff it out soon enough, though, with some warm temps.

## Live at the library Caleb Foster: a modern Snowflake Bentley



On Saturday, January 11, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Varnum Memorial Library, Jeffersonville, 802 Reptiles will be presenting live animals and teaching us about where that particular animal is from, its habitat, diet, and more. Every one will get a chance to pet the snakes, and even get a photograph with one!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Senate hearing on housing comes to South Burlington

Senator Michael Sirotkin,  
Chittenden District

Chair, Senate Economic Development, Housing,  
and General Affairs Committee

Three years ago, the Legislature and Governor collaborated to enact a \$35 million bond to promote significant development of affordable and workforce housing units throughout Vermont.

By all accounts, using low interest bonding for additional housing was a resounding success, with the additional benefit of promoting economic development and job creation. As such, last session I suggested doubling down on the idea with a second housing bond of upwards of \$50 million, which could leverage an additional \$100 million in private and other investment.

My committee voted to pass the bond, but it stalled in other committees. What passed was a charge to the state Treasurer to recommend a financing source by January 15, 2020 for a large boost to address housing needs statewide.

Our committee has been meeting around Vermont to hear from the public, stakeholders and housing experts, to help inform us on financing and other solutions promoting affordable housing, with a special emphasis on how housing needs interplay with jobs and the economy. So far we have been to Windsor, Rutland, Franklin, and Windham Counties.

Our final hearing will be in Chittenden County on Thursday, January 9, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM at the Holiday Inn on Williston Road in South Burlington.

All are welcome. A detailed agenda and witness list should be posted shortly at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/agenda/2020/2738>.

### 2020 MMCTV viewer survey

Do you watch MMCTV on Comcast cable or on-demand online at Internet Archive, or listen to our audio podcasts of local meetings? Do you think we could do a better job reaching you on your favorite viewing platforms?

If the answer is yes to any of the above, please help MMCTV serve you better by taking our quick 2020 Viewer Survey online at <http://bit.ly/MmctvViewers2020>. Make sure to fill in the final question to be eligible for a drawing for four commemorative MMCTV/Stone Corral glasses!

If you also want to support our work providing Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill with hyper-local programming, year-end donations are easy at <http://mtmansfieldctv.org/donations>.



By Phyl Newbeck  
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Caleb Foster started photographing snowflakes when he was living in Pittsburgh. He moved to Jericho when he was hired by Biotek Instruments, but was unaware that he was following in the footsteps of its most famous citizen. "I drove by the Old Red Mill every day," he said, "and I didn't realize it had a museum. I'd been here for a year before I discovered it after my brother bought a book on Snowflake Bentley for one of my boys. It's pretty comical that I didn't know, but I think it helped propel my work even more." He is amazed at the dedication shown by Bentley and the work he did with his primitive equipment.



Foster gravitated toward snowflake photography in part because of his background in science. "I've always loved the natural sciences," he said, "although I work in life sciences. I've been enthralled by photography my whole life and when I got into microscopy I began to mix the two together." Foster began experimenting

with macro photography which, contrary to its name, refers to the photography of small things. After some experimentation, he has settled on microscope objective lenses, which provide the magnification necessary to photograph snowflakes.

Recently, Foster entered the Nikon *Small World* competition for both photography and video. "Nikon *Small World* is the foremost venue for those kinds of images," he said. "I thought it would be fun to try it and felt that I could be competitive." Two of Foster's images and one of his videos made the finals and he ended up earning fifth place for a still image and seventh for a reversed time-lapse video of a sublimating snowflake.

Over the last 15 years, Foster has sold hundreds of photographs, some of which were purchased by magazines like *National Geographic*. His work has appeared on book covers and magazines, and one of his sons recently found a picture of one of their dogs while browsing at a local book store. Once a year he tries to plan a photography trip to replenish his supply of stock images but he also travels extensively for work including national and international trips, and always brings a camera with him. Last year, a combination of business and personal trips brought him to Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, and Morocco.

In addition to photographing snowflakes, Foster has been "saving" them, but the only sentient being to whom he will reveal his secret for doing so is his dog. "The process takes five to seven days," he said, "and the snowflakes are preserved indefinitely." Foster has collected over 400 snowflakes, putting several together on roughly 150 microscope slides. "Certain types of snowflakes have more water content," he said, "and they don't preserve as well but the ones that are more tree-like are easier to save."

In addition to being a photographer, Foster is an artist and has had some success selling his paintings. Some of his work is done in pointillism style, which is influenced by his work in microscopy, looking at cells which make up a bigger biological picture. Although Foster enjoys displaying his artistic side, he's not sure he'd want to paint or photograph as a full-time job. In fact, he has ceased doing wedding photography despite getting at least ten requests a year. He doesn't advertise his services but he is also sought after for portrait work and does roughly ten sessions annually. "My one concern with doing it full-time," he said, "is that I would lose the love for it and it would become work. This way, it's something I love to do as a recharge."



## COMING EVENTS

## Exploring the Bible, course 3 introduces the New Testament

Who was Jesus really? What do we actually know about him and the time in which he lived? Where do the Christian beliefs and traditions about Jesus come from and how did Christian faith spread so far so quickly? Does the New Testament have anything to offer me if I am not a Christian?

Course 3 in the popular *Exploring the Bible: The Dickenson Series* gives you the opportunity to learn about Jesus and Christian faith without pressure to conform to a certain theology or point of view. Read the New Testament texts and discuss the stories and issues they raise with a diverse group of people from a variety of faith traditions. Consider how famous parables like the Good Samaritan or the story of Jesus' temptations can resonate with everyone's life, no matter your faith or background. This course is investigative and discussion, and is not a lecture series.

The course is six sessions long and is scheduled to be held Sundays, February 9 and 23, March 8 and 22, and April 5 and 19; all are evenings from 6:30–8:00 PM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library meeting room. If you are interested in either registering for the course or obtaining further information, please contact Bob Sargent, [srgntrbt@netscape.net](mailto:srgntrbt@netscape.net) or 899-3093. This course is open to everyone whether you attended the first two or not.

## Presentation on immigration in VT

On Sunday, January 19 come hear an update on what is happening with immigration in VT. Erin Jacobsen, lead attorney at VT Immigration and Asylum Advocates in Burlington — which provides free legal representation to low income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers — will be presenting at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. She will discuss:

- the current situation of immigration in VT;
- the laws and regulations governing the immigration system;
- the differences between legal statuses of migrant, immigrant, refugee, asylum seeker, and undocumented worker;
- how the legal status affects their rights;
- how concerned individuals can be of assistance for those who may be facing deportation or are afraid to leave their homes.

Her talk is being sponsored by the UCU United for Justice group, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and the Mount Mansfield UU Fellowship.

Professor Jacobsen is a dynamic speaker and is in demand throughout VT. It should prove to be an interesting and enlightening experience.

## Tai Chi classes Tuesdays, Thursdays

Classes in Tai Chi for Strength and Balance will be given at 3:00 – 4:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays (but no classes on the second Thursday of each month) at the United Church of Underhill, Park St. (on the green), Underhill. Classes will begin on Tuesday, January 7. The sponsor, Age Well, asks that you be 60+, and wear comfortable clothes and footwear. The instructor is certified.

Please register: [joannosborne2@gmail.com](mailto:joannosborne2@gmail.com). Donations to defray training and heat/lights welcome.

## Underhill Soup Bowl Suppers to resume

We are happy to announce that the Underhill Soup Bowl Suppers will be returning this winter during the first three months of 2020. They will be held at the Underhill Town Hall on the third Sunday of January (19), February (16), and March (15). Details will follow in January. Look forward to seeing you there. Please contact John or Barbie Koier, [jbkoier@gmail.com](mailto:jbkoier@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

## News briefs continued from page 1

### Jericho happenings

Here are a few interesting items that are going on within the Town of Jericho and on *Join in Jericho*. Links to information about these and many other happenings in Jericho can be found at <https://jerichovt.org>.

New Planning Commission survey: The Planning Commission is conducting another survey. The first survey was inconclusive. A total of 81 votes (thank you to all of you who voted!) with 40% voting for “Jericho Crossing” and 38% voting for “I don’t like these, go back to the drawing board”. So, back to the drawing board we go! Please help the Planning Commission and take a couple of minutes to take this new survey (scroll down the web page to find the survey).

Planning Commission Cookie Social: The Planning Commission would like to invite the public to their next meeting on Tuesday, January 7. This meeting will be more informal than normal as they will be hosting a “cookie social” for all other Jericho Town Boards as well as the public. It is designed as a time for people to come and chat and share their thoughts with the PC and other board members. Please feel free to show up at Town Hall any time between 7:00 – 9:00 PM and be prepared to eat some cookies!

2020 Dog Registration is here: The new year is here and that means 2020 dog registrations are here. Register your dog before April 1 for no fee! You can register directly on the *Join in Jericho* web page and even upload your dog's rabies vaccination certificate. Alternatively, you can mail in your registration or come into the Clerk's office in person.

Elections: As you are probably well aware, election season is just about upon us. Locally that means we have a lot going on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 3. Go to the Elections page to learn more.

### Thursday, January 2

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

### Tuesday, January 7

**EWSA Board meeting**, 6:30 – 9:00 PM, Essex High School library, Essex Junction. The Essex Westford School District will consider agenda items including: governance model decision and next steps; data review - literacy (state and local); student report; task team updates, local and statewide updates; executive session – employee evaluation. The public is welcome to attend. For more information on the work of the EWSA Board, which includes, agendas, minutes, and meeting takeaways, please visit <http://bit.ly/2vwTYdT>.

**Forestry for the Birds**, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballards Corner, Hinesburg. You are invited to join the Carpenter-Carse Library, Audubon Vermont, *Woods, Wildlife and Warblers*, and Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper to discuss forests, birds, forest bird conservation, and the ongoing active management of the Hinesburg Town Forest. From warblers and thrushes to vireos and flycatchers, Vermont provides summer breeding habitat for some of the greatest diversity of neo-tropical migratory songbirds found anywhere in the lower 48 states. Many of these species are at risk due to loss of suitable habitat, forest fragmentation, introduced species, incompatible forest management, and climate change. Bird conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires a proactive, multi-disciplinary approach. Over the past decade Audubon Vermont has been working closely with landowners, foresters, maple syrup producers, legislators, and others to raise awareness of the important role our state's forests play in hemispheric bird conservation. Steve Hagenbuch, Audubon's forest bird conservation biologist, will identify bird species of conservation priority and discuss how Audubon is working to promote forest management that improves habitat and addresses threats to their survival. Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper will also discuss the ongoing management of the Hinesburg Town Forest, which began last winter and will continue through this winter. This management includes practices to increase the diversity, health, and resilience of the forest, including improving the range of habitat opportunities for forest birds. Please bring your questions about forest management, birds, and the interaction between them. Light refreshments will be provided.

### Wednesday, January 8

**The Abenakis and their Neighbors**, 6:00 PM, tavern at Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, Burlington. First in a lecture series by Professor Fred Wiseman. Cost: \$20 per person; \$80 for entire series. No charge for indigenous citizens.

### Saturday, January 11

**Saxon Hill Open House**, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, 10 River Rd., Jericho. Come see why we love Saxon Hill School and how it could be a great place for your child to attend preschool! For more information, contact our Registrar, [registrar@saxonhillschool.org](mailto:registrar@saxonhillschool.org).

**Understanding Timber Harvesting**, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, meet at the plow turnaround at the end of Economou Rd., Huntington. Throughout our lives, most of us have been inundated with negative information about logging – you probably picture big clear cuts, mudslides, and more scenes of environmental devastation. However, modern forest management is worlds apart from the logging that most people have been exposed to. Done well, modern forest management, through the harvesting of trees, can be restorative and regenerative, helping create more diverse, vibrant, resilient forests with better wildlife habitat, help forests recover from the effects of human land use, and restoring old-growth attributes sooner than they would naturally occur. Also, forest management generates local, renewable resources which get turned into building materials, paper, power, and more. Like local food, local wood is an asset in

that it supports our working landscape and our rural communities and mitigates the transportation and use of resources, produced under potentially more adverse ecological and social conditions, from elsewhere in the country or the world.

Join us for a walk of an active timber harvest at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) with Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, co-sponsored by City Market Coop in Burlington. The HTF is an 864-acre forest owned by the Town of Hinesburg and managed for wildlife, recreation, water, air, carbon sequestration, and as a site for the demonstration of modern, responsible forest management. We will walk the timber harvest area and talk about forests, forest management, and forest ecology. Please bring an open mind, warm clothes, and all those questions you've never had a chance to ask about logging and forest management. This walk will happen “rain (snow, mud) or shine.” Participants should be ready to spend a couple hours outdoors walking over uneven and potentially slippery surfaces in whatever weather we find ourselves in, and also to spend extended periods of time standing and talking.

### Wednesday, January 15

**Jericho Underhill Park District annual meeting**, 7:00 – 7:30 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Rawson Library (project room), River Rd., Jericho. Besides a review of the park's major news from the year, the proposed annual budget will be discussed and voted on.

### Sunday, January 12

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

**Teens Teaching Technology**, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Varnum Library, Jeffersonville. Need tech help? We have the expert teens to answer your questions. Bring your charged devices and questions!

### Tuesday, January 14

**Energy Forum**, 6:30 PM, Library – Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho. The forum will cover energy policies being considered by Vermont legislators and how they will impact all Vermonters. Guest speakers Matt Cota, Executive Director of Vermont Fuel Dealers Association of Vermont, and Leslie Anderson, President and CEO of the Propane Gas Association of New England. Ms. Anderson's background includes Bureau Director for the Maine department of Environmental Protection. Her educational background includes a Master Degree in Environmental Management from the University of Houston and a Law Degree from South Texas College of Law.

There will be a question and answer period and group discussions. There will also be a potluck supper and everyone is invited to bring an entree or desert.

### Saturday, January 18

**The Telling Project – stories of new Vermonters**, 7:00 PM, NVU-Lyndon campus, Lyndonville. New Vermonters share their powerful experiences of migration. Tickets \$26; students free.

### Sunday, January 19

**The Telling Project – stories of new Vermonters**, 7:00 PM, Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. New Vermonters share their powerful experiences of migration. Tickets \$26; students free.

**Immigration in VT**, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho. Come hear an update on what is happening with immigration in VT. Erin Jacobsen, lead attorney at VT Immigration and Asylum Advocates in Burlington (which provides free legal representation to low income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers) will discuss: immigration in VT; the laws and regulations governing the immigration system; differences in legal statuses of migrant, immigrant, refugee, asylum seeker, and undocumented worker, and how legal status affects rights; and how concerned individuals can be of assistance for those who may be facing deportation or are afraid to leave their homes. Sponsored by the UCU United for Justice group, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and the Mount Mansfield UU Fellowship.

## WCVT offers scholarships for rural students

Is there a high school senior in your family? Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) is proud to partner with the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) in the 2020 College Scholarship Program. Each year, FRS gives out \$2500 scholarships to an exceptional group of rural students for their first year of college or vocational school. All applicants require sponsorship by an NTCA — The Rural Broadband Association member company, which includes WCVT.

WCVT offers this national scholarship program in its service area. It seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in rural America by advancing an understanding of rural telecommunications issues and furthering the education of rural youth. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior and an active customer (or whose parents or legal guardian are active customers of WCVT) and reside full-time in the WCVT service area. Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 6, 2020 directly to FRS by going to their website <https://www.frs.org/programs> and clicking Youth Programs, then Scholarships.

## Seeking UID class photos

We are still searching for a few class photos for the permanent historical display about Underhill I.D. School. Please email me if you have the following grade 4 (or combined grade 3/4) photos: 1982-1983, 1983-1984, 1984-1985, 2003-2004. This would have been the MMU classes of 1991, 1992, 1993, and 2012. Thanks for taking the time to dig up any photos you might have in your family's collection.

## Seeking photos/artwork for 2020 Underhill Town Plan

The Underhill Planning Commission is seeking photographs and artwork to incorporate into the 2020 Town Plan. There are 10 chapters within the Town Plan, and therefore, we are looking for photographs and artwork relating to each of those chapters, which are: 1) Natural Resources; 2) Historic and Cultural Resources; 3) Land Use (zoning/planning); 4) Services (e.g. Town buildings such as the School, Town Hall, Fire Department, etc.); 5) Infrastructure; 6) Transportation; 7) Housing; 8) Economic Development; 9) Energy; and 10) Recreation.

We are expecting to provide credit in the Plan for those who submit pictures and artwork; however, if you wish to forgo that option, please advise accordingly. Should you wish to submit photographs or artwork, please send them to [zoning@underhillvt.gov](mailto:zoning@underhillvt.gov).

## Watch for people walking

Though the longest night of the year is past — thank goodness! — drivers and walkers can take steps to make sure pedestrians are safe, especially in the dark.

**WALKERS:** Carry a flashlight with you and wear reflective gear. You have the right of way at crosswalks, but always make sure drivers see you before you begin to cross.

**DRIVERS:** Turn on your headlights and follow the speed limits, especially in rain and snow. By going slower, you'll have enough time to react. Be aware that more people may be out walking near schools, homes, or downtown areas — and not necessarily only in crosswalks.

We all have a responsibility to be safe and not endanger the lives of our neighbors. Be respectful to others by following the law:

- do not driving while impaired or distracted;
- follow speed limits;
- walk on sidewalks, or facing traffic if no sidewalks are available.

Share the road, watch for your neighbors and get home safely. For more information on safe walking and driving, visit *Watch For Me VT* at <https://safestreets.vermont.gov/WatchForMe>.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

**My Tree**

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

It must be about 60 feet tall, but trying to judge height and distance has never been my strong point. It reminds me of my first summer job at age 13, helping my Dad's forestry students catalogue and measure trees in a woodland recently donated to the University of Connecticut. I was to pace 30 feet from the base of the tree, then using a special instrument, sight the top of the tree and, using the right angle created, I could record the height of the tree.

This tree is a poplar, not the prettiest tree even when in perfect form. It cannot rival the grand, stiffly-limbed oak, or the sprawling low side branches of a huge silver maple. Out west it is called an American aspen. It is in the willow family, under the name Populus, and is called cottonwood, yellow, silver, Lombardy, balsam... all with the name "poplar." And years ago when first living in Vermont, I heard "old-timers" call it "popple."

My tree has been left alone out of neglect. No one mowed this hayfield and small trees sprang up wherever they could find sunshine. It turned into a pasture, and in winter the young saplings were chewed off by starved deer. So now the trunk, though bulked out over the years, has angles where one top leader/spire was chewed down in a desperate need to eat anything. Another top branch took over, trying to be a leader, twisting itself sideways, until it, too, crashed into the previous wreckage. Just a month ago, another large section midway up the trunk gave way to the winds that funnel down Nebraska Notch. So it is a sorry sight right now, with patches of black sagging along the trunk. Yet it does still use its height and good visibility to house a guard crow, watching while his friends feast on leftover bird seed.

Sometimes, objects are so grotesque that they become a caricature of the real thing... a black and white cartoon. Beauty becomes evident because it is not there. I can see in this tree some of the battles I have been through, and how, with age, the scars themselves reflect the instinct for survival/life that is in both trees and people, but without the exaggeration of myth. The transition from a dew-sparkled leaf to water coursing down the trunk to nourish the white blind rootlets deep within the ground is a marvel that occurs in living things. It means letting go of lines of thought that lead to a logical and reasonable conclusion. It leaves us content with blunting old patterns, so they cannot be reasonably explained... just for a pleasant moment. Such illogical connections are relaxing; I use them often. Here are some favorites.

Did you once have a dog who will always make you smile whenever his memory enters your mind? Is there a simple five-note melody that still comes when you drift off to sleep? Wind howls, and even in a snug house you still have ancient wisps of fear. Quiet and silence take us away from reality and we quickly regroup with a telephone call, a radio talking, a trip to the neighbor's, to regain our humanity. It has recently been found that Earth's magnetic force, in certain patterns, repeats itself in our own brains. (*Science News*, January 2020). We have flowers that evoke the same memories each time. We have smells that bring back a scene with emotional power and frenzy... So why not MY Tree? When we let go of all that doesn't use thought and logic, we have fairy tales, myths, extravagant fiction. No one else loves this tree; it has no character or personhood that anyone else could see. But we have grown old together, and I will be sad when one of us goes.

*Several of Nature's people  
I know, and they know me—  
I feel for them a transport  
Of cordiality.*

— Emily Dickinson

**Bells are ringing all over the world**

By Bernie Paquette  
Jericho

Though it may seem dark and cold,  
we can feel strength in our own actions  
and take note —

Bells are ringing; bells are ringing in the night,  
all over the world tonight —  
calling out the light.  
We are not alone.

Let us all ignite our spark to  
Laugh,  
Dream,  
Try,  
and Do Good

here at home in our beloved community.

Let's shovel a walk for a neighbor,  
invite someone over for coffee

sing a song for someone  
write a letter

babysit for parents  
hold a door

hug all dear friends  
even those not so dear —

be creative and brave showing no fear  
only cheer.

Take time to be kind  
don't forget to kiss the cooks  
for all their labor!

When we give, we receive

when we act like the way we wish to see the world  
the world begins to look like we wish to see it.

Let's add to the chorus

bells are ringing throughout the world  
let Jericho's bells chime in as well

calling out the light!

**U.S.S. Norfolk, postmaster,  
seasickness, U.S.S. Nautilus**

By Doug BOARDMAN

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Malta was a honeymoon for me with the best job in the Navy. Not everyone gets to design their own post office and gets to have the love of his life a mile away in a villa. Most military members are sent to where they need bodies and sometimes you get picked to go to school for training for a specific job where you actually have to think about what you are doing, follow orders but still have common sense, which the powers that be tried to get rid of during boot camp. I don't know which is worst, going from heavenly duty to floating hell like I did, or go from hell to heaven. Malta was like going back in time where everyone helped each other and us sailors made dollars and the Maltese made cents or pence. We didn't have a lot of money and any modern furnishings but we had a lot more than the British or Maltese.

I received my orders to report to the U.S.S. Norfolk DL1. We lived a beach life in a beautiful place with very few people. Better yet, the natives were honest hard working people who treated us like royalty. On the day we left, there were a bunch of people standing around the plane and we thought that they were going with us but there were many natives that were crying and hugging us and of course our son, who was around a year old. We gave our dog Teddy to a neighbor who liked him and promised to take good care of him, and especially keep him inside when the goats made their daily trek in front of our villa. As we lifted off the runway I wished I had more shore duty time but really was lucky to have had as much as I did and also could bring my wife over.

One of my friends (sailor) married one of the girls that hung around with us (not SERENA) and was on the same plane with us. We landed in Newfoundland and went to breakfast buffet. The Maltese gal grabbed a bowl near the grille with two raw eggs in it and sat down and tried to eat one and promptly spit it back in the bowl. She said she thought they were peaches. I thought wow we haven't arrived in the U.S.A. yet and my buddy's wife is already the laughingstock of the plane and there is a lot to come.

We were excited to be going back to the States to show our son to his grandparents and other friends but sad to leave our Malta friends. I tried not to think about where I was going but I heard that my ship was in dry dock in Portsmouth, VA. Boy I was fooled. The ship had been there for three months getting one of its two screws (props) fixed and the very next morning, early, the ship started high speed turns in really choppy water 24/7, and of course I had just arrived and did not have my sea legs yet. I found out they were not only checking out the screw, they were having war games with the first atomic submarine, 24/7. I got deathly seasick and went to

**Measles: spot on information**

Parents have been spotting me out and about and when they do, they are asking me more and more questions about measles. To answer their questions, let me spread some information about this disease, rather than the measles virus itself.

*What is it and how does it spread?*

Measles is a viral illness that is highly contagious. It spreads when an infected person sneezes or coughs and another person either inhales or touches the infected droplets from that sneeze or cough. It is one of the most infectious viruses we know of; droplets can survive on a surface for up to two hours.

Although most people recover without problems, in some children and adults it can be life-threatening and result in pneumonia, difficulty breathing, or a brain infection called encephalitis that can result in brain damage and/or death.

*Common signs*

- High fever
- A red or brownish blotchy rash from head to toe
- Preceded for a few days by cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, or red watery eyes

*Protecting your child*

The good news is that we have a vaccine to protect children from measles. It is a live, but very mild or tame form of the virus. It builds up immunity against the real thing and is usually given at 12-15 months and again at 4-6 years of age.

The vaccine we use is at least 95% effective in preventing a child from getting measles.

Unfortunately, as more parents opt not to vaccinate or to delay vaccination due to misinformation regarding the safety of this vaccine, the virus is now spreading in this country and around the world, especially in areas where vaccine rates are lower than they should be.

*Side effects of vaccine*

In fact, getting measles is much more worrisome than getting the vaccine itself.

Possible side effects of this vaccine are usually very mild:

- Pain or swelling at the injection site
- A fever for a day or two
- Occasionally, a mild rash

**One thing that does NOT result from this vaccine, based on strong scientific evidence, is autism.** As to infants under a year of age who are too young for the vaccine, the better the immunization rate in your community, the better the protection for infants as well as for those immuno-compromised children who are also ineligible for the vaccine.

Hopefully tips like these will be nothing to sneeze at and help you make a "rash"ional decision to get vaccinated against the measles virus to prevent the spread of this very serious and contagious viral illness.

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

sickbay. Their response to me was some aspirin and a bucket, so I went back to my floating metal post office and took aspirin, put the pail in my sorting room, threw up, went back to the counter and opened up again. This went on for over a week. I wouldn't recommend this for a diet. I lost 12 pounds in 10 days. All that would semi-stay down was saltines and tomato juice and water.

After that we never got a hit on the atomic sub. They were too fast, too silent, and I was into sending up the white flag the end of the first day. In the Navy seasickness is expected, suck it up and get back to work. I was so sick I felt like going overboard but thought better of it when they lost two of the three unsinkable dummies when they had man-overboard drills. Maybe I was thinking that maybe they did it on purpose to scare us, or were stupid, probably both. We at least didn't have any more man-overboard drills for a while because we only had three dummies and the captain didn't want to come back with all of them gone.

Next column; poisoned food, Cuban rum, loss of uniform.

*Editor's note: The staff of the Mountain Gazette apologizes for identifying the last weeks writer of this column incorrectly. The correct name is Doug Boardman and not Doug Richmond.*



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**The Mountain Gazette**

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Must be signed for attribution

with writer's address and phone number.

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**Area Worship Services**

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Sunday Services at 8:00 & 11:00 AM

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Fellowship at 10:30 AM

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Lessons & Carols Service, Dec. 22 at 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Christmas Pageant, Dec. 24 at 6:00 PM

Christmas Candlelight Service, Dec. 24 at 9:00 PM

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email: office@stthomasvt.com, Website: www.stthomasvt.com

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## HEALTH NEWS



## Tom Frank named Copley Team Hero

The Copley Hospital family is proud to announce Pharmacist Tom Frank as the next Team Hero. The Copley Team Hero award recognizes an employee who has demonstrated outstanding service to patients and their families and exemplifies Copley's values of community, respect and compassion, service excellence, and life-long learning.

Nominating Tom for the award was a group effort that included Meg Morris, Director of Pharmacy, Infusion Center's Laura Labow, APRN, and the Infusion Center team. They describe Tom as an integral part of the pharmacy team, as well as a valued member of the Infusion/Oncology Center's care team. "Tom is incredibly committed, organized and dedicated which shows in the meticulous job that he does each and every day," states Labow. "He has dedicated his professional career to the field of oncology pharmacy. His knowledge and expertise in oncology make him an incredible asset to our care team, and more importantly, to our patients."

Morris notes that Tom has been instrumental

in developing policies and procedures as well as worksheets for medication administered in the Infusion/Oncology Center. His focus is always on the patient. "The worksheets are not only instrumental in the workflow of the Infusion/Oncology Center's pharmacy preparations, they allow him at a quick glance to be able to recognize when dose adjustments or a change in treatment is needed for the patient," Morris said. An example of his dedication and commitment to excellence is his ongoing training of the pharmacists in Infusion/Oncology. Tom recently created a guide for Oncology pharmacy for pharmacists to use during initial training as a reference. "The guide is so incredibly thorough with pertinent information, and can easily be updated as Oncology treatments continue to evolve," she continued. "We all feel truly fortunate to be able to work and learn from Tom on a daily basis."

Tom has been part of Copley's Pharmacy team since 2007. He resides in Jericho with his family. Please join the Copley family in congratulating Tom on receiving this award.

## Copley asks: Do you have your updated Medicare card?

To our Medicare patients: Beginning January 1, 2020, Copley Hospital is required to have information from your new Medicare insurance card on file.

Your new card no longer uses your Social Security number as your health insurance claim number. Instead, the new cards use a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) that is unique to you and your Medicare coverage. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid made this change to protect you from personal identity theft. People age 65+ are increasingly the victims of this type of crime.

Please call Copley's Patient Financial Services Office (802-888-8338) with your new MBI number. Without your MBI number, Copley cannot bill Medicare for your next visit, which will result in you receiving a bill instead.

If your new card has not arrived, contact your local Social Security office at one of the numbers below, or visit them online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES

BURLINGTON: 128 Lakeside Ave., Suite 107, Burlington, VT 05401; phone 1-877-840-5776; TTY 1-800-325-0778.

MONTPELIER: 33 School St., Montpelier, VT 05602; phone 1-877-505-4542, TTY 1-802-223-0586.

## Blood Drive at the Cambridge Fire Department January 11

The Cambridge Fire Department is hosting its second annual blood drive in honor of Alex Blair, a Cambridge firefighter who was diagnosed with AML leukemia in October 2018. She's received over a hundred blood products throughout her journey and they have been instrumental to her treatment. We are hosting this blood drive in her honor to help other patients, like her, that need these life saving donations every day.

Please join us in saving lives on Saturday January 11, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville, VT 05464.

Please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment. Last year we filled all our appointment slots and had to turn people away at the door, so please sign up early to ensure you can donate at our blood drive! Our goal is to collect 35 units of blood, please help us reach our goal!

Please contact Kristy Wyckoff with any questions: [klwyckoff@gmail.com](mailto:klwyckoff@gmail.com) or 802-343-0352.

## Efficiency Vermont has a storm window rebate

Winter is here. And you might be realizing your house needs a little help dealing with winter winds and cold drafts. Efficiency Vermont has a \$100 rebate for do-it-yourself weatherization projects, and it includes storm windows. There's a list of 10 projects you can choose from (you only have to do three simple projects to get the rebate).

Visit <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/diy-weatherization> for more information.

## College news

Rachel Schwartz of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 President's List at The State University of New York, Potsdam, NY. Schwartz is majoring in music.

## Three tips to make family meals a staple in your home

Parents have been hungry to ask me what they can do to insure the health and well-being of their children. My response is family meals — that's right, family meals — so let me give you some reasons why.

### Family Meals Are For More than Food

Studies have shown that family meals that occur at least three times a week have been found to improve the social-emotional health of children by providing time for children to talk about their day and how they are feeling.

Then there are the nutritious advantages of family meals in that they have been found to be 20% healthier in food content, and children who eat with their families are less likely to snack on unhealthy foods and more likely to eat fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. In fact, children who participate in family meals show a 35% decrease in eating disorders and a 12% decrease in the likelihood of becoming obese.

In addition, a child is more apt to try a new food if they see their parents enjoying that food during a family meal.

### Getting Your Family to the Dinner Table

Despite these great benefits, a family meal happen may be easier said than done — so let me provide three tips that make these meals happen more often than not:

- **Plan** family meals in advance and choose a time when you know everyone in the immediate family can be there.

- **Prepare** by having your children and teens help get the meal ready — whether that's setting the table, pouring a beverage, or helping to cook or taste test a dish you plan to serve. Being upbeat and pleasant as you prepare the meal can help rub off on your children and helps your family see the fun in working and eating together.

- **Enjoy!** Enjoy the time together at the table. Make the mealtime a safe space for everyone to decompress, speak openly about their day, and be together as a family. For teens, having family meals may be a chance for them to reconnect and even seek advice and counsel that they might not otherwise seek.

Hopefully tips like these will be a just dessert when it comes to recognizing the importance for you and your children to enjoy a family meal together at least several times a week.

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

**Life has many milestones. The Mountain Gazette will print the information about graduations, engagements, marriages, births, anniversaries, deaths and more for free. Please email your information to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net). Please include photos.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lions Club makes donation to AED project

To the Editor,

Our local Lions Club has really come through for Jericho residents, by donating \$1500 to the AED Project! This is a wonderful contribution and a tremendous support to the effort to place defibrillators in public places. We are very close to our goal, and once pledges are collected and donation jars picked up, there may be enough to fund all the AEDs. Watch for the latest news. Please thank any Lions that you know for this fantastic donation. We should all be very grateful.

Julia Blake  
Jericho

### Westford Ice Rink hours of operation

To the Editor,

A reminder to Westford residents of the Common Ice Rink hours, as there have been several noise complaints. Two complaints came after midnight and one closer to 2:00 AM in the morning. The official hours for the Ice Rink usage are from 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. However, please be respectful of your fellow community members at all times.

Thank you,  
Westford Recreation Department

## Soaring through a fear for flying

Parents have been flying up to me asking me what they can say to their children who have never been in a plane before to reduce their fear of flying. Well, fasten your seat belts and let me provide some information on this topic.

Fear of flying is very common. Studies suggest that one out of six of us have a fear of flying, which means some of these people may be children, perhaps yours. So how do you help your child conquer that fear of flying? Here are some suggestions:

- **Don't be afraid to talk about flying.** First talk to your child ahead of the flight to find out what they are concerned about, which may not be what you suspect it is — such as their getting lost in the airport rather than their being afraid of getting into the plane itself. Please don't ridicule their fears but instead let them know you are there to help them get through whatever their concerns might be.

- **Get comfortable with flying safely.** If fear of flying seems to be the issue for your young child, you can watch videos of planes taking off or read books about planes together, or even do a pretend flight in your living room and make the noises of the plane taking off and landing as you go through that pretend flight with your child. You can then give your child a toy plane to mimic what happens during a flight.

- **Buckle up for safety guidelines.** Explain the importance of their needing to stay in their seat buckled up during the flight and make sure they know about the TSA security process as well, so they don't think their belongings are being taken from them.

- **Plan ahead to get ahead.** Getting to the airport in plenty of time allows the experience to be a relaxing and less stressful one for everyone. If your child senses you are stressed, they will be too.

- **When you do get on the plane,** be prepared as well with things like your child's favorite stuffed animal, games, books, music to listen to, videos to watch, or snacks to eat so as to distract your child especially during a long flight. Letting the plane crew know of your child's fear will help them help you and your child get over their concerns.

- **Model airplanes? No, model behaviors.** Finally parents — stay calm yourselves, even if your child is anything but. Also be positive and note how much fun it is to be going up in the air as you head to a destination that your child looks forward to visiting.

Hopefully with appropriate preparation and the tips I have shared, your child's fears will take off and fly away, and you'll find yourself and your child making a smooth landing when it comes to doing away with their fear of flying.

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

### Old Underhill I.D. School reunion 2020

To the people that attended Underhill ID School during the 1940s, 50s, 60s, and up until 1971:

We are planning on having a Reunion in 2020 and we would like to have you respond to the following questions as soon as possible. Please respond to the email address of [honorarchief@aol.com](mailto:honorarchief@aol.com).

1. I would prefer the reunion be held: (A) June; (B) July; (C) August; (D) September; (E) October
2. I plan on attending: YES / NO / MAYBE
3. I would like to work on the committee: YES / NO

Feel free to ask any questions when you respond, however we may not have the answers until the committee has been formed, but we will get in touch with you and as plans progress we will be in touch at least monthly.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2020! If you happen to know of people that went to this school but have not seen this, please be sure and send us their email addresses as this will be our method of communication... email.

Thanks and Merry Christmas / Happy New Year to all!

The Old ID School Reunion 2020 Committee present committee:  
Susan Howard Hooper, [shhooper@gmail.com](mailto:shhooper@gmail.com)  
Michael Dulud, [mrdmela@gmail.com](mailto:mrdmela@gmail.com)  
Randy Clark, [honorarchief@aol.com](mailto:honorarchief@aol.com)

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## LIBRARY NEWS

## Poetry People at Varnum Memorial Library

Jeffersonville

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Happy New Year!

2020 is here!

Exciting new poetry possibilities

Break new ground

Expand and hone abilities

No poems written?

Come to listen

Never read poetry Outloud?

You don't know what you're missin'?

Hope to see you at Poetry People

Tuesday night, the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, 2020

7:00 – 8:30 PM

In Jeffersonville

At the Varnum Memorial Library

Never been?

Try something new!

Haven't been in a while?

We've missed you.

Come all the time?

Thanks for being tried and true!

2020 is here

Who knows what lies ahead

Remember...

Everything is made better

With good company, poetry

And Laurie and Keith's

Chocolate Bread!

Writing In Our Heads,

Laurie and LN

### DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

All events are free and some activities require advance registration.

The Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, January 16, 7:00 PM.

Adult Programs

Mah Jongg — Mondays, January 6 at 6:30 PM, and January 20 at 1:00 PM. 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! All are welcome—no experience necessary!

Scrabble — Thursdays, 11:00 AM. Join us on the second Thursday of every month (January 9) for the original wordplay game. Exercise your mind and improve your vocabulary (especially of two- and three-letter words).

Legislative Update — Thursday, January 14, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. George Till and Trevor Squirrel will be here to provide legislative information and answers to your questions. Please feel free to drop in and meet up with your representatives.

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers — Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 PM. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact [Christine@staffa.com](mailto:Christine@staffa.com).

Trivia Quest — Saturday, January 18, 7:00 PM. Do you pine for pub quizzes, trounce at Trivial Pursuit, and jump to answer Jeopardy? If so, join us for Trivia Quest, our monthly contest of not-so-general knowledge.

Youth Programs

Story Hour with Beth and David London — Fridays, January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 10:30 AM. Beth and David London, formerly of Poker Hill School, will be at DRML to share songs and stories with young children and their families. Snack will follow!

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

### JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

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

JTL Board meetings are held the second Monday of every month (January 13), 5:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Jericho Town Library hours: Mondays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

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

### VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JEFFERSONVILLE

Roald Dahl Youth Book Club, Mondays, January 13, 27, 5:00 – 5:45 PM. In the tradition

of our past youth books clubs (the Harry Potter series and Percy Jackson series), this year we are going to be focusing on the works of beloved author Roald Dahl. Currently reading The BFG. The book club is recommended for ages 8-12 but is open to anyone, young and old. Younger kids are welcome to participate as well, as the chapters make a perfect amount to be read aloud. Those seven and under should be accompanied by an adult to the meetings. Each meeting will include an activity/craft and a short discussion. We will also have special events like movie viewings. Copies of all the books will be provided to participants. It's not too late to join; email [varnumyouth@gmail.com](mailto:varnumyouth@gmail.com) to be part of this lively group.

Interested in snakes and lizards? Come meet them up close and personal! On Saturday, January 11, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, *802 Reptiles* will be presenting live animals and teaching us about where that particular animal is from, its habitat, diet and more. Every one will get a chance to pet the snakes, and even get a photograph with one!

Vermont Humanities Book Group, Saturday, January 11, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. The book this time is *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert. Join the group for a lively discussion!

Teens Teaching Technology — Sunday, January 12, 1:00 PM. “How do I work this thing?” We'll answer your questions and introduce the basics of your device. Bring fully charged devices. Sponsored by Technology for Tomorrow and the Cambridge Area Rotary.

Snow Secrets — Thursday, January 23, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Do you know the secret of snow? How does a snowflake form, and is every snowflake really different? How can snow keep things warm? Activities include snowflake collection and observation, snow melting experiments, and a snow detectives' scavenger hunt. Sponsored by the Cambridge Conservation Commission and the Varnum Memorial Library, and presented by the Lamoyille Valley Nature Center. Designed for pre-school and elementary school kids, but all are welcome!

Poetry People, Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

Varnum LEGO Club, every other Wednesday (January 8, 22), 3:30 – 5:00 PM. Each meeting will feature themed and free build time, team exercises, and opportunities for collaboration and — most importantly — creativity and imagination. Open to all ages. Large, Duplo, and LEGOs provided.

Baby Got Books, Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:30 – 10:30 AM. A story time for the littlest patrons age 0-24 months, but all are welcome. We read age-appropriate books, sing songs, finger plays, use musical instruments, and have plenty of time for free play.

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

Crafting Circle, Thursdays, 5:30 PM. It's winter and that means that the Craft Circle is starting again! Bring your current W.I.P. (Work-in-Progress) or come to get ideas and learn something new. Be sure to take a gander at our growing collection of craft-related materials. All crafts welcome. No pre-registration required, just bring your supplies and join in!

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

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

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

### WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Wednesday, January 8: Trustees Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30: Coloring Club meets after school until 5:00 PM. Sign up required for the four-week program.

Friday, January 10, 7:00 PM at the Westford School's Common Area: The film *I am From Here* screening and discussion. This 30-minute film, directed and produced by Bess O'Brien as

part of VT-NEA's *Advancing Racial Equity in Vermont's Public Schools* tool kit, is appropriate for grade 5 and up. All community members are welcome to attend. After the film, a community conversation will be facilitated by Erin Maguire, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the Essex Westford School District. Sponsored by both the Public and School Libraries, this film helps connect to the themes raised by the VT Humanities Council Vermont READS selection for 2020, The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas.

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Drop in Tech Time. learn to put ebooks and audiobooks on your device.

Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: Travel Talk: Morocco, presented by Janet Jaffe. Another world of souks, riads, mountains, valleys, oceans, deserts, and the Milky Way.

Tuesdays, January 21, 28, 2:30 – 4:00 PM: The Hate U Give teen book group.

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group, discussing Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.

Saturday, January 25, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Make Your Own Scrunchies. Sign up required.

Early Literacy Storytime: birth to pre-school, Thursdays, 11:00 AM. Several stories will center around a theme, and there will be a theme-based craft. All ages and levels of attention are encouraged to come; don't worry if they fidget, they are still getting a lot out of it! January 9: Snow. January 16: Birthdays. January 23: Dragons. January 30: Libraries.

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

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

### RICHMOND LIBRARY

Art Gallery: The Photography of Jake Levison. Jake has been a lifelong photographer. The photos in this exhibit represent his appreciation for jazz musicians and their music, animals and flowers of this area, and other characters that he has encountered along the way. He always carries a camera with him: “You never know...” Jake has lived in Richmond for 35 years, so far. (Some of his wonderful photos are available for sale; inquire if you're interested.)

Display Case: Catherine Peacock is sharing her collection of, you got it, peacocks! After marrying in 1977 and taking on the surname Peacock, Catherine began collecting peacocks. Friends and family have also brought her peacock items from all over the world. From earrings to ornaments, we can see the many ways that peacocks can be depicted.

Wednesday, January 22 at 4:30 PM, Professor Teresa Mares will discuss her recently published book, Life on the Other Border: Farm Workers and Food Justice in Vermont. In the joint Vermont Public Radio and Vermont Public Television rural survey project, 72% of respondents considered dairy farms to be extremely important to Vermont's sense of itself. Migrant workers are the backbone of this and other agricultural sectors, yet they face food insecurity and other vulnerabilities. Professor Mares points out the misaligned agriculture and immigration policies impacting our food system today.

Wednesday, January 29 at 4:30 PM, authors Liz Thompson, Eric Sorenson, and Bob Zaino will present a fascinating slideshow about Vermont's natural communities in celebration of the new edition of their book Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont. Books will be for sale, and the authors will be available to sign them. Liz Thompson is Director of Conservation Science at Vermont Land Trust; Eric Sorenson is Natural Community Ecologist for Vermont Fish & Wildlife; and Bob Zaino is State Lands Ecologist for VT Fish & Wildlife.

Friends of the Richmond Free Library annual *Love Your Library* book sale. Mark your calendar! This year's sale takes place on Friday evening, February 14, 5:30 – 8:30 PM and Saturday, February 15, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. As always, a wonderful selection of books and media in great condition. Browse accompanied by live music from our incredible local talent.

Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 PM: the Mostly Fiction Book Group meets to discuss Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen. It tells the story of lonely Claire Waverley after her long-lost sister Sydney comes back to town after being gone for over ten years.

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 PM: the Mystery Book Group meets to discuss Dark Angel by Elly Griffiths (the tenth in the *Dr. Ruth Galloway* series). In this highly atmospheric mystery, Ruth Galloway investigates a murder in a medieval Italian town where dark secrets are buried as deep as bones.

Celebrate the New Year with dancing! Learn to waltz and swing for any social dancing occasion. Taryn Noelle of Waterbury Performing Arts Center will teach basic footwork and rhythm and partnering skills, for beginners or those feeling a bit rusty. This four-week session begins Tuesday, January 14 (6:30 – 8:00 PM), \$20 per person for the session. The first two meetings will cover waltz (or another dance if participants choose) and the second two meetings will cover swing. Singles and couples alike are welcome, no partner or previous dance experience necessary. Wear non-marking, comfortable shoes. Community Room, Richmond Free Library. Contact the Library to register.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL

LIBRARY, WILLISTON

Read to a Dog: Wednesday, January 8, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Read to Honey, a therapy dog. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session. All ages.

Movie: Wednesday, January 8, 6:00 PM. New release. Based on the bestselling book. The inspiring comedy about Bernadette Fox (Academy Award winner Cate Blanchett), a loving mom who becomes compelled to reconnect with her creative passions after years of sacrificing herself for her family. Snack provided. (PG13; 104 minutes).

Workshop on podcast production: Thursday, January 9, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Today you will produce a podcast from start to finish, demonstrating all of the elements of program creation. Participants are asked to bring story ideas to the session, from which we will select a topic for production. All welcome. Presented by Dr. Steven Shepard.

Audubon Alaskan National Parks: Thursday, January 9, 6:30 PM. Join Mark Paul on a photographic wildlife and landscape journey from three Alaskan National Parks (Kenai Fjords, Glacier Bay, and Lake Clark). If you are thinking about visiting, this presentation will help you get ideas and plan your trip. If you've already been, come and reminisce about the beauty of glaciers, breaching whales, fishing harbors, true wilderness, and the midnight sun.

Family Fun Night: Monday, January 13, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Family board game night. Snack provided. All ages welcome.

Current Events Conversation: Wednesday, January 15, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Gather with others interested in discussing newsworthy topics.

Mah Jongg: Wednesdays, January 15 and 29, 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Learn how to play, revisit the game, or just enjoy the game of Mah Jongg. Come alone or bring a friend and play with members of our community. All experience levels are welcome.

Technology Night: Wednesday, January 15, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Ken Bernard of Vermont Tech offers a monthly learning technology series. This session will focus on “How to use Fitness & Health Trackers Apps” such as *Lose It* and *Fitbit*. Bring your own device if you would like. All ages.

Read to a Cat: Thursday, January 16, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Read to Edgar, a therapy cat in training. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session. All ages.

Plastics Forum: Thursday, January 16, 7:00 PM. Maggie Eaton, health and environmental attorney, will share the new plastics legislation that will be implemented in Vermont, along with how to live without single use plastics. Collaboration with *Sustainable Williston*.

## PEOPLE - OBITUARIES

We are saddened to announce the passing of **Barry A. Salant**, 71, of Richmond, VT, on Tuesday, December 31, 2019, after a brief illness. Barry was the Postmaster in Underhill Center, VT for many years. Spring services are being planned. A complete obituary will appear on [giffordfuneralhome.com](http://giffordfuneralhome.com) at a later date. Arrangements are in care of Gifford Funeral Home, Richmond, VT.



**Carol Ann Mary (Campbell) Barkyoub**, 76, of Westford, VT passed away Monday, December 16, 2019, peacefully, to join her husband Frank and son Brian. Carol was born in Burlington, VT on May 6, 1943, and raised in Winooski, VT. She was the daughter of Louis and Hortense (Lareau) Campbell. She was raised to speak French fluently. At the age of four, Carol could play the piano just by hearing a song on the radio. She enjoyed teaching her daughter and granddaughter how to play.

She was a guest on the WDOT radio station when she was young. She graduated from Rice Memorial High School and Sheldon Beauty School. She went on to work at O'Brien's Beauty Salon on Main Street in Burlington. She then met the love of her life, Frank Barkyoub, and they married on July 30, 1966. Together they raised four children. They raised their children in Richmond, VT and both worked at IBM. They later moved to Westford to retire and became school bus drivers for their sister and brother-in-law, the Mathieus. School bus driving was a lot of fun for both of them and they loved all the kids. Carol especially loved Halloween and dressing up to entertain the children as well as the adults. When Carol was around, you knew that you were in for a good time. Carol is survived by her children: Kristine Roy and boyfriend Mitch of Fort Myers, FL; Steven Barkyoub and wife Sarah Poretz of Burlington; Diane Russin and boyfriend Mike Dashno of Westford; daughter-in-law Lisa Barkyoub of North Carolina; by seven grandchildren: Mason and Camen Roy, Rowan and Augustus Barkyoub, Danielle, Colby, and Avery Russin; and by several nieces and nephews. Carol was an only child but was blessed to have a new family when meeting Frank, and also leaves behind one brother-in-law, Kenneth Barkyoub and Sally Carpenter; eight sisters-in-law: Janet Yandow and husband Roger, Gloria Ledoux,

Betty Severance, Sandy Cuttings, Linda Mathieu and husband Richard, Brenda Irish, Debbie Irish and husband Mark, and Susan Corse and husband Doug. Carol was predeceased by her son Brian in 2012, and by her husband Frank after suffering a brain tumor in 2017, and by her brothers-in-law Ray Ledoux, John Severance, Ron Cuttings, and Ike Irish. Mom always had a spark for life and it was hard to watch stage 4 COPD take that away from her. Hopefully those who knew her will think of her and smile for the great fun-loving person that she was. A graveside service will be held at St. Luke's Cemetery in the spring; a celebration of her life will follow at times to be announced in the spring. For those who wish, online condolences may be made to [www.minorfh.com](http://www.minorfh.com).



It is with much sadness that we had to say goodbye to **John R. Greene Jr.**, 79, of Underhill, VT, son of the late John R. Sr. and Edith Greene, who passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at Memory Care at Allen Brook, Williston, VT from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He is now with the love of his life Jan who predeceased him in 2003. John was a lifelong resident of Vermont, spending most of his working career as a truck driver with Barrett Trucking Co. He loved the outdoors, working on cars, and most of all fishing. John leaves behind his son John R. III, sister Beverly Roberge, granddaughters Ashley and Ruby, great-granddaughter Lilah, nieces Robin Roberge, Donna Dumas, and Rhonda Cote, and nephew Scott Roberge, whose lives he was a very big part of when they were growing up, and many cousins and close friends. The family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers at Memory Care at Allen Brook for the amazing care and compassionate kindness shown to John during his stay there. They would also like to thank the staff and volunteers from Home Health and Hospice who supported John, his family, and friends during a very difficult time. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to donate can make contributions in John's memory to Memory Care at Allen Brook or to the Alzheimer's Association. A Celebration of John's life will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at The Eagles Club, 42 Centre Dr., Milton, VT from 1:00 – 7:00 PM. Arrangements are with Champlain Cremation.

## Christmas Bird Count breaks 2000

By Maeve Kim

Every winter for over a hundred years now, all around the northern half of the globe, people choose a day to get outside and count birds. Some drive, some walk, some ski or snowshoe, while others watch their own backyard feeders.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest running citizen science project in the world. The vast amount of data gathered has provided invaluable information about the numbers and health of wintering birds.

There are several CBCs in Vermont. Four of them cover areas not far from Underhill and Jericho, but not a single one actually counts the birds right here in our communities. Several local birders felt that this was just wrong! We've got lots of diverse habitats, we've got lots of knowledgeable people, and we've got lots of birds. We deserve to be counted!

So on Sunday, December 22, we did a trial run. Over twenty dedicated birders canvassed Jericho, Jericho Center, Underhill, Underhill Center, and the Jericho-Bolton area. Most of the birders began the day at 7:00 AM but a few started well before dawn, eager to find some owls. Our efforts paid off. We saw 34 species of birds and we tallied over 2000 individual birds (including five owls). Some species, such as chickadees and blue jays, were seen by every one of the seven birding groups. Others were much rarer, including a few ruffed grouse and one lone belted kingfisher that had stayed behind when most of its kind migrated south.

Thanks to all the people who stopped to tell us about birds in their neighborhoods, and to the landowners who invited us onto their property!

Our next task is to apply to the National Audubon Society for official status as the Jericho-Underhill CBC. We hope to be counting our local neighborhood birds again in 2020!

**Life has many milestones.  
The Mountain Gazette will print  
the information about graduations,  
engagements, marriages, births, anniversaries,  
deaths and more for free. Please email your  
information to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net).  
Please include photos.**

## Libraries continued from page 5

Meditation Program: Friday, January 17, 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Lower your stress level and unlock calm. Learn about the different types of meditation through practice, breath-work, and balancing Chakras. All levels are welcome.

Brown Bag Book Club: Tuesday, January 21, 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Meet others who love to discuss books. This month we will discuss *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende. Books are available at the front desk. Beverages and dessert provided.

Cook the Book: Wednesday, January 22, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

**TOWN OF JERICHO  
PUBLIC HEARING ON  
CAPITAL BUDGET**

On Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Jericho Town Hall, 67 VT Route 15, Jericho, Vermont, the Town of Jericho Selectboard will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed FY21 Capital Budget. The public is invited to attend and offer comments on the proposed budget and plan. Copies may be viewed outside the Town Clerks office between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm or at [www.jerichovt.gov](http://www.jerichovt.gov).

Our monthly cooking program has a selected cookbook which remains in the library for you to photocopy a recipe of choice. Prepare the dish and bring the recipe to the next month's potluck meeting. This month: *Joy of Cooking: 2019 Edition Fully Revised and Updated* by Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker, Ethan Becker, John Becker, Megan Scott. Please pre-register.

How to Organize: Put Your House on a Diet Series: Bring your own lunch and learn something new. Join one or all sessions. Presented by Melanie Saia, Director of Staging Services, The Malley Group and KW Vermont. Sessions:

- Tuesday, January 28, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Clear the Clutter. Feeling overwhelmed with stuff? Come learn simple steps to reduce your clutter and lighten the weight of your home!

- Tuesday, February 4, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Organize to Simplify. Learn how to make your home functional so it works for you and your needs.

- Tuesday, February 11, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Stage to Live or Stage to Leave. You're not on HGTV, but your house could look like it is. Learn what staging is and why it works. Send the presenter a photo of your home and receive professional tips during today's program.

Tech Tutor: Wednesday, January 29, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. One-on-one technology help from a teen. Guarantee a time by making a 30-minute appointment at 878-4918. Drop-ins are welcome if space is available.

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

**FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

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

Youth Events

Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Preschool

Story Hour. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. No registration necessary.

Wednesday, January 8, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed Lego play after school. Please register.

Thursday, January 9, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PJ Story Hour. Kids age 0-6 listen to themed stories, followed by a craft and a snack.

Wednesday, January 15, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: DIY Stress ball. Learn how to make a stress ball out of squishy water beads and a balloon. Ages 6+; please register.

Thursdays, January 16, 30, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Read to a Dog. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read McKenzie, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Thursday, January 16, 3:15 – 4:30 PM: Chess Club. Learning chess has been proven to have many benefits, such as building creativity, problem solving, and concentration! Please register. Ages 7+. Limit of 20.

Tuesday, January 21, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: Marshmallow Igloos. Build a shelter out of toothpicks and marshmallows, strong enough to protect someone from the wildest blizzard! Ages 6+; please register.

Wednesday, January 22, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Snowflake Salt Painting. Paint pretty, textured snowflakes with salt and glue. Ages 6+; please register.

Tuesday, January 28, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Wordsmiths Creative Writing Club. Wordsmiths is the library's creative writing club, a positive and relaxed place to share and work on your writing. We will be meeting once a month for the rest of the school year. Grade 6 and up. Please register.

Adult Events

Tuesday, January 7, 3-4:30: Knitwits. Want to learn to knit? Or do you just want to spend time knitting with others? Knitwits is the new knitting group at the library and is open to all skill levels. Please register.

Saturday, January 18, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: The Pillowcase Project. Come in and help sew pillowcases for the children's hospital, in honor of Delaney Sweet! We ask that you please bring your own sewing machines, but there will be a few library sewing machines available. All of the fabric is prepped and supplied, so all you have to do is sew! If you don't know how to sew, you can always help with pinning the fabric, or contact ahead of time to donate.

Saturday, January 25, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Cookbook Club Potluck. Come in earlier in January and select one of our cookbooks! Then come to a potluck at the end of the month, where you can share your favorite recipes. This month's focus will be on healthy eating, as after the holiday season, it's nice to get back to a healthy routine. Bring in your favorite recipe from the cookbook you borrowed! There will be the opportunity to try each other's dishes and to socialize. Twelve person limit – please register!

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

**BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION**

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

**ESSEX FREE LIBRARY**

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

**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 January 22, 2020 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following

**DRB MEETING WARNED FOR JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> Has been rescheduled to January 22nd**

- A request to the DRB by Matt's Wash & Wax for a condition use review to amend a previously approval. This property is located at 127 Route 15 which is in the Village Center Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB by Gravard LLC for a preliminary plat review for a 7- lot major subdivision. This property is located at 69 Packard Road which is in the Village Zoning District.

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

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

## ART / MUSIC / THEATER

## ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Announcing a community art exhibit to draw attention to the realities of the climate crisis. Art to express, communicate, and illustrate: feelings, emotions, concerns, and ideas. The exhibit will be shown at the Richmond Free Library and Richmond Town Center for the month of April 2020. Artists must support their work, citing a source for their inspiration (quote, need article, magazine, book, poem, etc.). Artists may accompany their work with a short paragraph or statement. We hope to have room for everyone and if space allows, artists may exhibit more than one piece. Most work must be two-dimensional or in low relief (be able to hang on wall). There will be some room for 3D work. For possibilities and limitations of 3D work, contact Judy; everyone please register your interest at [judybbush@gmail.com](mailto:judybbush@gmail.com). Sponsored by Radiate Art Space and Richmond Climate Action Committee.

Kathleen Berry Bergeron will offer intermediate watercolor classes beginning in January and running eight weeks, to be held in the daytime at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho. Space will be limited. For more information, contact [paint78@hotmail.com](mailto:paint78@hotmail.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MUSIC

Northern Bronze Handbell Concert — The newly formed Northern Bronze Quartet presents January 2020 concerts: Bells Ringing, Voices Singing: Sounds of Good Cheer. Concerts on both Friday, January 10 and Sunday, January 12 will feature a collaboration with bell ensembles and choir from S. Burlington and Rutland. As deep winter begins, extend the holiday season with the beauty of handbells and voices: Friday, January 10, 7:00 PM at Ascension Lutheran Church, S. Burlington, in concert with Bells of Ascension and Ascension Choir. Sunday, January 12, 4:00 PM at Grace Church, Rutland, in concert with Tintinnabula. Suggested donation \$12 adults. Visit our website <http://www.northernbronze.org/>.

The Westford Music Series 2020 is held Sundays at the White Church on the Common, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (usually). Open to the public; refreshments will be served. February 9: Allison and Cameron Steinmetz; March 15: Christine Malcolm; April 5: Patrick Fitzsimmons; May 3: Paul Asbell. For information, 802-279-4028.

## THEATER/FILM

The film I am From Here will have a screening and discussion on Friday, January 10, 7:00 PM at the Westford School's Common Area. This 30-minute film, directed and produced by Bess O'Brien as part of VT-NEA's Advancing Racial Equity in Vermont's Public Schools tool kit, is appropriate for grade 5 and up. All community members are welcome to attend. After the film, a community conversation will be facilitated by Erin Maguire, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the Essex Westford School District. Sponsored by both the Public and School Libraries, this film helps connect to the themes raised by the VT Humanities Council Vermont READS selection for 2020, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.

On Thursday, January 23, the Jericho Energy Task Force, in collaboration with the Vermont Climate and Health Alliance and SolaVida.org, will show the movie Last Tracks at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Created by UVM students and filmed in Vermont and the Rockies, Last Tracks explores the impact of climate change on skiing. Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions have risen by 16% since 1990 and skiers hold the power to change that trajectory. The film begins at 7:00 PM and will be followed by a question and answer session with State Senator Ginny Lyons, Dan Quinlan of SolaVida.org, Tom Hughes of VPIRG, and Amy Kelsey, the former Executive Director of the Catamount Trail Association. Light refreshments will be served but this is a waste-free event so please bring your own bowls and mugs. For more information, contact Phyl Newbeck, [phyl@together.net](mailto:phyl@together.net), or Dan Quinlan, [dan@solavida.org](mailto:dan@solavida.org).

## Life has many milestones.

The Mountain Gazette will print the information about graduations, engagements, marriages, births, anniversaries, deaths and more for free. Please email your information to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net). Please include photos.

## It's time: close the women's prison

By Bill Schubart

The recent reactions of various officials blinking in the glare of the latest reports by *Seven Days* and *Vermont Digger* about the inhumane and abusive conditions and lack of accountability in the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility for Women (CCRF) are unacceptable. Newly appointed Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, Mike Smith, bears no responsibility for what has come to light, but since Corrections lies within his department, he must assume responsibility for fixing the problems. His most recent response indicates his preference for using U.S. Department of Justice Attorney Christina Nolan as the appropriate person to oversee an investigation.

What do we need to know about our ongoing corrections problems that we don't already know from the substantive reporting by *Seven Days*, *VTDigger*, *ACLU-VT*, *Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform*, and others? We need to act on the information we have. People's lives and health are at stake and bad policy "trickles down" to affect families.

I have no doubt U.S. Attorney Nolan would do a fine job but I worry about the waste in lapsed time, accountability, and money... and possible interference from her superiors in Washington, namely one Attorney General William Barr, recently quoted threatening that, "if communities don't give that support and respect, they might find themselves without the police protection they need."

Surely, a more productive use of our time and money would be to address the causes of crime, such as poverty, abuse, and addiction, and develop more cost-effective alternatives to incarceration, like treatment, training, education, job training, and restorative justice, instead of criminalizing poverty and addiction.

Prosecutors, judges, police, legislators and, yes, we Vermonters, put people in prison. We elect our prosecutors and legislators. We oversee appointed judges and police. Our entire criminal justice system reflects our belief in punishment as a deterrent to crime. Until we get over this myth and rethink our criminal justice system with the goal of helping people to safely reenter society equipped to lead productive lives, we'll continue to waste money and lives building prisons and filling them. We should invest in people not punishments.

We spend about \$85,000 annually to keep a woman in the CCRF and about fifty thousand for each man held in other facilities – all too often, an investment in recidivism. Neither figure includes the cost of caring for the 6000 children whose parents are in the care of the correctional system, adding \$36 million to the \$158 million we spend on incarceration. If you look at the entire criminal justice system in Vermont — the courts, lawyers, police — we spend upwards of \$500 million on "public safety," about a twelfth of the Vermont State budget.

According to Chittenden County States Attorney Sarah George, of the twenty women from Chittenden County serving jail time in the facility, three are there for manslaughter, the rest are there for non-violent violations and property crimes. She deserves great credit for her willingness to re-examine their cases and determine who inside should be considered for early release based on prosecutorial evidence. Every states attorney should be doing the same. Several already are and others have announced intentions to do so.

The entire CCRF population is around 150 women, most of whom are either detainees awaiting trial who cannot afford bail or have passed their sentence time but have no viable housing and support options. Surely, a halfway facility would cost less than \$85,000 per client per year.

Today, the headline grabber is the CCRF, but lying behind that is an equally broken criminal justice system. ACLU of Vermont has developed a Smart Justice blueprint for reform that every Vermonter and policy-maker should read. Its main tenets are bail, sentencing, parole, and probation reform; decriminalization of poverty, substance abuse, and mental health conditions; prosecutor accountability; comprehensive and accessible data; and challenging systemic racism.

Compare the \$158 million dollars we spend corrections to the \$88 million we spend on higher education — ass backwards perhaps? Imagine if we took one of our flagging state colleges and added a reentry curriculum, essentially a redemptive path back into society for those either fallen out or left behind. Bard, John Jay, Walla Walla, and Roger Williams University, among others, have all shown considerable success here.

An admissions board composed of corrections, education, mental health, law enforcement, and addiction recovery specialists would vet each "educational diversion" applicant. Each enrollee would be required to sign a "personal responsibility" contract, clarifying the terms of enrollment and attesting to the offender's commitment. We could reallocate the \$85,000 this way:

\$14,000 tuition to the state college. (top in-state rate);  
\$5000 tuition enhancement to the college to develop and manage curriculum;

\$20,000 living stipend to the program participant;  
\$5000 annual stipend for a personal mentor;  
\$3000 admin fee to manage program and fund counseling.

Total cost would be \$47,000; total annual savings would be \$38,000 per female inmate and a few thousand for each male.

For every woman in South Burlington, there's a personal story that landed them there: malfeasance, abuse, addiction, mental health issues. For many, technical violations beyond their control have extended their time there. Add to this the punishing behavior of some corrections officials, the ongoing neglect of complaints by their superiors, and you have a recipe for continued abuse by staff and prisoner recidivism.

We need to supervise people who have committed violent offenses, but there are more effective ways to deal with those who haven't than prison time. Interestingly, homicides have the lowest recidivism rate of any class of offender. Restorative justice, circles of support and accountability, transitional housing, and mental health treatment options are less expensive and offer a practical as well as redemptive path back to community and economic independence.

We're better than this. It's time to close the women's prison.  
*Seven Days*: "Everybody Knew"  
*Seven Days*: "Guarded Secrets"  
*Seven Days*: "State Seeks Federal Probe of Vermont Women's Prison"  
*VTDigger*: "AHS Secretary Proposes Changes"  
*VTDigger*: "Report sparks state probe into abuses at Vermont's prison for women"  
*VTDigger*: "Reports of abuse at women's prison prompting review of cases"

## SPORT NEWS

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Broomball Tournament  
January 17-19

This is NOT ice hockey! The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Westford Broomball Tournament will be played Friday-Sunday, January 17-19 at the Westford Ice Rink on the Common. Registration was due on January 6. If you missed the registration, come anyway to cheer on the tournament!

No skates are needed - players wear their own boots. Helmets recommended. We'll provide broomsticks and balls. Food and refreshments will be for sale at the Red Brick Meeting House throughout the tournament.

Teams may be co-ed. All players (or parent if under age 18) \*must\* sign our participation waiver. No exceptions!

Exact times and schedules to be determined by the number of teams and will be emailed to the team leaders one week prior to the tournament. Only 22 slots are available, with a minimum of five players required per team – first come, first served!

Make checks payable to Westford Rec: \$15 per player, grade 9 and up (\$20 per player for tournament day additions to the roster). Send completed registration forms to: Westford Rec, 1713 VT Rt. 128, Westford, VT 05494.

Proceeds benefit RBMH Restoration and Westford Recreation programs and equipment purchases.

Fletcher volleyball  
needs a few more players

Still have room for some players every to join in Thursday nights at 7:30 PM with a lively group of folks for volleyball at Fletcher Elementary School gym. Would describe us as level II players, veteran players, but not so serious that it is no fun. So dust off the sneakers, fight that cabin fever, and join in, neighbors! If you plan to attend, email me at [Dawn.Pelkey@UVM.edu](mailto:Dawn.Pelkey@UVM.edu). Hope to see you on the court.

Westford Town Common  
ice rink rules

- Do not go on ice if rink is closed.
- Quiet hours are 10:00 PM – 8:00 AM, please be respectful of your neighbors.
- No food or drink of any kind on ice.
- All activities are NON CONTACT.
- Enter the rink through the entrance door only.
- Helmets strongly encouraged.
- Share the ice.

## Yoga at the White Church

Ready for the new year? There is a new yoga class being offered at the White Church on the Common, Westford at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays; first class on January 8. This will be an all-levels vinyasa/flow yoga class that includes warm-up, flow sequences, balance and floor poses. Modifications offered for various levels and expect a fairly vigorous class. Please bring your own mat, though a couple extra will be available. If you have a block and/or strap, bring that as well. \$10/class, 1 hour, your first class free! It may be a bit cool in the church, so you might want to dress in layers.

Feel free to contact Lori with any questions, [lkjshopper@icloud.com](mailto:lkjshopper@icloud.com).

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Business Directory Ad Rates

3.25"x1.5" \$90.00 for 5 issues

3.25"x3" \$115.00 for 5 issues

3.25"x4" \$175.00 for 5 issues

All ads must be prepaid prior to running.

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

## News from Underhill Central School



Left, Underhill Central School students participated in the first annual holiday craft fair on Thursday, December 12. Students in grades K-4 made different crafts in their classrooms to sell after the holiday sing along. The school community raised over \$800 from this event to support local families in need.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Right, Underhill Central School held a Food Drive in the month of December. Students donated items to share with local families in need. The UCS students learned the importance of giving and helping others.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



### Private and school-based preschool opportunities

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) announces Pre-K opportunities for the 2020-21 school year. These opportunities are available to residents of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill. Under the Universal Pre-K bill (Act 166), all 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds may receive ten hours per week of publicly-funded Pre-K for 35 weeks. This education can be in any pre-qualified private program or home-based program with a tuition of \$3445 paid to the provider by the school district. If a child attends a public school-based Pre-K, the program is free of charge. Visit <https://www.mmuusd.org/our-schools/pre-kindergartenschool> for more information about MMUUSD's school-based programs.

Families New to Preschool or to the District: Please complete the online enrollment form by Friday, February 14, at: <https://tinyurl.com/y486qddv>.

Once that form has been filled out, you will receive an email from [data@mmuusd.org](mailto:data@mmuusd.org) within 24 hours with instructions on how to proceed with the registration process (wait times may be longer on weekends, holidays, and school breaks). If you do not receive this information, please notify [data@mmuusd.org](mailto:data@mmuusd.org) or call Wendy Garrapy, at 802-434-2808.

Current Pre-K Families in public school-based programs or private programs: Please go to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and fill out the enrollment form at: <https://mmuusd.powerschool.com/public>. Once logged in, click on the "Quick Links" - "Powerteacher Portal Home," then click on eCollect forms by Friday, February 14. If you have any difficulty with this process please contact [data@mmuusd.org](mailto:data@mmuusd.org).

If you have any additional questions, please contact Pre-K Coordinator Kyle Hibbard, 802-434-2962 or [kyle.hibbard@mmuusd.org](mailto:kyle.hibbard@mmuusd.org).

A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS!

<p><b>Jericho - \$499,500</b> 5-star energy rated home is bright &amp; open w/ 3 bdrms, plus a lg bonus room on the 2nd floor. Kitchen w/ granite counters, tiled back-splash &amp; SS appliances. Master suite w/ walk-in custom closet &amp; bath. Central AC, 2-car attached garage. Sunny lg yard w/ southern exposure backs up to 220 land trust acres w/ extensive trail network.</p>	<p><b>Fairfax - \$449,500</b> Meticulously maintained 4 bdrm, 3 bath home with custom features on 10.8 private acres. 1st floor boasts an eat-in kitchen, adjacent dining rm, lg sun-lit living rm &amp; master suite. 2nd floor features 2 bdrms w/ views of Mt Mansfield. Central air &amp; full unfinished basement. Beautifully landscaped w/ fruit trees &amp; 250+ hostas.</p>
<p><b>Swanton - \$260,000</b> Bright, sunny home with 1-level living &amp; open floorplan. 1.64 acre parcel with the meandering Missisquoi River running along the back edge. Lg great rm with hardwood floors, gas fireplace, &amp; sliding glass doors is open to the kitchen featuring an island. 3 bdrms. Full basement waiting for your finishing touches. Enjoy the central AC</p>	<p><b>St. Albans - \$160,000</b> Fantastic opportunity to purchase a fully approved four lot subdivision comprised of 7 + Acres. All state and local permits in-hand. Sellers even have the driveway curb cut. Set and ready to go for you! In a lovely location just outside of town with an open level plot filled with a fringe of woods to the rear.</p>

**CALL NANCY TODAY!**

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140 Kennedy Dr, Suite 102  
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### Donate your holiday cards to Fletcher Elementary!

A group of students at Fletcher Elementary is collecting the fronts of used holiday cards (not the personalized photo ones with family pictures, of course) to send to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital's recycled card program. There, the cards are recycled into new cards and sold to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Teens at St. Jude's Children's Ranch learn life and work skills creating the new cards. If you have a stack of card fronts you'd like to donate, please drop them off at school before Monday, February 3, 2020, or mail them to:

Chris Dodge, Principal  
Fletcher Elementary School  
340 School Rd.  
Cambridge, Vermont 05444

### Funding available to promote access to college and career education in Vermont

The J. Warren & Lois McClure Foundation has announced available funding for the 2020-2021 school year for efforts that improve equitable access to the postsecondary and career education that leads to Vermont's most promising jobs. A supporting organization of the Vermont Community Foundation, the McClure Foundation envisions a Vermont where no promising job goes unfilled for lack of a qualified applicant.

The McClure Foundation's primary interest is in funding growth-stage efforts and programs seeking funding to pilot a model or a big idea, demonstrate effectiveness, expand delivery, or improve systems coordination in alignment with the Foundation's mission.

For the 2020-2021 school year, McClure Foundation funding will prioritize projects that accomplish one or more of the following: improve public, community, and/or family awareness of career pathways and the importance of continued education after high school; expand postsecondary access and increase postsecondary success so that Vermont students of all ages and backgrounds can benefit from postsecondary education and training; and strengthen the pathways between education and employment.

Nonprofits and municipal entities interested in applying for funding can submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 6. Additional information about the grant round is available at [mcclurevt.org](http://mcclurevt.org).

### SENIOR INFORMATION

#### Free Tai Chi classes at DRML

Classes in Tai Chi for Strength & Balance will start again on Tuesday, January 7 at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on River Rd., Jericho, 9:00 - 9:50 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Wear comfortable clothes and footwear. Instructor is certified. The sponsor Age Well asks that you be 60+.

Seated Tai Chi classes are also available starting January 7, 10:00 - 11:00 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To register for either class, please call the library at 899-4962 and let them know which class.

Life has many milestones.

The Mountain Gazette will print the information about graduations, engagements, marriages, births, anniversaries, deaths and more for free. Please email your information to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net). Please include photos.

## CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

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