

Planning Commission update for 1705 VT Rt. 128 project

From the Westford Planning Commission

Thanks to all those that attended our first public meeting related to the redevelopment of the 1705 VT Rt. 128 property on Tuesday, November 9. The meeting was well-attended and the questions posed by attendees were helpful for our consultant (SE Group) and our project Steering Committee to hear (Town of Westford, Vermont River Conservancy, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, Champlain Housing Trust). Our hope is to process the feedback provided at the meeting, and through our project survey, to develop a "preferred conceptual alternative" for redevelopment that our project Steering Committee will share with the general public in January 2022.

Link to survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6612422/Westford-Town-Common-Site>.

A reminder for those taking the project survey: survey respondents are allowed, and even encouraged, to identify the elements they like, or don't like, on each of the three conceptual plan alternatives. Survey results will inform our consultants' future work and the development of a "preferred conceptual alternative."

A few other points to keep in mind regarding the scope of our project:

The current project includes both conceptual planning and preliminary engineering. We are currently in the process of conceptual planning. Conceptual plans are general in content and context. Conceptual plans show general building locations, parking, pedestrian infrastructure, landscaping, etc. Conceptual plans do not provide engineering/construction details or an in-depth review of permitting considerations.

After a "preferred alternative conceptual plan" is developed, our project consultant will conduct preliminary engineering of the site. Preliminary engineering provides additional detail to the conceptual plans, but are not detailed drawings used for construction. Cost estimates for the infrastructural improvements on-site will be completed during this step of the project. These cost estimates will NOT include the cost of designing, constructing or renovating buildings on-site. Architectural drawings are required for building cost estimates and this work is not part of the current project. Final engineering of the site is not part of the current project. It is important to understand that any project planned for this parcel is likely years away from construction.

Thank you and remember to complete the survey at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6612422/Westford-Town-Common-Site>.

Thanks for Bolton tax payments

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Thank you to all of the Bolton property owners who paid the November 15 installment of their property taxes on time. Your on-time payment allows the town to pay its bills!

Currently, there is \$10,190 outstanding from the September installment, and \$42,702 outstanding from the November installment. To put this amount in perspective, this would cover approximately 10-12 weeks of payroll expenses. Interest has been calculated, and late notices were mailed on November 18, 2021.

Snowflake Bentley photo and letter discovered

By Louise Miglionico
Jericho Historical Society

The Blue Hill Observatory (BHO) in Milton, MA is home to the oldest continuous weather recordings in North America and maintains a plethora of weather observations from across the country. Recently, the Jericho Historical Society was contacted by Dr. William Messinger, President of the Blue Hill Observatory Board of Directors, indicating they had uncovered a letter written by Snowflake Bentley to the director of the BHO, Dr. Charles Franklin Brooks. Dr. Brooks was also the founder of the Meteorological Society and was quite helpful in the publishing of Bentley's iconic *Snow Crystals* book, which contains more than 2400 photo plates of snowflakes, frost, and dew taken by Bentley. The book was published in November, 1931 and is still in publication today.

In the newly discovered document, Bentley expresses his appreciation for Dr. Brooks' praise of *Snow Crystal* in a letter to Bentley dated December 6, 1931, accompanied by a clipping concerning the book.

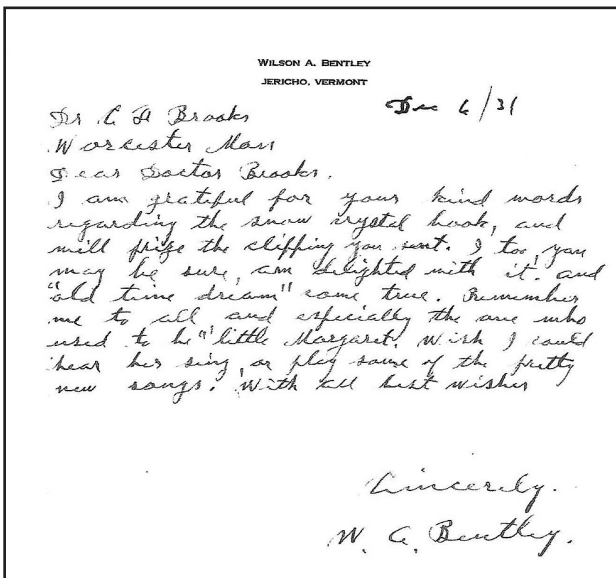
Bentley's letter of December 23, 1931 was written shortly before he passed away from pneumonia. He had very little time to relish his crowning achievement.

In the letter pictured (below left), Bentley also mentions appreciating hearing Brooks' daughter sing, which suggests that Bentley had visited the Brooks home in Massachusetts. Bentley himself was an accomplished musician, playing the piano, clarinet, cornet, and violin.

Also discovered was a photo (right) of Bentley from the album of Eleanor Stabler Brooks in the family trip section, suggesting that the Brooks family may have visited Bentley at his Jericho farm. Bentley was known for his pleasant nature, evident in the smiling photo of him.

The BHO is currently undergoing a major renovation and will be adding an exhibit dedicated to Snowflake Bentley. The Jericho Historical Society will be providing a glass plate negative, a magic lantern slide, and snowflake photos on permanent loan for this exhibit.

To learn more about Snowflake Bentley go to www.snowflakebentley.com or visit the Snowflake Bentley Exhibit at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho.



Newly discovered images of Snowflake Bentley and of a letter dated December 23, 1931 from Bentley to Dr. Charles Franklin Brooks of the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, MA. The text of the letter is as follows: Dear Doctor Brooks, I am grateful for your kind words regarding the snow crystal book, and will prize the clipping you sent. I too, you may be sure, am delighted with it. An "all time dream" come true. Remember me to all, and especially the one who used to be "little Margaret." Wish I could hear her sing, or play some of the pretty new songs. With all best wishes. Sincerely, W.A. Bentley

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

New bridge to be built

The walls and roof of the covered bridge over the Browns River at Mills Riverside Park were removed on Tuesday, November 23. Access to the park was closed for a few hours.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Westford seniors to have table at PTO Craft Fair**By Carol Howrigan, President, Westford Senior Luncheons**

Hello, Westford friends — Our Senior Luncheons are beginning to run low on funds. We decided to have a table of crafts at the PTO Craft Fair on Saturday, December 4, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common, so that we can sell with the complete profit going to the seniors account.

We plan to have handmade knitted and crocheted items, paintings, ceramics, maple syrup, potholders, towels, scarfs, hats, breads, jewelry, and more.

You can drop contributions off Friday, December 3, 8:00 PM, or drop them off to me anytime on Friday (please call first 802-878-3090 just to be sure I'm home).

Questions, please call me at the number above.

Clutter Barn plans for next season

The United Church of Underhill's Clutter Barn is closed for the winter, but the workers are busy making plans for next season. This past summer you probably noticed that, due to a shortage of display space inside the Clutter Barn, it looked like a tent city outside on sale days. We are redesigning the upstairs display space to make it more efficient and we have decided NOT to take the following items that do not sell well: shoes, socks, ties, men's suits, baseball caps, scarves, belts, lingerie, cookbooks, and liquid health and beauty products that have been opened. We will continue to take boots. These items will be added to our *Do Not Take* list on the church website <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com>. Clutter Barn information is under the *Serve* heading.

A big thank you goes out to our community for supporting the Clutter Barn by donating your gently used household items and purchasing at our sales. We hope you found some good buys that will bring you back again next year. In 2021, we donated a truckload of household items to help Afghanistan refugees furnish their homes when they arrive in Vermont. We provided household goods to a family with a child in cancer treatment and a rug to a local family. Through our connection with a social worker at the VT Dept. of Children and Families, we provided furniture to a family moving into an apartment, and backpacks and school supplies for elementary through high school students. Unsold quilting books were given to the Quilting Guild. Fabric went to incarcerated women for their projects. All efforts are made to recycle items that do not sell. The Salvation Army, ReStore, and ReSource were recipients of unsold items.

Next year we will collect donations every other Saturday as in 2021. Tag sales will be the last Saturdays of June, July, and August. Our final sale will be Harvest Market at the end of September. Watch the *Mountain Gazette* and Front Porch Forum next spring for more information.

Lastly, we are always looking for volunteers to help out with sorting, cleaning, and organizing donations. No experience is needed, just a willingness to serve. If interested contact Sharon Dankot, 802-899-3572, or Kathy Williamson, 802-899-3122.

Underhill Energy Committee opening

The Underhill Energy Committee (UEC) has an open slot for an individual with an interest in and commitment to a sustainable future and our town's place in it.

To join us, you don't need to be particularly technically oriented. We need people with a range of interests and skills, including (but by no means limited to) financial and analytical skills and people people to facilitate and orchestrate our information, education, and outreach efforts

We are currently working to define our organization and generate projects to continue our work to help our residents conserve energy (and amass savings) at home and in transport and to capture the clean, free power of the sun and wind in ways that enhance our lifestyles and livelihoods.

Our mission includes:

- making recommendations that reduce energy consumption in town buildings, equipment, etc.,
- providing information and education on how to reduce energy consumption in our homes, vehicles, and lifestyles;
- encouraging the adoption of low carbon energy such as solar;
- analyzing community projects designated by Selectboard; and
- helping develop or revise the Town energy plan.

If you are interested, and have a little time and energy to give to Underhill's future, please contact mfo337vt@gmail.com and we will be in touch.

Seeking grant to complete ABBRT from Jeff village to Smuggs'**By Peter Ingvaldstad**

Our Town of Cambridge Trails Committee and the Vermont Land Trust are working together to apply for a Vermont Department of Forests and Parks grant to complete the Alden Bryan Brewster River Trail from Smugglers' Notch Resort to the Village of Jeffersonville.

Many of you have walked the completed sections of the trail that now starts at the Canyon Covered Bridge with the new 50 foot bridge built by the Vermont Land Trust and follows the Brewster River up to Smugglers' Notch Resort.

We have dreamed for years of completing the trail from the Canyon Covered Bridge up to the Robtoy Farm and crossing the field above Jeffersonville Village that has absolutely beautiful views of Mount Mansfield and our surrounding mountains, and then down to the Brewster River behind the Cambridge Little League field and the Cambridge Elementary School. While the Cambridge Trails Committee and other volunteers can build the trail, we need professional help to build the bridge across the Brewster River. The bridge would be about 80 feet long. We have a preliminary estimate of \$125,000 to build the steel work for the bridge, and we would then deck the bridge and build the railings ourselves.

We hope that you support our efforts to add to our trail network

with Jeffersonville as the hub leading to the Greenway trail, the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, the Lamoille River Paddling trail, the Uplands and Midlands trails, and the Alden Bryan Brewster River Trail.

Please let us know if you support our efforts and / or have any thoughts or questions — contact pingvaldstad@gmail.com or 802-793-7210.

Seeking CCSWD Board of Commissioners representative**By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator**

The Town of Jericho is seeking an alternate to join longstanding resident and Chittenden County Solid Waste District BOC representative Leslie Nulty. Each Chittenden County town, village, or city appoints two citizens to serve on the BOC. This advisory board helps determine policy and decision making related to management of solid waste in our municipalities.

Executive Board meetings are at 5:00 PM on the third Monday of the month, and full Board meetings are at 6:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please check the CSWD Calendar for up-to-date meeting dates and times, as they are subject to change to accommodate Board member schedules and other conflicting events.

This is a great opportunity to volunteer on behalf of our town and neighbors. If interested, please reply to this post and I will communicate re: next steps.

And finally, a note of gratitude to Bert Lindholm for his years of service in this role and to the Town of Jericho. Thank you Bert!

Old Red Mill Preservation Fund donor will match up to \$35,000

An individual who wishes to remain anonymous has pledged up to \$35,000 to the Old Red Mill Preservation Fund as a matching donation. This means that if the Jericho Historical Society (JHS) can raise \$35,000 by December 31, 2021, the donor will match it. If the JHS can only raise \$25,000, the donor will match that, etc.

The to-do list includes: roof replacement or repair, window repair or replacement, painting of outside of mill, purchase of fire suppression system, continued re-pointing of stonework. As can be imagined, these repairs are extensive and expensive.

The Old Red Mill is on the National Register of Historic Places and is truly an architectural gem. We are so lucky to have this beautiful building in our community.

Please consider donating toward our goal of \$35,000 by December 31, 2021 as a match to the anonymous donor's gift.

The Jericho Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization thereby making your donation tax deductible. Please send donations to: Jericho Historical Society, c/o Louise Miglionico, 68 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, VT 05465.

For more information please contact Louise Miglionico, 802-355-5382 or loumig@aol.com.

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COMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 2

VT Legal Aid Clinic for VT seniors 60+, 9:00 – 11:30 AM, by phone. Vermont Legal Aid is hosting a free virtual legal advice clinic by phone for free civil legal assistance to Vermont seniors, aged 60 and up, to answer legal questions about COVID-19 related assistance, federal and state benefits, housing, unemployment, debt, or other civil legal issues. Call and book your free 20-minute appointment! To schedule an appointment, call 802-318-4169; leave a message with your name, number, and the best time to return your call. You can also book an appointment online at <https://vtlawhelp.org/seniors>. The phone number above is just for the legal advice clinic. If you have an immediate legal problem, call our general phone number and leave a message: 1-800-889-2047. Note, our attorneys cannot help with criminal issues. Your appointment must involve your own problem, and not a question about a family member or friend's problem. All consultations are confidential. This clinic is by appointment only; available appointments may be limited.

Saturday, December 4

Westford PTO Craft Fair, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford Common. Westford Seniors will have a table of crafts, with its complete profit going to the seniors account. The Seniors will offer handmade knitted and crocheted items, paintings, ceramics, maple syrup, potholders, towels, scarfs, hats, breads, jewelry, and more.

JCC Craft Fair, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho. Tons of great vendors! Also baked goods, handmade items, tumblers, a 50/50 raffle and much more!

Saturday-Sunday, December 4-5

BSA Scout Troop 23 wreath stand, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Holy Rosary Church, Richmond. While supplies last! Wreaths are made with Vermont greens and will support Troop 23 with gear, outdoor activities, and leadership training. Please, checks and/or exact change when possible; on request, Scouts will place wreaths in an already open trunk or on the curb for you to pick up after they step away.

Sunday, December 5

Tree lighting and visit from Santa, 5:00 PM, Town Green, Jericho Center. Jericho Town Library is excited to host the tree lighting again! There will be book giveaways, sweet treats, and a visit from the big man himself. Santa Claus is coming to town!

The Peculiar History of the Flats and Riverside, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Presented by the Chittenden County Historical Society, the Underhill Historical Society, and the Jericho Underhill Park District, Gary Irish will discuss this area's history. Where the Creek and Browns River join there is a large flat area that, as the region was settled, became a prime locale for a village, but when the towns of Underhill and Jericho were laid out by Benning Wentworth, the dividing line between the two towns ran through this plain — through the new village. The Underhill side became Underhill Flats, or just "the Flats," while the Jericho side became Riverside. This led to some interesting situations as the area developed, and despite a lack of water power, a robust retail and manufacturing sector grew. Q&A, and Gary Irish will sign his book *Volume 3 of the Jericho Town History (1963-2013)*, which will be available for purchase. Masks required.

Wednesday, December 8

Lions Club Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood, so please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season. You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>.

Squirrel Nut Zippers Holiday Caravan Tour with Atom & the Orbits, 7:00 PM, in-person at Spruce Peak Arts, Stowe, or via live stream. Classic holiday songs and Squirrel Nut Zippers hits. VIP ticket holders are invited to the soundcheck! For

more information and to purchase tickets go online to <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/events/squirrel-nut-zippers-holiday-caravan-tour-2021/>.

Saturday, December 11

Annual Craft and Christmas Cookie sale, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, fellowship hall, Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville. Yummy cookies, decorations, cross jewelry, antiques, and offerings by local vendors. Homemade soup and sandwich lunch also offered for sale. HO! HO! HO!

Finding our place: mapping for genealogy, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, on Zoom. Our last class of the fall is all about maps: finding them, using them, making them, and sharing them. Maps are records with invaluable information about our ancestors. We all know historic maps can help us find our ancestors, but what we may not realize is that mapping technology has now made it possible for even the armchair genealogist to travel the world in search of their ancestors and collaborate globally, all without an advanced degree. Join us to explore the world through maps and mapping. VT Genealogy Library classes will be held on Zoom on Saturdays 12:00 – 1:30 PM; the cost is \$10. The library is open Tuesdays, 3:00 – 9:30 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; masks are optional for those who are vaccinated. Registration is required for this class; to learn more and to register for the class, visit www.vtgenlib.org. You can also visit our Facebook page or call at 802-871-5647.

Saturday, January 8

Cambridge Blood Drive, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville. The Department is happy to announce the return of its annual blood drive! Please visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=alexthefighter> to sign up for an appointment. Last time we had to turn away any walk-ins, so please plan ahead and schedule your time slot!

Annual Maple Conference December 8-11

The 2021 Vermont Maple Conference, Wednesday-Saturday, December 8-11, will offer options for both online and in-person learning, with 15 informative sessions led by maple industry experts and maple producers.

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the VT Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) will host the conference, which is co-sponsored by the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. Daily sessions will be of interest not only to sugar makers but also to foresters who work with maple producers and forest landowners looking to lease to a producer.

The conference kicks off on Wednesday, December 8, 9:00 AM, with the first of nine online sessions over a three-day period. Attendees also can register for a day of in-person sessions at Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph Center on Saturday, December 11.

To register, go to www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. The registration fee is \$10 for online sessions only, \$25 to attend the December 11 in-person sessions, and \$35 to participate in both online and in-person sessions. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate contact Cory Ayotte, 802-786-9437, by Tuesday, November 30.

This is the first time since January 2020 that the Vermont Maple Conference has offered an in-person option. The live event will include a panel of industry experts moderated by UVM Extension Maple Specialist Mark Isselhardt; hydrometer testing; a tour of the State of Vermont Metrology Lab; a research update with Research Associate Professor Dr. Abby van den Berg with the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center; a tradeshow; and lunch.

Six interactive hour-long sessions also will be offered on December 11 after lunch that will focus on areas such as maple business management, maple industry regulations, sugarbush



Currently showing at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery in Jericho: **Only Maple**, a new show featuring the work of watercolor artist Harald Aksdal, woodworkers Carl Newton and Toby Fulwiler, and ceramic artist Lucia Bragg. The show will run through Sunday, December 19. The highlight of the show is Newton's exploration of the traditional Norwegian-styled bentwood box called a Tine. These boxes date back to the Viking era and were used to store personal items — much like shaker boxes but unlike shaker boxes, these are much more intricate in design. Emilegruppegallery.com. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

health, marketing and media, and maple production and innovation.

All sessions (online and in-person) will be recorded for future viewing. Topics include:

December 8: sap collection for small-scale maple production, food safety, and maple quality in the retail marketplace;

December 9: agritourism and welcoming visitors into the sugarhouse and sugarbush, the basics of sugarhouse certification, and updates on sweet tree research with the Cornell Maple Program;

December 10: quality syrup production for small-scale maple operations, a deeper dive into sugarhouse certification, and a Q&A session with Dr. Tim Perkins, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center;

December 11: an industry panel, a plenary session with Dr. van den Berg, hydrometer testing, and six sessions on a variety of related topics.

For more information contact Cory Ayotte, cory@vermontmaple.org or 802-786-9437, or Allison Hope, allison@vermontmaple.org or 802-777-2667.

Bree on Books! New adult fiction and non-fiction

By Bree Drapa, Librarian, Westford Public Library

I know it's been a while — there have just been so many good books coming into the library, there's not enough time to talk about them all!

Please enjoy a couple of videos describing our newest adult fiction and non-fiction offerings!

Adult fiction, Part I: <https://youtu.be/iYCb4Z4esJk>

Adult fiction, Part II: <https://youtu.be/c7kWSgfkGUY>

Adult non-fiction, Part I: <https://youtu.be/Ui0ofuFhfss>

Adult non-fiction, Part II: <https://youtu.be/BGLemPK6Lg4>

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Westford December 2 Selectboard special meeting agenda

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

The Westford Selectboard will hold a Special Selectboard meeting at 7:00 PM, Thursday, December 2, in person and via Zoom. To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85297773554?pwd=aUhxVUtZOXBlcFdJbzlFYlZlR1MHZrUT09>, Meeting ID: 852 9777 3554, passcode: uqyq6; OR dial +1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 852 9777 3554, Passcode: 882321.

The meeting agenda includes, at 7:02 PM, Public comment (items not on the agenda); 7:07 PM, FY'21 Audit Review – Teresa Kajenski, Fothergill, Segale & Valley; 7:40 PM, discussion, topics include:

- Maple Shade Town Forest Management;
- Draft FY'23 Budget;
- Draft Capital Budget.

Please note the times listed are approximate.

The next regular Selectboard Meeting will be held on December 9, 2021.

Westford news and notes

The Town Office is open to the public Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM and Fridays 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. The Town Office will be closed December 23-24 (Winter Holiday) and 31 (New Year's Eve.) Masks are required for unvaccinated people.

Winter is here — what you need to know about winter road policy: Plowing begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3". Each plow route takes the road crew about four hours to complete. Sand is applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely.

Westford does not repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.

Plowing across town roads from driveways across town roads is prohibited.

Read the full Winter Road Policy here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>.

Draft minutes for November 11 Selectboard meeting, by Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk: Read the draft minutes from the Thursday, November 11 Selectboard meeting online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-11-11-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Selectboard FY'23 Budget Workshops: The Selectboard began working on the FY'23 Budget in October. Upcoming workshops will be held on December 9; additional meetings will be held if needed. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2022.

Senior Luncheon: The Senior Luncheon will be on Monday, December 13, 11:30 AM at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common. All seniors are welcome. Please join us for our Christmas get-together and a home-cooked meal with baked ham. If you need a ride, please call Carol Howrigan, 802-878-3090, or Beth Menut, 802-893-2263. We had a good turnout in November, but our numbers are down from previous years. We have had two new families joining and as always, I want more. If you have a neighbor or friends that are from Westford that aren't coming, please contact them and see if they would like to join us as we celebrate Christmas. We always welcome guests, so if you have family or friends visiting, by all means bring them with you. I also hear people say they don't feel like they are seniors yet, they still can cook their meals, they're active, and the list keeps going. However, this is so much more than just a meal. You get to see people that you haven't seen in years. It's just getting together to visit with others and the meal is a bonus. Although, I have to say, there are some darn good cooks living in this town. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope everyone's Christmas is special. I hope to wish you Merry Christmas in person. — Carol Howrigan 878-3090 or carolfrank2@comcast.net.

From Dennis L. Angiono, Westford Fire Warden: Snow season is upon us and very shortly the ground will be covered with the cold white stuff. As most of you know Vermont does not require a burn permit as long as the ground is covered with snow. After the first snow I will not be monitoring the weather or the system until the snow melts in the upcoming warm weather. The burn system will remain open so that I ask that you please continue to take out permits because it helps our Fire Department determine if either a fire or a controlled burn is going on in a particular area.

Although burn permits are not required during snow season, nothing else changes. What you can and cannot burn and where you can burn remains the same. If you have any questions pertaining to your burn please call me at 802-879-1231.

At this time I would like to wish all my friends and neighbors a very Happy Holiday and a Safe and Healthy New Year.

**Our Retail Stores are Open!
Stop in and see us, we have missed you!**



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

HEALTH NEWS

Lions Club blood drive December 8

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a Blood Drive on December 8, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood, so please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season.

The Red Cross is requiring everyone to wear a face mask regardless of their vaccine status. You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and entering COVENANT in the search bar.

Breathe easier: here's the scoop on croup

Parents have been coughing up lots of questions as to how they can tell if their children's cough is really croup. Well let me see if I can help air out some information on this common disorder.

What it is

Croup is a term that describes inflammation of the upper airways; more specifically your larynx, your trachea, and your bronchi that help bring oxygen into the cells of the lung itself. It commonly occurs in children ages three months to five years. It's usually triggered by a virus, the most common one called parainfluenza, although other viruses can cause this problem — including, on rare occasions, the COVID-19 virus.

Yes, it's contagious

Croup, like all respiratory viral infections, is contagious and can be spread by people being in close contact with each other and in the absence of good hand washing. It is most common in the fall and early winter, and usually starts as a cold with a runny nose and low-grade fever. As the upper airway becomes inflamed, the airway will swell up and your child will become hoarse and develop a harsh barking or what we call a "croupy" cough that sounds like a barking seal.

How bad is it?

Croup tends to be worse at night or when your child is upset and crying, and will last two to three days at its worst before getting better, usually within a week. Rarely the swelling can get so severe that a child may develop difficulty breathing and you will begin to see their ribs pull in during breathing and they may turn pale or blue. In this circumstance seek medical attention immediately.

What treatment is needed?

Most of the time, croup — though unsettling for parents to listen to — can get better in a few days or less with some routine treatment including humidification with a cool mist humidifier, acetaminophen or ibuprofen, rest, and hydration.

When the cough or hoarseness is pronounced, the use of a brief course of a steroid medication called Decadron to reduce the inflammation is indicated. Even taking your child outside into the cool air may help, because this can reduce the airway inflammation. If there's any question about your child's cough being due to croup, please talk with your child's doctor to see whether additional testing to identify the virus, an x-ray, or other tests or treatments are needed.

Hopefully tips like these will have you barking up the right tree when it comes to knowing more and worrying less about your child having croup.

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

Cambridge Cares is here to help

Do you, or do you know someone, who may be living alone, or who may have unmet needs, or who may be "falling through the cracks?" As colder weather approaches, do you know a neighbor or relative who could use someone to keep an eye out and see that all is well? Are you looking for someone who cares? Well, your town is here to help!

Cambridge Cares is here to offer assistance. Cambridge Cares is a group of "neighbors-helping-neighbors," community volunteers who support residents in need, and encourage neighbors to aid in the process. We offer information about available resources, and may collaborate with other resources that provide support with housing, heat, hunger, and other needs. Our volunteers are also available to intervene personally when needed and appropriate. For more information, or to ask about assistance for yourself or someone you know, please contact us at 802-730-2588 or 802-644-2927.

Cambridge Cares tip: Fuel assistance is available through the State of Vermont. Income-eligible Vermonters may receive assistance if they own their home, pay rent, pay for heat directly or as part of rent, rent a room in someone's home, or live in public, subsidized, or Section 8 housing AND rent includes heat.

To apply online, go to <http://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/fuel-assistance>. You may also apply in person at any of the state's district offices (there is one in Morrisville), or call 1-800-479-6151.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Westford's 1705 project: what are we really saying?

To the Editor,

With dismay I see that the sentiment is that affordable housing is considered un-needed and unwanted, or in the very least it should be put on the outskirts. And, the Country Store is just about all we should hope for on the Common. Why? Because any new building on the Common seems to be that bridge too far.

I look at the buildings to the right and left of the Red Brick Meeting house, and that's nearly the same building density as was in the design proposals. THAT's the historic settlement pattern, which is what makes a village, look and feel like a village. Small shops on the bottom floor and housing on the top floors sound great to me.

I'm sorry I'm going into the negative here: I simply can't believe that we're thinking of treating the property around the Common like it's our Grand Public Park that should be frozen in time, year 2021. Is it just right? The old market is vacant, the buses have been moved, the contaminated soil is still largely out of sight, out of mind, perfect the way it is... Is that it? NOW is the time the Common is shining?

No, we don't need a "boardwalk" to the river either. It's Westford, we need nothing but exactly what we have right now. We want people to move in to help our tax base, but please, if you need anything, or... want... anything... welcome to rural living, go drive elsewhere to find it.

While we do that, I imagine the same complaints will continue year in, year out: that taxes are going up, the town is unaffordable, and that the town is anti-business. People will shout, "Someone ought to do something!" to make this a more affordable town for the average person. "Someone ought to do something!" that allows aging me, my kids, my friends, or my parents to be able to afford to stay in Westford. "Someone ought to do something!" to promote business in town. "Someone ought to do something!" to keep our fields and forest land from turning into... I guess buildings we didn't want on our Common.

I agree we have a great Common, but it can become greater. I'm not suggesting maximizing density, but I am suggesting that we can do better than we are. We really shouldn't be promoting sprawl, and we should be trying to make Westford affordable to live for more than our current demographic of generally well-off middle age folks who can afford a \$250K home or more, and I do WANT more than the Country Store and I do WANT the river access.

Patrick Haller
Westford

Parting thoughts from The Village Sampler

To the Editor,

It has been my honor, my privilege and my blessing to have been a shop owner in Jeffersonville. I could not have done this to begin with, nor remained, without the help and encouragement from many. To name an important few: Lisa Bryan and her husband Beckner, who live "The Wesley Grace" every day and who remain a steadfast in their commitment to friendship; Jack Foley, who allowed me to tape a picture of my "Village Sampler" sign to his plate glass 158 window. It's been years, and still remains stuck there. He didn't have to do that, but he did. My husband Bob, who tirelessly supported me, is the rock that kept

me grounded; and to my dear friends Harley and Joe, who took my endeavor to create an upscale shop personally. They never faltered in their desire for me to succeed, and help me more than I could ever repay.

There will be many who will miss the shop and yet there will be some who won't even know I'm gone. I take with me a cache of deepest friends who will be with me wherever I am and wherever I go. It's time to begin writing a "new chapter."

I'm ready.

A heartfelt "thank you all" so, so much.

Jane Melfy — The Village Sampler
Jeffersonville

Pollinators, grazing won't be permitted on new solar site

To the Editor,

Thank you Phyl Newbeck for your story (*Mountain Gazette*, November 18, 2021), *Two new solar farms bring clean energy and money to Jericho*.

I would like to add one correction. In speaking with Chad Farrell of Encore Renewable Energy after the ribbon-cutting ceremony, he confirmed that ENGIE (the asset managing company for the solar site at the Jericho capped landfill), was not on board with pollinator plantings (nor sheep grazing) at the Jericho capped landfill solar site. He suggested that the Jericho Selectboard could perhaps discuss the economics of a pollinator planting with ENGIE and possibly influence the outcome. I have written to the Jericho Selectboard requesting that they consider such a discussion with the representatives of ENGIE.

Bernie Paquette
Jericho

Westford Food Shelf gift fairy

To the Editor,

To whomever left a generous gift for the food shelf in my mailbox today, thank you! It was safely received and will be put to use stocking our shelves this holiday season. Westford is just the best.

Lauren Curry
Westford

Another branch of the Irish family

To the Editor,

I was interested to read my third cousins' history of the Irish family in Westford in the last *Mountain Gazette* (November 18, 2021). If they had gone back a bit further, they would find that Philo Irish's grandfather, Palmer Irish, was also a Westford resident, although on the eastern, Route 15 side of town. Of Palmer's children, Lyman was the father of Philo, while his brother George was my great-grandfather. George moved in the other direction, settling in Underhill, and his son Elmer, my grandfather, moved on to Jericho, where our branch of the family has lived ever since.

But by a quirk of fate, I did go to high school with Stephen, along with Beth and Colleen, so the family did reconnect for a time. And having been involved with several local historical societies over the years, I too would urge folks to support the efforts of the Westford Historical Society in their efforts to preserve local history.

Gary Irish
Jericho

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Electric vehicles — what's the range?

By Ruth Machell Julianelle
Energy Committee Member, Underhill

The Underhill Energy Committee is continuing to answer answers people have about electric vehicles. These FAQs are not intended to be a binding, finally definitive document, but should give enough information and resource websites that a reader can get a general appreciation of facts. If a reader wants updated or detailed information, they should talk directly to dealerships and reference web sites with updated information.

This week: What is the range?

One factor of interest in comparing cars is the range — that is, how far can you go on a full tank of gas, or in the case of EVs, how far can you go on a fully charged battery. As with a gasoline or diesel powered car, several factors such as aerodynamics, weather, terrain, car heaters, air conditioners, and driving habits will affect the expected range of an EV. Depending on the model of car, a typical range for an EV could be between 200-400 miles in moderate conditions.

An EV driver will have to adjust their expected range when the weather is very hot or very cold. Battery packs do not operate as efficiently at temperature extremes, and passenger compartment air conditioning and heating cut down on the range. On a windy Vermont winter day of 20° F below, the range may be cut down to about 60% of the range in moderate weather conditions. Running the air conditioner in the summer can reduce range by about 15%.

The range will also diminish somewhat over time as the battery ages.

Mileage in gasoline powered cars is measured in "miles per gallon" or how far can you go for one unit (gallon) of fuel. In an EV, the mileage is measured in "miles per kWh." As with gas powered cars, driving at higher sustained speeds (over 60 mph), the mileage, whether it be mph or mpkWh, will tend to drop. But in stop-and-go around town, the mileage does not drop off as much as gas powered cars. That's counter-intuitive for many people as it's the opposite of how a gas-engine car works.

(Source: How Long Should An Electric Car's Battery Last? | MYEV.com)

<https://www.myev.com/research/ev-101/how-long-should-an-electric-cars-battery-last>

Additional tips for improving range can be found online at <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/blog/winter>.



Above, the Underhill Jericho Fire Department's EMS team. **FIRE FACTS:** Did you know a fire triples in size every 30 seconds now? This was not the case years ago. The "legacy fires" we used to have were home materials comprised of wood, cotton, and other natural fibers. These older materials burned slower. Many materials in your home now are petroleum-based, which causes them to burn much faster. In the past, when your home fire detector went off, you had about 15 minutes to get out of the house with those old legacy materials. Now, you need to exit within two to three minutes before you can be overcome by fire or poisonous smoke. Therefore, it is critical to have the appropriate number of smoke and CO (carbon monoxide) detectors, good batteries, and an exit plan and meeting spot at your home. — Sean McCann, UJFD Assistant Chief

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Underhill Jericho Fire Department: where we are today

By Sean McCann, UJFD Assistant Chief

Things have certainly changed a lot in the past 108 years. In 2020, we had 485 calls. Out of those calls, we had 20 fires, 310 medical calls, 25 car accidents, 13 patient extractions (house, woods, trails, mountains, etc.), 17 mutual aid calls to assist neighboring towns, and 100 "other" types of calls. We have handled some very difficult calls both physically and emotionally, providing support to our members to help everyone get through. But no matter the call, our members are here to serve.

Over the years fire calls have decreased. This is due to better protection, technology, prevention, and increased public

Miscellaneous continued on page 5

Miscellaneous continued from page 4

education and awareness. Even though we have fewer fires, they tend to be more dangerous. Did you know a fire triples in size every 30 seconds now? This was not the case years ago. The “legacy fires” we used to have were home materials comprised of wood, cotton, and other natural fibers. These older materials burned slower. Many materials in your home now are petroleum-based, which causes them to burn much faster. In the past, when your home fire detector went off, you had about 15 minutes to get out of the house with those old legacy materials. Now, you need to exit within two to three minutes before you can be overcome by fire or poisonous smoke. Therefore, it is critical to have the appropriate number of smoke and CO (carbon monoxide) detectors, good batteries, and an exit plan and meeting spot at your home. When we arrive at your house, the chief’s first question will be if everyone is out of the home and safe.

We have fewer car accidents these days. Cars are built better and stronger, with greater technology and with increased safety features. When the fire department arrives at a car accident, most people are out of their vehicles with minor injuries, if any at all. Years ago, this was not the case. Safety and technology have come a long way in protecting us, but cars also go faster. Poor decisions are still made. If we do have an accident with people being trapped, it usually means injuries and more technical work on our end. In this line of thought, we have moved from our old hydraulic equipment to high tech battery-powered extrication equipment. This equipment includes cutters, spreaders, and “the jaws of life.” The UJFD continues to stay ahead of the curve in equipment and training. It takes time and effort to become proficient with this equipment. Our members continue to show their commitment by giving the time and energy to training on this equipment.

Staying ahead of that curve, we do our best to keep the UJFD outfitted with the some of the best equipment out there. We also initiate the use and practice of new ideas or operations that are leading today’s industry. One such example is our UHP (Ultra High Pressure) fire suppression unit. This is on the back of our “first out” unit, Squad 51. This truck is the first to leave our station. It carries a small amount of water and 100’ of hose. The theory behind this cutting-edge unit is that you can use significantly less water to put out a fire by creating super small droplets of water and absorbing the heat with much greater efficiency. The unit can be run by two firefighters and the hose is easily handled by one team member. This unit was purchased and placed into service in 2019. We have been reviewing the needs of the fire department to best serve the community by evaluating the use of a ladder truck. We are continuing to review the need for another station on Pleasant Valley Road in Underhill to increase protection, provide quicker service, and decrease insurance cost through a better ISO rating. These last two items are works in progress and not necessarily in the immediate future.

When you call 9-1-1, are you aware of who comes, from where, how quickly and how that organization operates? Most folks call 9-1-1 and expect to have a fire engine or ambulance show up and take care of the problem. A fire may get extinguished, or a broken bone may get splinted, but how else does this affect you?

The department made UJFD history in 2019 when we hired our first female firefighter and then another in May of 2021. We are proud to have two full-time female firefighters/EMTs on staff. With the approval of the communities, the UJFD started a medical first response program to provide quicker and more immediate lifesaving care and interventions to our community. Our EMS first response program is an ALS (Advanced Life Saving) service. Not only can we do the basics for medical emergencies, but we also carry medications, provide advanced airways, start IVs, provide a more detailed assessment, and many more higher-level lifesaving measures. In the short time the program has existed it has developed into an award-winning program. If you have a cardiac event, you can expect our first responders to be at your door and providing interventions within minutes. The ambulance still takes a minimum of 15 minutes to get to your location, even using lights and sirens, depending on where you live. Currently, our EMS program is working on applying for the HeartSafe Community recognition and the state-awarded Pediatric Safe Community. We deal with all kinds of EMS issues, medical (chest pain, difficulty breathing, seizures, etc.), trauma (car accidents, falls, gun shots, etc.) and other issues like birth, mental health crises, suicidal ideation, and more. We even watch over our own team of firefighters at fire calls. If you call, we’ll be there. Our EMS team takes great pride in the service it offers to our community.

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department is considered a combination department: it has two full-time staff and 44 volunteers. Our two full-time EMS members are Michelle Collins and Annika Coloney, both certified firefighters and certified EMS providers. Please feel free to stop in Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM, when they will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Volunteers needed at SCORE Vermont

At the heart of Vermont is our passion for helping our fellow Vermonters. It’s part of what it means to be a Vermonter. Are you an experienced business professional, entrepreneur, or small business owner who would like to give back to your local community?

SCORE Vermont, with branches across the state of Vermont, is looking for volunteers to help us help Vermont small business owners launch their startup and help grow their business. SCORE provides confidential business mentoring and educational workshop events at little-to-no cost.

SCORE’s mission is to foster vibrant small business communities through mentoring and education. If you would like to share your business expertise and give back to the community, consider becoming a SCORE mentor or a SCORE volunteer.

What sort of volunteers are we looking for?

- subject matter experts;
- workshop content;
- event planners;
- Quickbooks;
- digital marketing;
- social media;
- non-profit businesses;
- B-corp experience;
- technology mentors;
- administrative assistance;
- and many other roles!

Interested in learning more? Go online to <https://vermont.score.org/volunteer>.

VLT connects people, community, land through challenges

By Darby Bradley

For the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), land conservation has always been about more than simply protecting land. When Rick Carbin founded the organization in 1977, he was already thinking about housing and economic development as well as the preservation of farm and forestland. The value of building connections between land, people, and communities remains at the forefront of the organization today, despite the myriad of new challenges that our land, our communities, and our state now face.

Conservation is about protecting what matters in communities. In many communities this has meant ensuring the intergenerational transfer of farms, as it did in the early 1980s with the Hollister Hill Farm in Marshfield. In Addison and Franklin Counties, 230 working farms were conserved between 1995 and 2005. Established farmers who sold development rights received payments for protecting their land, which they reinvested in the farm. By first selling development rights, retiring farmers could sell their farm at its agricultural value to a younger generation, who brought new energy, capital, and business practices to Vermont’s agricultural economy.

In other regions of Vermont this has meant conserving forestland, which supports the forest products and recreational industries. During that same decade, over 270,000 acres of forestland were conserved throughout Vermont. The 132,000-acre Champion Lands Project, for example, helped ensure that the Northeast Kingdom’s growing snowmobiling and mountain biking industries as well as hunters, anglers, and hikers would always have access to this huge section of Essex County. This investment, made decades ago, continues to offer and add value today through the recreational use of the land as well as carbon storage.

At the same time, dozens of “community projects” — like Hogback Mountain in Marlboro, Casey’s (sledding) Hill in Jericho, and the face of Mt. Equinox in Manchester — were completed with the active participation of local residents. In some cases, VLT was able to donate land for a specific community purpose, including for an assisted living center in East Craftsbury and for affordable housing and expanded public facilities in Hancock village.

It was also during this period that VLT began working with communities that have been historically marginalized. In Highgate and Brunswick, VLT helped protect land that was important to the Abenaki Nation’s history and culture. In Fletcher and Reading, it facilitated the creation of residential camps for low-income children. In Colchester, VLT purchased and then leased out Pine Island Farm for New American immigrants from Africa and Asia.

As new challenges arise — increasing home values, an ever-changing agricultural economy, the need for greater equity and inclusion for all Vermonters, and climate change — VLT is evolving to confront these issues. To do so, VLT will be focusing on projects with multiple community benefits, such as the conserved Bluffside Farm in Newport, which now hosts a recreation path along the shores of Lake Memphremagog, along with vegetable gardens that serve the local hospital; projects in underserved communities that provide easy access to the outdoors, such as the new outdoor classroom at the Mettowee Community School in Pawlet; and projects that protect precious resources in the face of climate change, such as West Mountain in Shaftsbury and Arlington.

In all of these accomplishments, VLT credits the active support and assistance of many partners, including VHCB and other land conservation organizations, governmental agencies, funders, community volunteers and, most importantly, landowners. While challenges change and VLT evolves, it will continue to value, promote and conserve those connections between people, communities and the land that Rick Carbin first espoused so many years ago.

Biographical note: Darby Bradley prepared the legal documents setting up VLT in 1977, and later served as staff attorney (1981-1990), President (1990-2007), and Special Assistant to the new President Gil Livingston until his retirement in 2013. VLT’s founder Rick Carbin died in July 2021.

Could you help a teen and her siblings in foster care?

By the VT Department for Children and Families

The story below is not of a specific child in foster care. This teen’s story is given as an example only. We are recruiting for safe and caring homes of all types for a variety of children and youth. Might you consider becoming a foster, kin, or respite care provider? As a trained care provider, you will be giving the gift of stability to a child. You will be fully supported, trained, and provided a stipend for any child or youth placed in your care. Find out more. Thank you!

Katerina LOVES anime. Her favorite character of all time is Gon Freecss and if you ask her about him, be prepared for a LONG conversation! Like her favorite anime character, Katerina loves animals and spends a lot of her time making sure that everyone around her is happy while her own needs sometimes become secondary.

What you won’t know at first glance is the need Katerina has to be understood and supported through her experience in foster care. At 14, she’s the oldest of three and has been a caretaker her whole life. It hasn’t left much time for Katerina to be a kid herself. Yet, underneath her overprotective exterior is a young teen who just wants to fit in and find permanency for herself and her younger brother and sister.

Might you be the right foster care provider for Katerina, or a teen like her? Could you give her the unconditional care and support she needs? Can you care for her as we search for an adoptive family who will embrace Katerina as their own? Perhaps, that family is yours? If so, we’d love to hear from you!

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

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

When will I be able to get fiber Internet service?

By Paul Warden, Johnson representative on the Lamoille FiberNet board

When will I be able to get fiber Internet service from Lamoille FiberNet? What takes so long?

Well, we are glad you asked! Here are the general steps the Lamoille FiberNet and the other Vermont CUDs (Communications Union Districts) must take to bring “fiber to the premises” (FTTP) and provide high speed Internet service to rural Vermont.

Laying the Foundation

1. Form CUD, create bylaws, financial policies, procedures, job descriptions, mission statement, insurance, etc. Hire legal counsel. Establish working committees.

2. Raise money!

3. Feasibility Study — Conduct a survey of interest; contract with industry consultant to assess need, costs, economic feasibility based on financial modeling.

4. Evaluate technologies — What Internet technologies are proven? Which are future-proof? What are neighboring systems using?

5. Create a business plan — What will it cost? How will construction be financed? How will operating expenses be met? What is the expected “take rate” (% of subscribers) in each area?

6. Create high-level design system and examine priority areas for build out.

The Pre-Building Process

7. Pole study — Determine the ownership, GPS location, condition, height, current attachments (electric, telephone, cable, transformer, etc.) and number of customers served — for every single pole in the service area. Generally, there are about 20-30 poles per mile — and we have 500+ miles of road!

8. “Make Ready” — An industry term meaning decide whether we will need to replace the pole, move some attachments, add poles, etc. Who will do the actual work? What permits, licenses and/or easements are required?

9. Mapping hub locations — Hubs are physical structures in the service area that house terminals, power supply, battery backup, Internet routers, network switches, etc. — all the things that make the network work.

Partner / Design / Build

10. Choose ISP Partner — This is a big one and requires us to assess capability, capacity, and willingness to align with Lamoille FiberNet’s goals. Negotiate cost structure, asset ownership, etc.

11. Detailed Design and Engineering Plan — This is the nuts and bolts, planning every inch of the network and building in redundancies and protection.

12. Procurement

12a. RFP for construction / construction management

12b. buying fiber optic cable, splitters and all other hardware.

13. Build, build, build.

Drops, Installs and —finally! — Customers

14. Drops — connect the fiber to the house. How far is the house from the pole? Are wires aerial (overhead) or underground? Is conduit used?

15. Installs — Connect the fiber to a router inside the house to create WiFi.

16. Then light it up and serve customers!

Though the list above is sequential, the work itself is not — much of it occurs concurrently. For example, Lamoille FiberNet sent out an RFP to potentially interested ISPs, and our Partnership Task Force has been conducting detailed reviews of the responses and interviewing the candidate firms. We just received a \$1.19 million grant from the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) to, among other things, conduct the pole study mentioned in #6 — and Lamoille FiberNet is already working with VCUDA (Vermont’s CUD association) to bulk purchase fiber optic cable and other standard hardware supplies in advance (see 12b).

Throughout the process, Lamoille FiberNet is providing testimony to state legislators, working with state agencies, the VCBB, regional planning commissions, town selectboards, etc. to build consensus and interest and keep the general public informed.

Lamoille FiberNet expects to begin actual construction in Q3 2022 and to begin serving a limited number of customers in Q4 2022.

Lamoille FiberNet’s mission is to make reliable, locally controlled high-speed internet available to every address in our member towns — Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville, and Wolcott — as soon as possible. Serving community, not profit.

For more information, go to <http://www.LamoilleFiber.net>.

SPORTS

Annual Westford Broomball Tournament 2022

Join us for the 21st annual Westford Broomball Tournament on the Westford Town Common, Saturday-Sunday, January 15-16, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM! Teams will battle it out in 20-minute broomball games, played four-on-four-plus-goalies on the Westford outdoor ice rink in a double elimination tournament.

Registration is open for high school students and adults of all ages; \$15 per player; register online at <https://gameonvt.com/event.php?id=28>.

There is no limit to the number of players on a team but all players must register in advance. Space is available for up to 22 teams and will be awarded first come, first served. Games will start on the half hour starting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 14. Exact times and schedule to be determined by the number of teams registered.

Concessions will be available at the Red Brick Meeting House and on the Green throughout the tournament.

MUSC registration for spring 2022 soccer

Registration is now open for the 2022 spring season with Mansfield United Soccer Club (MUSC).

Sports continued on page 12

Support your neighbors



BSA Troop 23 wreath stand December 4-5

BSA Scout Troop 23 will have their wreath stand open the weekend of Saturday-Sunday, December 4-5, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in front of the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond — while supplies last.

The wreaths are made with Vermont greens and will support Troop 23 with gear, outdoor activities, and leadership training. We encourage checks and/or exact change when possible and if requested, the Scouts will be happy to place wreaths in an already open trunk or on the curb for you to pick up after they step away. You can find Troop 23 on U.S. Rt. 2 / Main St., Richmond.

Thank you and have a safe holiday.

Christmas trees for sale by Scout Troop 627

Planning to buy a Christmas tree? Please consider supporting Underhill/Jericho Scout Troop 627's annual Christmas tree fundraiser at the VT Rt. 15 Jericho Jolley. These trees from Craftsbury range from 7-10' and are all priced at \$50.

This annual event supports the Troop activities for the year to develop our leaders of tomorrow. Sales are weekday evenings, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, and weekends, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

New this year: tree delivery! Come and pick out your tree and have a local Scout deliver to your house for \$10!



JCC Craft Fair December 4

There will be a craft fair at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center on Saturday, December 4, 2021, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

There will be tons of great vendors! There will be baked goods, handmade items, tumblers and much more! There will also be a 50/50 raffle!

Come on down!

Jeffersonville Church Craft and Cookie Sale December 11

On Saturday, December 11 the Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville will hold its annual Craft and Christmas Cookie sale, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, in the church fellowship hall. There will also be decorations and cross jewelry as well as antiques and other vendors. We will be selling a homemade soup and sandwich lunch as well. Doors open at 7:00 AM to allow vendors to set up. It will be a fun time for all!

If you are interested in renting a table for the day (\$25) contact Sue Perry, 644-2721, or download an application from Jeffchurchvt.org. No time to waste! Tables are assigned according to when the application and check are received.

HO! HO! HO!

Westford seniors to have table at PTO Craft Fair

By Carol Howrigan, President
Westford Senior Luncheons

Hello, Westford friends — Our Senior Luncheons are beginning to run low on funds. We decided to have a table of crafts at the PTO Craft Fair on Saturday, December 4, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common, so that we can sell with the complete profit going to the seniors account.

We plan to have handmade knitted and crocheted items, paintings, ceramics, maple syrup, potholders, towels, scarfs, hats, breads, jewelry, and more.

You can drop contributions off Friday, December 3, 8:00 PM, or drop them off to me anytime on Friday (please call first 802-878-3090 just to be sure I'm home).

Questions, please call me at the number above.

Westford Rec winter fundraiser makes Xmas dinner simple!

The Westford Recreation Department's Winter Fundraiser wants you to spend more time with family! Let Chef Shawn Calley prepare your Christmas dinner's side dishes and desserts!

Order online by Friday, December 17 at <https://forms.gle/PYGPKyVsJEMSbF587>, and pay online at <https://westfordvt.us/payments/> or when you pick up your dinners at the Red Brick Meeting House on Friday, December 24, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The cost is \$50 for sides and desserts for four. No substitutions, sorry!

The sides and desserts on the menu are:

- glazed carrots;
- wild rice stuffed squash;
- Parmesan garlic herb roasted cauliflower;
- roasted herb potatoes;
- cranberry sausage stuffing;
- honey wheat rolls;
- gingerbread cookies;
- chocolate Yule log.

Town of Bolton Holiday Crates of Cheer

As we enter the holiday season, we are starting our annual food drive to benefit the holiday Crates of Cheer. We are looking for

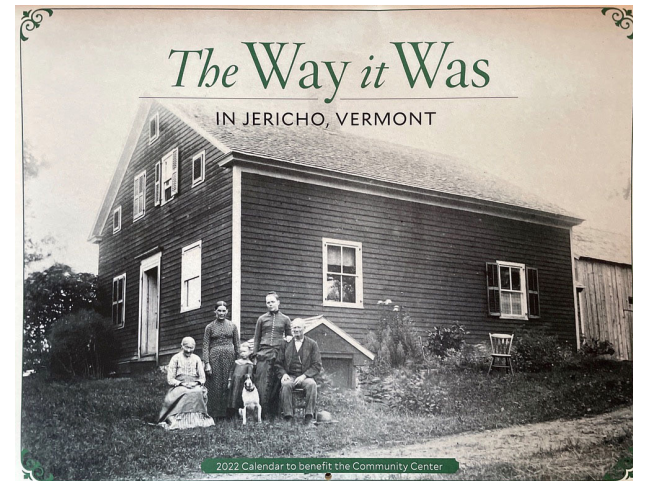
donations of nonperishable food items or toiletries that we can include in the crates. Donations can be left at Smilie School in a box in the front foyer.

If you are unable to make it to Smilie during routine school hours but want to help, you can leave a monetary donation at the Town Office, which we will use to buy additional items.

This activity is solely funded by the generosity of the residents of the town of Bolton, so any support is very much appreciated.

If you know of someone who may be open to receiving a Crate of Cheer, please forward their information to Amy Grover at the Town Office.

A good conscience
is a continual
Christmas.
Benjamin Franklin



Jericho 2022 calendar a great holiday gift!

The holidays are coming and if you need a gift for someone special or a hostess gift, consider the Jericho 2022 calendar! A fund-raiser for the Community Center, it is full of historic photos from the late 1800s and early 1900s in Jericho. It hangs on a wall and has space to write in all your appointments.

Find the 2022 Jericho calendar at Jeri-Hill Hardware, the Jericho Center Country store, the Old Mill craft shop, the Jericho Town Hall, and the Gruppe Gallery. Cost is \$15, which all goes to supporting the Community Center.

BCA Holiday Artist Market December 11-12 in City Hall Park

Burlington City Arts (BCA) Holiday Artist Market will be in City Hall Park, Burlington Saturday-Sunday, December 11-12, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The Holiday Artist Market supports Vermont-based artists and makers while adding festivity and holiday cheer to downtown Burlington. In addition to providing both emerging and established artists with an opportunity to sell their products, the Holiday Artist Market directly supports the local creative economy. This annual market serves over 20 local vendors and welcomes approximately 3000 shoppers throughout the weekend. This year, BCA is providing 15 vendor stalls as well as nine tents and tables to artists. The market showcases a diverse shopping experience with ceramics, clothing, fine art, print, photography, jewelry, accessories, and more.

A full list of this year's vendors is at burlingtoncityarts.org/event/holiday-artist-market.

Reserve a Table at the December 4 Westford PTO Craft Fair

The Westford PTO Craft Fair at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Westford Common is back this year on Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

An 8-foot table space is \$35 and set-up is Saturday morning starting at 8:00 AM. We have a few tables people can use or you can bring your own.

Table space is limited, so please let us know ASAP if you would like to be a part of this fun event!

Email Kathleen, knorth102@gmail.com, to reserve your space today!

Underhill Jericho Fire Department holiday bake sale

We all know the holiday season is busy, so let us do the baking for you — and support a great fundraiser! This is the Underhill Jericho Fire Department Holiday Bake Sale! Choose among these options:

Cookie Tray #1, \$20: two dozen, four each of chocolate chip, peanut butter, snickerdoodle, M&M, and brownies.

Cookie Tray #2, \$10: one dozen, a mix variety of chocolate chip, peanut butter, snickerdoodle, M&M, and brownies.

Cupcake Box #1, \$22: 12 decorated cupcakes, six each of vanilla with chocolate frosting, and chocolate with buttercream frosting.

Cupcake Box #2, \$11: six decorated cupcakes; choose vanilla with chocolate frosting, chocolate with buttercream frosting, or pumpkin with cream cheese frosting.

Choose a Friday to pick up your order, December 5 or December 19.

Please provide your full name, email address, and date choice along with your order to teapottreats@gmail.com or kmf0508@comcast.net. Payment will be collected at time of pick up.


Thank you for your support!

To see example pictures before ordering, contact teapottreats@gmail.com.

Door Drop activity kit for Westford kids


In Westford, the Recreation Committee will activity kits for kids to your doorstep on the first Monday of the holiday vacation week; \$25 each. For information, contact recreation@westfordvt.us.


Monday, December 27, first Monday of School Winter Vacation Week: Sugar Cookie Decorating Kit



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2021
Snowflake Bentley
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by
Vermont Snowflakes

Beautifully Gift Boxed
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Shop local for Christmas



Marine Corps League in VT provides toys for Vermont kids

Thousands of Vermont kids live below the poverty level during “normal times” — and 2020 was far from normal. 2020 was certainly a challenging year for all of us. It goes without saying that the worldwide COVID pandemic dramatically impacted our health and our overall life experiences in ways that we never could have imagined. These effects were clearly felt by Toys for Kids through the loss of about 30 toy barrel locations, which had all of us concerned going into the Christmas season. Despite these significant challenges, our local community stepped up with toy and financial donations. The Marine Corps League Donald Cook Detachment and Toys for Kids would like to thank all our toy barrel monitors, all the businesses that provided toy barrel and coin can locations, and all the Vermonters who donated countless toys as well as those who made financial donations. It was an unprecedented team effort that helped thousands of underprivileged children in our area have a “Good Toy Day” at Christmas.

Charitable agencies expect a high demand once again in 2021. We are concerned that the 2021 Christmas season may be significantly impacted by many challenges (e.g., inflation fears, supply chain issues, COVID, etc.). With all that they have been through in 2020, we do not want the kids to lose Christmas in 2021.

Coordinated by the Marine Corps League’s Donald Cook Detachment, Toys for Kids — a 100% volunteer, non-profit program — is the largest Christmas toy collection program in Vermont for needy kids. With the help of NBC Channel 5 TV and many business sponsors, volunteers will work diligently during the Christmas season to monitor and empty hundreds of our signature red Toys for Kids barrels. All of the new, unwrapped toys that are collected will be turned over to agencies like the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families in Vermont.

All toys collected stay local. Our Toys for Kids red barrels are out and will be picked up on Tuesday, December 21. Barrel locations will be updated on our website <http://www.toysforkidsvt.com> and on Facebook page *Toys for Kids VT*.

Please consider buying toys early from our local merchants, who may have both in-store and an online presence. We recommend that you buy early and ship early in order to avoid Christmas shopping congestion and potential shortfalls of toys. If you decide to buy toys online, you can ship your toy purchases directly to:

Toys for Kids of Vermont,
c/o Jerihill Ace Hardware
249 VT Rt. 15
Jericho, VT 05465.
The Toys for Kids team will deliver them directly to our local agencies.

In addition to toys for children up to age 14 we depend upon your generous financial donations, which enables us to buy \$35 Visa gift cards at Christmas for 15-17 year old kids. If you would like to help us financially, please mail a check to:

Toys for Kids
P.O. Box 4092
Burlington, VT 05406
Or you can also donate via PayPal through our website <http://www.toysforkidsvt.com> (select *Donate*).

Thank you for your toys and financial donations so needy kids can have a “Good Toy Day” at Christmas.

For more information, identifying potentially new barrel locations, or if you would like to be a barrel monitor, please contact any MCL member or John Welsh (Toys for Kids VT State Coordinator), 802-872-0354.



Letters for Santa in Westford

The Santa Mailbox will be back again this year! The Elves will deliver it on Saturday, November 20 at the Westford Library. Drop in a letter to Santa — with a return address if you’d like Santa to write back!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

2021 Holiday Giving and Volunteering Opportunities

United Way of Northwest Vermont’s mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to www.unitedwaynvt.com, [galaxydigital.com](http://www.galaxydigital.com) or contact us at megan@unitedwaynvt.org.

HOLIDAY GIVING
OPERATION HAPPINESS, a program of United Way of Northwest VT, helps families in Franklin and Grand Isle counties each year to provide and holiday meals, winter wear, and toys. This effort helps 1000 local families each year. For information on how you can donate and for more information, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Operation-Happiness-1792921027472820/>.

LUND – Due to the many challenges of COVID, for Holiday Giving in 2021 we ask for gift cards in place of the traditional items. This will allow counselors to work with clients to purchase an item for their children and to assist Lund for future needs. We would be grateful for gift cards in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100 to: Amazon, gas cards, grocery stores, Michaels, Old Navy Target, TJ Maxx/Home Goods/Marshalls, Visa/Mastercard, and Walmart. Mail to Sharon Lifschutz, Lund, 50 Joy Dr., S. Burlington, VT 05403. To support families unable to purchase gifts, Lund is also adding specific toys to an Amazon Wish List. The list will be up year-round. Use the link <https://a.co/95d3z1Y> to view available gifts, which will then be sent to Lund to be given to the families. In addition to holiday gifts, Lund is also accepting gifts to ensure that families can continue to access their high-quality family-centered services. To give a gift, visit www.lundvt.org/give.

H.A.N.D.S. (Helping And Nurturing Diverse Seniors) – Donations for Holiday Gift Bags to be delivered December 25. Every Christmas, we provide a gift bag with our meal deliveries – shhh, please don’t tell the seniors! We are seeking financial contributions in any amount, canned goods and nonperishable food items, toiletries, handmade scarves and hats, crossword puzzle books, \$20 Hannaford grocery cards, and other items. We’re also seeking volunteers who like to wrap gifts and/or stuff envelopes. To learn more, please visit <https://handsvt.org/holiday-dinner>; contact Jess, jessicahymanvt@gmail.com, with questions. H.A.N.D.S. is also inviting knitters and crocheters to make hats and scarves for Chittenden County seniors. Choose a pattern. Choose the colors. Choose the yarn (washable preferred), and H.A.N.D.S. will choose the grateful senior to receive your special gift. For drop-off times/location contact Jess Hyman, jessicahymanvt@gmail.com or 802-598-3139.

COTS will be grateful for anything volunteers can provide for people, especially children, who are experiencing homelessness. Gift cards

are an amazing way to allow parents to purchase gifts for their children — especially helpful when families move into shelter late in the season. See the Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/21V47NBALUSTE/guest-view>. You can ship or drop off packages to COTS, 95 North Ave., Burlington, VT 05401. To schedule a drop-off: 802-343-6903.

THE GIFT OF READING – Fletcher Free Library invites people to share the joy of reading during their annual “Books for Children Gift Campaign.” Choose from a list of books or make your own selections, then purchase books at Crow Bookshop or Phoenix Books for a discount. Books can be dropped off at FFL by Monday, December 13. Books will be distributed to children through the Burlington Head Start preschools and COTS shelters. Contact Rebecca Goldberg, 865-7216 or rgoldberg@Burlingtonvt.gov.

HOWARD CENTER’s Help is Here Client Needs Fund provides services to thousands of children, adults, and families each year, many of whom have very limited financial resources. Progress in addressing mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities happens when basic needs have been met and when people have opportunities for personal enrichment. Each year we ask for gifts that will directly support clients to buy food and other basics and enable them to participate in holiday observances and cultural and educational activities. For more information and to donate: <http://howardcenter.org/community-education/howard-center-giving/>. Please either send gift cards of your choosing in any amount, or give online with a credit card (choose “Help is Here Client Needs Fund” in the drop down menu), or mail a gift cards or check to: Howard Center, ATTN: Client Needs/Holiday Giving Fund, 208 Flynn Ave., Suite 3J, Burlington, VT 05401.

STEPS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: To support Steps Holiday Giving this year, please email the holidayprogram@stepsvt.org for more details. Generally, parents will provide us with wish lists for their children and each child receives about

Volunteer continued on page 11

SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
HOLIDAY CARAVAN TOUR 2021

In what’s become a new holiday tradition for many family and friends, the Squirrel Nut Zippers Holiday Caravan Tour with Atom & the Orbits makes its return this winter! Join the band Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 PM, in-person at Spruce Peak Arts, Stowe, or via live stream, for classic holiday songs, along with Squirrel Nut Zippers hits. VIP ticket holders are invited to the soundcheck! For more information and to purchase tickets go online to <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/events/squirrel-nut-zippers-holiday-caravan-tour-2021/>

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

TREE LIGHTING
With Santa!

Tree lighting and visit from Santa!

Jericho Town Library is excited to be able to host a tree lighting celebration again this year! Join us on the Town Green in Jericho Center on Sunday, December 5, 5:00 PM, as we light the tree for the first time of the season. We will have book giveaways, sweet treats, and a visit from the big man himself. Santa Claus is coming to town!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.
There is still time to stop in to add a decorative touch to your home.

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LIBRARY NEWS



Master Gardeners planting tulip and daffodil bulbs at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho. You can plant bulbs in your yard as long as the ground isn't frozen.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours for in-person appointments — call 802-899-4962 to schedule: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Hours for curbside pickup: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

School has started and we want to remind everyone that we are asking people to limit their time inside to 30 minutes when they visit the library, and everyone over 2 must wear a mask. At this time, we do not have any public seating available inside, only outside. Please keep this in mind when sending your kids to the library after school. We would love to have them stop in but for no more than 30 minutes. There will be some special activities happening this fall after school so watch our website, www.drml.org, to register for those.

To register for programs, call 802-899-4962, or email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) for Adult Programs or Abbey (youth_librarian@drml.org) for Youth Programs.

Adult programs

To register for adult programs, please go to drml.org/programs or email Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Thursday, December 2, 12:00 – 2:00 PM, on Zoom: Tech Talk. This series of programs is designed to demystify digital technologies. Have questions you'd like answered? Send your suggestions for future programs to Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Sunday, December 5, 2:00 PM, in person and on Zoom: 22nd Annual Concert Series — Rebecca Padula and Ukulele Clare. Join this entertaining duo as they draw deeply from the American songbook, bringing the best of jazz, country, folk, and blues. Rebecca backs her smoldering alto with guitar and ukulele. Clare is a Vermont-based ukulele shenanigan instigator who brings a lighthearted style to the stage with her ukulele, banjo, and harmonica. Registration required. In-person seating will be limited and requires prior registration. Please call the library at 802-899-4962 to reserve a seat. All visitors to the library over the age of two are required to wear a mask. To register for the virtual livestream, please email Erik — program_assistant@drml.org.

Sunday, December 12, 2:00 PM, on Zoom: The Far Traveler by Nancy Marie Brown. According to the medieval Icelandic sagas, a Viking woman came to the New World 500 years before Columbus. Gudrid the Far-Traveler, sister-in-law of the explorer Leif Eiriksson, tried to set up a colony on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence around the year 1000. While this story was long thought to be a myth, author Nancy Marie Brown tells how more and more of Gudrid's story is being proved true by recent archaeological digs in Newfoundland, Greenland, and Iceland. Brown is the author of highly praised books of nonfiction, including Song of the Vikings and Ivory Vikings, and has spent decades studying Icelandic literature and culture. She lives on a farm in Vermont where she keeps four Icelandic horses and an Icelandic sheepdog. This is a Vermont Humanities program hosted by DRML.

Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers 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 at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Ongoing

Preschool Story Time: too chilly to turn the pages, so story time will be moving inside. Everyone over the age of 2 years old must wear a mask. As of now, no registration required (subject to change).

Sign up for these awesome programs!

Thursdays, December 2 and 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Drawing and Animation Club for tweens/teens. Make movies! Work on a multi animator project. Come create with us. We will meet in person at DRML. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up. If you would prefer to participate via Zoom, please email or call Abbey.

Fridays, December 3 and 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Group for ages 6+. Join this friendly group of builders to make creations and have them displayed in the library. Space is limited so please sign up! This program will meet in person in the library program room. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Saturdays, December 4, 11, and 18, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Gift crafting for all ages. Come make something for someone you love this holiday. December 4: ornaments. December 11: use the Cricut to create some iron-on designs for tote bags. December 18: we will break out the button machine to make pins, magnets, and keychains!

Sundays, December 5 and 19, 3:30 – 5:30 PM: D&DRML for

ages 10+. Have you always wanted to try out D&D? Join the party and stop the rise of the evil dragon queen Tiamat! Beginners are welcome, the library has the books you need to get started (they are in-library use only). Already have some experience? Whip up a level 5 character and come play. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Tuesday, December 7, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Among Us. Bring your own device and try to deceive the group as we play Among Us! Spoiler alert, Ms. Abbey is probably the imposter. This program will meet in person in the library program room. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Thursday, December 9, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Young Writers' Group for teens/tweens. Featuring ridiculous writing prompts and fun word games, we hope you can come create with us! We will meet in person at DRML. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up. If you would prefer to participate via Zoom, please email or call Abbey.

Friday, December 10, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Nintendo Switch Games for ages 8+. Skateboarding, jet skiing, go karting, and Smash Bros., oh my! Come play all these great games on the library's Nintendo Switch. This program will meet in person in the library program room. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Tuesday, December 21, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt the Therapy Dog! Sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to Wyatt the Bernese Mountain Dog and his owner Miss Sue. FYI Wyatt's favorite author is Mo Willems. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Contact information: email rawsonlibrary@drml.org; website www.drml.org; phone 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Town Library is fully open, no appointment needed. Tuesday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays-Fridays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; note the special evening hours on Tuesdays! Masks are suggested for everyone, regardless of vaccination status; required for unvaccinated people, including kids between 2 and 12.

Since we are now fully reopened, we have suspended curbside service. We're excited to see everyone in-person again!

Family Storytime: Join JTL for storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Most weeks, we share a few favorite books and a related craft project. Storytime is intended for children aged 0-5, but all are welcome; no registration or appointment needed. Look for us on the Town Green every Wednesday! On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, we're joined by Miss Emma for a special storytime focused on music and movement, with plenty of opportunities to get out some wiggles and giggles!

Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Thursdays 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday. (Note, hours at the Varnum can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

The weather has finally turned and a cup of joe with a good book is just what you need to ease into the season! Stop by Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM and have a cup (or two!) on us. Bring your own mug or use one of ours. Stay to peruse our shelves or stay to have a chat with a friend. Donations accepted, but not required.

Upcoming programs include:

DIY Weekly Craft Bags & Story Hour for Kids: Our wonderful library volunteers have put together fall themed craft bags paired with children's books. Parents, come with kids to craft at the Varnum and read a book together. Crafts change weekly.

Thanksgiving Recipe Exchange: It's the season of giving! Do you have a great Thanksgiving recipe that you want to share? Or are you excited to try a new one this year? Stop by the Varnum to drop a recipe in our shared box, or write one out on a provided card. Snap a photo or scan a copy of the new one you'd like to try!

Community Gratitude Pumpkin: We want to know what you're thankful for this year! Join us at the library to celebrate and share by writing a note on our gratitude pumpkin.

Tuesday morning Senior & Retiree Programs at the Varnum! Please RSVP to Lesley, lnasemoonspinner@gmail.com, if you would like to join us for any of these events!

Please review our website for all events: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/>.

Please let us know how we can assist you by emailing us at varnumrequests@gmail.com or calling us at 802-644-2117.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals. You are welcome to continue wearing a mask as a personal choice. We are continuing to require masks for all unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated visitors while you are indoors. This includes children 2-5, who cannot be vaccinated at this time, and those 5-11 if unvaccinated. Infants and toddlers aged 2 and younger are not required to wear a mask. Masks are not required at any of our outside programs.

Seeking artists to display at the library! You don't need to be a professional to share your talent — contact Bree about displaying your photography, fiber arts, painting, drawing, and more. You can pair up with a fellow artist. Displays usually stay up for three months.

Kid stuff

The library will be closed Friday-Saturday, December 24-25 and Saturday, January 1.

Thursdays, 6:30 PM: Fiber Arts Group meets in person at the library.

Tuesday, December 7, 9:00 AM: "Yoga Basics — an Introduction for Newbies" with Doris Bittruf. Want to know more about yoga? Too intimidated to join a class? This is the class for you! Doris will start with a brief introduction of philosophy, history, and benefits of yoga. Then she will lead the group through a breathing exercise and a series of basic poses. Participation in the exercises is encouraged, but you are welcome to just watch. This event also has an online option; contact the library for more information. Extra mats are available if you need one. All you need to do is breathe.

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 PM: Trustees Meeting.

Tuesday, December 14, 12:00 PM: Brown Bag Lunch Series: Preparing for an Emergency. Bring your lunch and learn something new! Are you prepared for an emergency such as natural disaster? Winter is just around the corner and this workshop will prepare you for tips and tricks to stay safe during the winter season. Helen Sterling, Westford's Interim Emergency Management Coordinator, will present several recommendations for Emergency Planning for you and your loved ones.

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group via Zoom. This month we will share favorite reads, find new authors, and just talk for an hour about books! Come prepared to talk about three book suggestions for the group and you will walk away with a bulked up winter reading list. I also challenge you to read a book, for this meeting, that you have wanted to and have been putting off. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if you just listen for good ideas. We will share the list with the community. Link to the zoom meeting will be posted on FPF, Facebook, and sent to regular book club members.

For kids

Wednesdays: Take and Make Crafts Kits. New kits offered every Wednesday, until they are gone. Crafters of all ages are welcome to take a new holiday themed craft kit each week. Materials, pictures, and instructions included. December 8: Holiday paper chain ornament. December 15: Glittering holiday tea light.

Thursdays, 11:15 AM: Storytime, inside the library (masks required for all, regardless of vaccination status; children under two exempt from this requirement). We are moving back inside for the colder weather months, and will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of takeaways and in-person. December 2: Snow. December 9: Penguins. December 16: Winter Holidays. December 23: Winter Holidays. December 29: Winter.

Saturday, December 11, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Easy Crocheted Scrunchies, presented by Vicky Ross. Don't know how to crochet? No problem! Learn to make these super easy and quick scrunchies out of velvety yarn, so soft and fun! These are easy and quick, you can make gifts for all your friends! We'll have helpers on hand to get you started. All supplies provided and you get to take home your own crochet hook! Best for adults and teens/older tweens. Sign up required. All supplies provided.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (December 1, January 5), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (December 18), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

The library will be closed Friday-Saturday, December 24-25 and Saturday, January 1.

Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/WestfordVT_pl). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Fairfax Community Library is looking more like usual with seating areas, new books, and book displays. We are moving forward with our programming as well while following safety guidelines and library protocols.

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

We are asking everyone to please wear a face mask in the library. To help meet the needs of all library users, Curbside Pickup Services will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM upon request.

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required. Please contact the library if you have any questions or to register for a program. Please sign up at least one week before the program date! Call 849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Thursdays, December 2 and 16, 3:15 PM: Read with Henry. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Henry, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Wednesday, December 8, 1:00 PM: Puzzle Piece Snowflakes. Make pretty, decorative snowflakes out of old puzzle pieces! Materials provided. Ages 8+

Wednesday, December 15, 3:00 PM: Gingerbread Building. Build a structure out of frosting and cookies! Materials provided. Ages 8+

Friday-Saturday, December 17-18, 5:00 PM and 10:00 AM: Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Take your stuffed animals to the library for a sleepover! Drop your stuffed animals off at the library and we'll take good care of them through the night — we'll even take pictures so you know how much fun they had! When you come to pick them up the next day you can pick your favorite picture and make a frame for it. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up by emailing libraryfairfax@gmail.com or calling 802-849-2420!

Adult events

Tuesday, December 7, 5:30 PM: Ugly Sweater Making Party. You provide the sweater and we'll provide the ugly! Bring in an old sweater and transform it into a beautifully hideous holiday sweater. Register at 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 11, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Puzzle Swap. Looking for something to keep you busy during the cold days to come? Stop by the library and pick up one of our many puzzles! You can even swap an old one of yours, so it can get passed on to someone else. No registration required.

Thursday, January 6, 2022, 3:30 PM: Library Book Club. The library book club will meet to discuss the book Climbing the Mango Trees by Madhur Jaffrey. To borrow a copy of the book or

Libraries continued on page 11

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



Paper birch: a profile

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

Paper birch, also called white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), stands out: even if you don't know a hemlock from a sugar maple, chances are that you can pick out its iconic white bark shining through the forest. Paper birch captivates people across North America, with an expansive range stretching from northern states into the Arctic, from coast to coast.

The defining characteristic of paper birch is its striking white, peely bark, a feature whose undeniable uniqueness is reflected in its various names. The word "birch" comes from the old English word *birce* and the proto-Germanic word *bheræg*, meaning to "shine white." The Abnaki call it *maskwamozt*, which refers to how the bark peels — in broad, horizontal sheets (hence the "paper" in its common name).

The woods of Chittenden County also feature several other birches: yellow birch, black ("sweet") birch, and grey birch. From yellow birch's golden metallic bark to black birch's grey-black blocky bark, each of these species is distinct but still very "birchy" in appearance. Birches are part of the diverse *Betulaceae* family, which includes other local species like hop hornbeam ("ironwood"), alder, and beaked hazelnut.

Paper birch bark is rich in Betulin, a chemical that makes it both flammable and water-resistant. It has massive cultural importance, used by indigenous peoples in northern climes to make canoes, roofs for shelter, and a variety of waterproof containers — including the predecessor to the modern-day sap bucket. Recent examination of Betulin has revealed an array of other potential medicinal uses, from treatment of cancers to AIDS, tuberculosis, herpes, type 2 diabetes, and more.

The wood of paper birch is beautiful when sawn into boards. It has been used to make plywood veneer and a wide variety of specialty items, from thread spools and tongue depressors to clothespins and toys. Contrary to popular belief it makes great firewood, with a higher BTU value than black cherry or red maple.

Paper birch is one of our "shade-intolerant" tree species, a group that includes all the poplars, pin cherry, and others. Shade-intolerant species need lots of sunlight to thrive, and so usually only establish in openings at least a couple acres in size. For this reason, a paper birch tree is usually one of many, a whole generation of trees growing in response to a large-scale disturbance. If you can determine the age of the paper birch trees in your woods, you can infer when that disturbance occurred.

Paper birches produce tons of small seeds, which can be carried far by the wind. While most of these seeds will not land somewhere suitable — a large, fresh opening in the forest — some of them invariably will. Once established, paper birch's strategy is to live fast and die young: they grow at an incredible rate, often out-competing other tree species for light and space. However, their dominance doesn't last long, as their natural lifespan of 60-80 years is short for a tree.

The role that paper birch plays in our forests is somewhat ephemeral but nonetheless critical. They grow in destabilized areas, often in forests reeling from some large natural or human-caused disturbance. By establishing in these areas paper birch helps protect soils from erosion and the loss of soil nutrients, safeguarding the fertility of the forest for future generations of trees and plants.

Foresters manage for paper birch as part of "early successional" or "young forest" habitat, a diverse mix of tree, shrub, and plant species that grow in the 20 years following a large-scale disturbance. This valuable habitat provides unique opportunities for critters from neotropical songbirds to bears and pollinators like butterflies. Creating early successional habitat may require cutting most or all trees in an area at least two acres in size, something which is not to be taken lightly — a consulting forester can help you consider how early successional habitat can be part of a broader forest management strategy that maximizes its benefits and minimizes its risks.

The next time you see paper birch and think of its beauty, think also of its cultural importance, its utility, its ecological role, what its presence tells us about our past. Then look at the rest of the trees in the woods — each of these species is equally important, equally complex, equally worthy of our appreciation. Growing together they form the forest: something vital, profoundly important and greater than the sum of its parts.

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

Jericho / Underhill restaurants, 1930-2021

By Bernie Paquette

Gary Irish continues in his *Heritage in Historic Homes Part III Restaurants 1930 to the Present* with this latest posting.

Gary begins, "The businesses (in Part II) were primarily overnight accommodations. For someone passing through town who just wanted a meal, several businesses opened to cater to their needs as well."

Read the full story and view the photos at https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/11/heritage-in-historic-homes-jericho_13.html.

Joe's snack bar looks so tiny (c.1960, as Joe's Dairy Bar) — fun looking back!

If this historical recall does not make your mouth water as much as Thanksgiving, I will be surprised!

Vermont's Big Trees list

In 1972, a list of Vermont's largest trees was assembled under the guidance of Jeff Freeman, a now-retired professor of Castleton State College in Castleton, VT. The list contained 27 of the largest known Vermont trees, listing diameter only. The later lists of 1977 and 1982 expanded the list to 75 and 81 species, respectively.

Then, in 1990 the list was expanded to 91 species and updated to follow the American Forests (AF) system using distinguishing criteria: circumference, tree height, and crown spread. Today there are 145 species on Vermont's big tree list, and they range in score from 48 for a Dwarf Chinkapin Oak in Bridport to 442 for a Cottonwood in Hubbardton.

Freeman continued to maintain the list up until 2008, when he turned his files over to the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR), which now maintains an online, searchable database of Vermont's big trees.

As of the summer of 2021, we are updating the Vermont Big Trees Program and existing database that has been dormant for almost ten years. No applications for state champions are being accepted at this time. Please visit our site again in early 2022, <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts-forests/vermont-big-trees>.

How to measure a Big Tree

The Vermont Register of Big Trees uses American Forest's formula to determine whether a tree is a champion. Once you have these measurements, calculate the tree's total points by using the formula below:

Big Tree Formula: total points = trunk circumference in inches + height in feet + ¼ crown spread in feet.

Try the Big Tree Calculator, online at <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/big-tree-calculator>.

For more information, go online to <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts-forests/vermont-big-trees>.

You can't please everybody

By Joe Nelson

Call us eccentric, or whatever you like, we do our own thing at our house. Like, we feed the birds all winter, but when spring arrives, and wise folks take in their feeders during bear time, we decided this year to defy the bears and we left our bird feeders hanging. I said we were eccentric, but we're not nuts: we take the feeders in the evening, and re-hang them in the morning.

As far as we know, we've had no ursine visitors, but we've had a bonanza of feathered friends. Not just the usual countless chickadees, goldfinches, sparrows, blue jays, and mourning doves, but two pairs of cardinals, a pair of white-bellied sapsuckers, flocks of rusty blackbirds, a pair of crows, two varieties of woodpecker, and a hummingbird. We don't count the chipmunks scrambling under the feeder, but we do count the gray squirrels. There are three of them.

One of the squirrels, the one with the light brown highlight in his tail, has learned how to get around the squirrel guard and into the feeders. We'd go to the door and clap our hands, and he'd jump to the ground. When the door closes, he's up and into the feeders again.

I'd heard somewhere about cooking spray being used to solve this kind of problem, so I sprayed the feeder pole and waited. The squirrel came and gave a great leap onto the middle of the pole, and slid down to the ground. He tried it again and down he slid. He sat on the ground facing the pole with his tail flipping furiously. I keep the pole sprayed regularly.

Ruth, now retired from Jericho Corners Elementary School, has turned her attention from her many kids to her birds. Whenever she takes a break from her other doings, she stops at the picture window in our parlor to watch the action around the feeders. She hung a hummingbird feeder from a tree next to the house. The hummingbird shared it with the white-bellied sap suckers.

Then it happened! A flock of birds left the feeders and flew into the window. "Joe!" Ruth called, "Some birds just hit window! Oh, I hope they're alright!"

I checked the ground outside and found no bodies; they'd all flown off.

"We can't have this happening," said Ruth, "What can we do?" "I've seen where some people with the problem have put silhouettes of hawks in their windows, sometimes a stuffed owl."

"Oh, we have an owl right here." Ruth picked up our tin owl with the candleholder in its belly, and placed it in the window. "That'll do it."

It didn't do it. Over the next few days, birds in ones and twos struck the window but mercifully, not flocks of them. I found some black paper and cut out the silhouette of a hawk and taped it to the window.

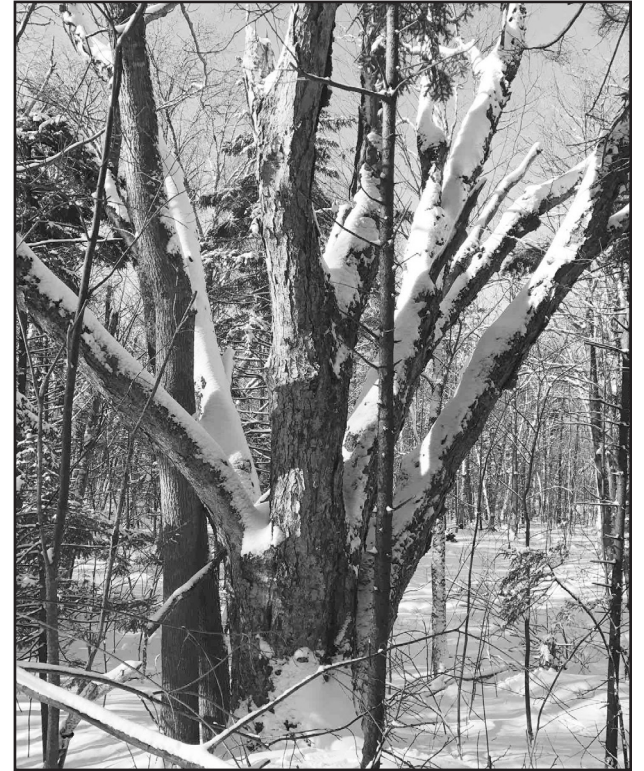
For three days it seemed that the hawk image had done the trick, but then as I was watching: thunka-thunka-thunka! Three birds bounced off the glass, then, the hummingbird flew to the window, inspected my hawk, and buzzed off.

The only solution I can see now is to move the feeders around the house and away from the big window.

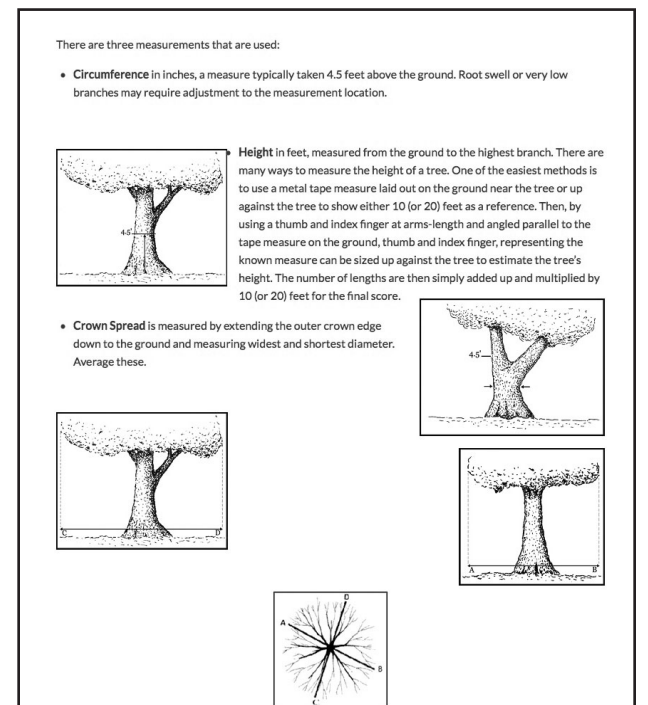
"I think we need something really big to keep the birds away from the window. Look what I found." Ruth produced our grand kid's teddy bear. It stands three feet tall.

We set the bear up in the window and waited. Two weeks later, when we didn't have any more hits, we celebrated. Thank!

The teddy bear remains at his station to this day, his button eyes fixed on the feeders. The squirrel with the light brown highlight in his tail was seen to walk up to oil-slick pole and sniff it, then turn away. Ruth has taken in the hummingbird feeder and one of the white-bellied sapsuckers who used to share it flew down onto our porch rail, drilled a hole and left. You can't please everybody.



I have not yet measured the Big Tree on our property, a huge yellow birch buttressed by younger maples. The tree (perfect for a tree house some day) grows out of the side of a bank above an ancient disused road. PHOTO BY SARA RILEY



How to measure a Big Tree

The Vermont Register of Big Trees uses American Forest's formula to determine whether a tree is a champion. Once you have these measurements, calculate the tree's total points by using this formula: total points = trunk circumference in inches + height in feet + ¼ crown spread in feet. Or with your tree's measurements, try the Big Tree Calculator, online at <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/big-tree-calculator>. For more information, go online to <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts-forests/vermont-big-trees>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alison DeFisher joins Stride Creative Group

Alison DeFisher of Jericho, VT has joined Stride Creative Group as Content Producer and Marketing Coordinator. DeFisher has 12 years of experience in marketing and communications for nonprofits and government agencies of various sizes, most recently for United Way of Northwest Vermont. Her experience includes branding, messaging, social media, media relations, event management, video content, and copywriting for various platforms. Stride Creative Group is a full-service marketing agency in Burlington, VT. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



College honors - Zachary Fisher of Waterbury, VT, a member of the class of 2024, has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Stonehill College, Easton, MA.

Visit NVU virtually in December

Want to earn your degree, undergraduate or graduate, in-person or online? Visit Northern Vermont University virtually to meet with faculty, staff, and current students and learn about programs, admissions, financial aid, and student life. Register today!

Graduate Study Virtual Information Session: MA in Counseling, Thursday, December 2, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/GraduateStudies>.

Transfer to NVU Virtual Information Session: Wednesday, December 1, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/Transfer>

NVU Virtual Open House Events: Johnson Campus, Wednesday, December 8, 5:00 – 7:30 PM; Lyndon Campus: Thursday, December 9, 5:00 – 7:30 PM. Register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/OpenHouse>.

Schedule Your Own Session — In person or virtual: register at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/Visit>. Virtual Campus Tours always available at NorthernVermont.edu/Visit.

Questions? Contact Admissions@NorthernVermont.edu.

OBITUARY

Marjorie Bradley Hunt of Jericho, VT passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, November 14, 2021. She was predeceased by her husband Maitland R. Hunt, her son Malcolm R. Hunt, and several siblings. Left to cherish Marjorie's memory are her children: son Marvin Hunt of SC, son Murray Hunt of Jericho, and daughter Martha Prince of Jericho, and their families; brother Jim Bradley and sisters Lois Kittell and Barbara Kittell. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. A celebration of Marjorie's life will be held in the spring. A complete obituary will appear at a later date. Arrangements are in care of Gifford Funeral Home, Richmond, VT.



Vermont artist Carol Ann Jones and Will Patton will perform a variety of popular and country music for Westford Music Series on Sunday, December 19, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. White Church). Carol Ann Jones brings a wonderful mix of vocals and strings performing both original and classic music “American Style.” She is being joined by Will Patton, a multi-talented composer and instrumentalist who for past 30 years has been in demand as a jazz bass player and mandolin playing his original compositions and old favorites. Call Mike Kirick, 802-363-0930 for more information.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Browns River Little League information

Browns River Little League (BRLL) had a great season this past spring and summer, and it’s time to look ahead (already!)

to the 2022 season! BRLL registration for ’22 will run from December 1 through January 31 for 9-12 year olds, and through March 15 for 4-8 year olds. Early registration is important for league planning so don’t delay. Registration will take place online only at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com.

BRLL is also exploring re-adding 9-12 year old softball back into the league after many years sending girls to Richmond, but we need help to make this happen. If you’re interested in helping us re-launch softball or would like to share any feedback about a possible softball program, please reach out to us at brownsriverll@gmail.com, or send Casey Knudsen an email at caseyknudsen@gmail.com. Casey is BRLL’s new president and together with an energetic board and dedicated league volunteers, we can look forward to many more years of great youth baseball in Jericho and Underhill.

Please consider volunteering with the league if you can next season. Thank you Casey and all who make BRLL a great program!

Soccer referee clinics available

Recreation Soccer in Vermont is experiencing a shortage in referees. Please consider signing up to become a certified referee. The pay is really great and we need your help! Share with anyone who may be interested in refereeing.

The Vermont Soccer Association, The State Referee Committee, and your local club are all making a coordinated effort to increase the number of USSF licensed referees in the state. Vermont along with the rest of the country is faced with increasing player numbers and not enough referees to support the need.

Who is eligible? Any player, parent, or enthusiast who is older than 13 years. Officiating is a great way to make a little extra spending money and support your local soccer community.

2022 Grassroots Referee Certification Training — If you are looking to become a referee for the first time need to be aware of the following requirements:

- The minimum age to become a licensed referee is 13 years old as of the date you seek to register in the Learning Center. You cannot register and complete any of the assignments prior to the date of your 13th birthday.

First Time Grassroots Referees completing registration through the U.S. Soccer Learning Center (<https://www.ussoccer.com>) must complete the following requirements:

- Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments (1

hour)

- SafeSport (if 18 years or older) (1 hour)
- Online Grassroots Referee Course Module (4.5 hours)
- First Time Grassroots Referee Quiz (45 minutes)
- U.S. Soccer Federation Gold Standard NCSI Background Check (if 18 years or older)
- Additional State Assignments

To get started, instructions:

Step 1: Create an account in the U.S. Soccer Learning Center (<https://www.ussoccer.com>). All sign-ups, online training, and payments will go through this website.

Step 2: Sign up for an in-person clinic. Doing so will allow you to complete the online modules and pay dues. Clinics will be mostly held January-April in 2022.

Step 3: Complete the online modules. These must be completed before the in-person clinic.

Step 4: Attend the in-person clinic and receive your badge.

Step 5: Create a *Got Sport* account and register with an assignor.

Additional State Assignments as required: The state assignment is that you must complete an in-person state clinic. A list of these clinics is available in the Learning Center; select a date, complete the registration, and attend one of those clinics. For new referees these clinics are six hours of classroom and two hours of on-field instruction.

These courses are currently being scheduled and can be found on the Learning Center site (<https://www.ussoccer.com>).

Once you create a profile, select Referee Program – Start your Journey – Go to Course List.

After completing the above requirements, you will be licensed by USSF for one calendar year and receive your referee badge for that calendar year. You will need to re-register and recertify every year at the cost of \$65. NCSI background checks must be updated every two years.

You will be included in the pool of officials to which events requiring licensed referees are offered. The assigning and acceptance process will be covered in your course.

The fees associated with becoming a referee are: \$65 to register for the Grassroots Referee training in the Learning Center. If you are 18 years old or older, there is also a \$30 fee for requesting an NCSI Background Check.

If you would like this information emailed to you with all the links in it, please contact Harley Johnson, Cambridge Youth Soccer Board President, at hjohnson@smuggs.com.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Westford Music Series was canceled for its November concerts. Michael Kirick decided to put off starting up the indoor coffee house again due to recent high level of COVID cases over the last couple weeks. Recent levels are the highest they have ever been. One of our past participants just got confirmed of COVID infection last week and his was a breakthrough case, being fully vaccinated. I had to get tested myself (negative) but it hit close to home.

So, to be cautious I am delaying the reboot of Red Brick Coffee House until Friday, December 3. Hopefully, we will be better positioned to move safely back inside for the holiday season.

Bella Voce Women’s Chorus Concerts. Bella Voce Women’s Chorus is delighted and excited to return to the stage with two traditional holiday concerts to help you ring in your holiday season! Each concert will feature beautiful arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and maybe some you’ve never heard before. Our special guest artists *Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble* will regale you with their joyous renditions of Christmas favorites.

The two concerts are on Saturday, December 4, 7:30 PM and Sunday, December 5, 3:00 PM, both at the McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael’s College, Colchester. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$17 seniors/students; tickets are available for purchase at www.SevenDaysTickets.com.

Proof of vaccination and masks are required. Learn more about our COVID-19 policy and more details at <http://www.bellavocevt.org/events>.

New show *Only Maple* at Gruppe Gallery: Currently showing at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho is a new show *Only Maple* featuring the work of watercolor artist Harald Aksdal, woodworkers Carl Newton and Toby Fulwiler, and ceramic artist Lucia Bragg. The show runs through Sunday, December 19. The highlight of the show is Newton’s exploration of the traditional Norwegian-styled bentwood box called a Tine. These boxes date back to the Viking era and were used to store personal items — much like Shaker boxes but much more intricate in their design. The paintings are of a maple theme and all the wood pieces are made of maple, and End of the Road Maple treats will we also be available.

Call to artists: *TRACKS*. Do you see tracks in the snow, railroad, a sporting event, or even the tracings of an idea?

Whatever “tracks” calls to mind, established and emerging artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography for *Tracks*, an exhibit scheduled for January-April 2022 in the Jericho Town Hall. The main requirement is that the work must be able to be hung on a gallery hanger system and not a picture hanger.

Registration forms are due by Thursday, December 23. For registration materials and information contact Catherine McMains, catherine.mcmains@gmail.com. Registration materials and other information can also be found on the Jericho Town website, jerichovt.org.

The exhibit is one of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort between the Town

of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members include: Catherine McMains, Jericho SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander, Jericho gallery owner; and Jericho artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

Unbound and Bradley Borthwick: *Objects of Empire* will be at the BCA Center, Burlington, Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM through February 5, 2022. Come explore our fall exhibitions! *Unbound* features the work of three New England artists — Rachel Gross, Rob Hitzig, and Kirsten Reynolds — who explore contemporary approaches to abstraction through their use of geometric, shaped forms that push outside the boundaries of the common rectangle. *Bradley Borthwick: *Objects of Empire** examines the shared cycles of civilization, combining exquisitely hand-carved marble and cast beeswax reproductions of headstones and amphora with a rhythmic soundscape to create an experiential exploration of memory, place, history, and cultural connection. BCA’s 2021 exhibition year is presented by Mascoma Bank; hospitality sponsor, Lake Champlain Chocolates. BCA Exhibitions are funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and Vermont Arts Council.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce the return of MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, through May 2022. For this festival, MNFF Selects presents *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*. The series illuminates the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. Passes: \$105 to cover all films; individual tickets \$16 (under 12, \$7); can be purchased at www.middfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. COVID-19 protocol: All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated; and all attendees, including children under 12, must wear masks while inside the theater.

Upcoming films in the Series:

December’s selection for Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, a monthly in-person screening series for families at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, is *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog [PG] Thursday, December 30, 7:00 PM.* From award-winning director Lynn Roth, this film portrays the timeless and unbreakable bond between a boy and his dog as it is put to the ultimate test in 1930s Germany. When the Nuremberg Laws are passed forbidding Jews from owning pets, Kaleb, a German Shepherd, is separated from his Jewish family and his beloved 10-year-old master, Joshua. What follows is a story of love and courage during an unforgettable time in history seen through the eyes and perspective of a dog. This film series (Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds) offers documentary and narrative films that about the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. Passes are \$105 and cover all the films; individual tickets are \$16 (under 12, \$7). For passes and individual tickets: www.middfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.org, 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The State Budget — you can have a voice

By Theresa Wood, State Rep., Washington-Chittenden

As the end of the year nears, Governor Scott and his administration are preparing a budget to submit to the Legislature in January.

You can share your voice about what priorities you think are important by following the link below. There is a questionnaire that takes just a couple of minutes to complete; or if you want to provide your own thoughts, there is a comment form as well. Here's a chance, without leaving the comfort of your own home, to say what's important to you about the State budget:

<https://finance.vermont.gov/budget/public-forum>

Senate update: Building Back Better in Vermont

By Keshia Ram Hinsdale
State Senator, Chittenden District

This week, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Bill while

Congress set a course to advance the Build Back Better (BBB) agenda. Both bills, taken together, invest in climate resiliency, job creation, transportation infrastructure, human capital, and poverty alleviation.

As our federal delegation has outlined, the Infrastructure Bill contains many critical supports for the economic and environmental future of our state. Vermont will be receiving \$2.2 billion through this legislation, one of the largest investments of federal money in state history.

The infrastructure package includes:

- \$1.6 billion towards highway and bridge replacement and repairs over five years;
- \$355 million to build water quality infrastructure over five years;
- \$21 million to grow Vermont's electric vehicle charging network over five years;
- \$77 million to invest in public transportation over five years;
- at least \$100 million to increase broadband access across the state.

In addition to these investments, we need to recognize infrastructure is also affordable health care, child care, and housing, as well as tax relief for working families. The BBB

agenda addresses these issues, and, if passed, has the potential to transform the lives of thousands of Vermonters. Specifically:

- 30,000 children would gain access to childcare;
- preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds would be free and universal;
- families would be eligible for four weeks of paid family leave;
- working families and low-wage workers would become eligible for child tax credits;
- renters and folks looking to buy homes would have access to renter and down payment assistance;
- an additional 4000 Vermonters would become eligible for Medicaid;

Legislative continued from page 12

Volunteer continued from page 8

four gifts totaling \$100. Volunteers/donors can donate one gift, a whole list, or as many as they want.

FOOD

Many local agencies and groups will be providing holiday meals for individual and families who might otherwise go without. They would be grateful for any donations you can provide.

S. Burlington Food Shelf accepts donations Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30 AM and 4:30 – 6:30 PM and Fridays-Saturdays 8:00 – 10:00 AM, 356 Dorset Str., S. Burlington. To learn more: <https://www.southburlingtonfoodshelf.org>.

Williston Community Food Shelf seeks donations of non-perishable food for pets and people. Most needed: cereal, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, juices, coffee, and condiments (ketchup and mustard), and personal hygiene items. Donations accepted Tuesday 4:30 – 6:30 PM, Thursdays and Saturdays 8:30 – 11:00 AM, at 400 Cornerstone Dr., Suite 130, Williston. Learn more at <https://www.willistonfoodshelf.com>.

Winooski Food Shelf – Gratefully accepting non-perishable food, pet food, and hygiene products; urgent need for baby care products (diapers, baby food, wipes) and toiletries. Make donations at J & J's Corner Market and the Winooski Senior Center. Learn more at <http://www.winooskifoodshelf.org>.

Salvation Army Greater Burlington Food Pantry is accepting donations of non-perishable food, cereal, and juice at 64 Main Str., Burlington Monday-Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. <https://nne.salvationarmy.org/gtburlington/food-pantry>

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

MILITARY KIDS VERMONT seeks volunteers for a Military Skating Night Saturday, December 4, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Gordon H. Paquette Ice Arena, Leddy Park, Burlington. Volunteer roles include greeting families as they arrive, making baked goods to be enjoyed at the event, serving food, photography, and more. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/wHXquXV>.

RED BARREL MONITORS – Toys for Kids of Vermont needs volunteers to check the red "Toys for Kids" toy donation barrels at various sites throughout Chittenden County. Volunteers will be assigned one or more barrels to check through Tuesday, December 21 (most toys come in the last few weeks in December). Collected toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Burlington or a Williston collection site (you handle transportation to barrel and collection site). To volunteer contact John Welsh, 872-0354.

CHRISTMAS MEALS – Burlington Dismas House needs volunteers to help prepare portions of their Christmas meals at both houses; volunteers are invited to join residents for the meal. Contact Kimberly Parsons, 802-658-0381, or Cory Bragg, cory@dismasofvt.org.

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Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog [PG] Thursday, December 30, 7:00 PM. From award winning director Lynn Roth, *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog* sensitively portrays the timeless and unbreakable bond between a boy and his dog as it is put to the ultimate test in 1930s Germany. When the Nuremberg Laws are passed forbidding Jews from owning pets, Kaleb, a German Shepherd, is separated from his Jewish family and his beloved 10-year-old master, Joshua. What follows is a story of love and courage during an unforgettable time in history seen through the eyes and perspective of a dog.

From The Wild Sea [PG] Sunday, January 16, 2:00 PM. Directed by Robin Petré, this stunning and poetic documentary portrays the heroic efforts of a network of marine wildlife rescue volunteers who work tirelessly to save sea animals from oil, plastic and escalating winter storms. In depicting the complex collision between humans and nature, the film deftly oscillates between the perspectives of humans and animals.

Duma [PG] Sunday, February 20, 2:00 PM. In this drama directed by Carroll Ballard, an orphaned cheetah becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film and inspired by a true story, *Duma* offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassion in a beautiful and grand landscape.

Buck [PG] Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM. Directed by Cindy Meehl; winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, *Buck* is a revealing examination of the life of acclaimed "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people.

Grizzly Man [R] Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM. Director Werner Herzog delivers a heartrending docudrama that centers on amateur grizzly bear expert Timothy Treadwell, who periodically journeyed to Alaska to study and live with the bears. He was killed, along with his girlfriend Amie Huguénard, by a bear in October 2003. Winner of the 2006 Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary, *Grizzly Man* is an epic tale of the profound and fraught relationship between a man and the animals he dared to befriend.

The Rider [R] Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM. The highly acclaimed second feature from Oscar-winning director Chloe Zhao tells the poignant story of a young rodeo cowboy who, after suffering a near fatal head injury, begins a search for new identity, seeking to know what it means to be a man in the heartland of America. Focusing on life in the indigenous community of the Pine Ridge reservation, Zhao offers a penetrating vision of masculinity and humility set in a world where humans and animals intimately co-exist.

For more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: <http://www.midfilmfest.org>.

BCA celebrates Burlington's Percent for Public Art Ordinance. On June 28, the Burlington City Council unanimously passed the *Percent for Public Art Ordinance*, which sets aside 1% of City of Burlington capital project budgets for public art, funded wholly or in part by the City of Burlington. This measure brings a new, permanent funding source to the city's public art projects. With this ordinance, public funds will directly support artists in designing, implementing, and integrating art into public projects. The ordinance also supports the administration of the public art process and establishes funds for the long-term maintenance of the city's public art collection.

Under the ordinance, the 1% that the city sets aside from an eligible capital project can be used to incorporate public art into that project, or the funds could be pooled in the *Percent for Public Art Fund* for a future project. Allocations will be proposed through the annual budgeting process by the Executive Director of Burlington City Arts (BCA), based on input from the Public Art Committee of the BCA Board of Advisors, and in coordination with city capital project managers. The Public Art Committee will update and oversee guidelines related to the selection, management, and maintenance of the art. The criteria for public art selection includes requirements to ensure that the city's public art and artists reflect the cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of the city. For each public art project, a Public Art Review Panel (PARP) of arts professionals and stakeholders will be established to select an artist. Panelists will be chosen based on their skill sets and ability to bring multiple perspectives to the selection process, including from a range of races, gender identities, socio-economic backgrounds, ages and abilities.

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sign up for the discussion: fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website www.fairfaxvlib.org, where you can find a link to the interactive Google calendar. 75 Hunt Street, Fairfax; 802-849-2420.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Mask up, please. Everyone over the age of two entering the Library is required to wear a facemask regardless of vaccination status. As a community library, we value the privacy and safety of all our patrons.

The Library's hours have changed to the following: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Our webpage, Facebook, and email reflect this information and we will be changing physical signage soon.

Book Chat: Join the monthly *Discover Between the Covers* book chat with Rebecca Mueller of the Richmond Free Library and Stacey Symanowicz of the Huntington Public Library featuring materials from the two libraries. Chats will introduce readers to a variety of titles old and new, fiction and nonfiction, past and current award winners, favorite series, and perhaps a movie or two. There will be time set aside to let participants share what they have discovered, too! Use the zoom link found at <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/collections/book-chats/>. The next chat session will be Wednesday, December 15, 1:30 PM.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group: In *The Library Book*, author Susan Orlean aims to offer a well-rounded discussion of libraries, rooted by the story of the Los Angeles Library fire in 1986. Copies available at the library. Contact Fiction Book Group Coordinator Gwen Landis, gwenie1972@yahoo.com, for more information on joining the discussion on Tuesday, December 14, 6:00 PM.

Inter-Library Loan: If you are looking for a book or other materials not owned by Richmond or a nearby Homecard Library, we are happy to request items for you through our Inter-Library Loan service. Call, email, or stop by the library to make your request.

Colección Española: If you have a child enrolled in the Spanish immersion program at Richmond Elementary School, you may be interested in our new collection of Spanish language resources. Books in the collection range from the simplest of board books to more complex language resources appropriate for intermediate students. Ask to be directed to the shelf where the collection is currently being held.

Fall Youth Programs are currently ongoing with COVID precautions in place as needed. Program details are below. Weekly youth programs at the Library run September-May and follow the MMUUSD school district schedule for vacation days

and weather closure days.

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

Storytime and Playgroup: Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Stories and songs in the Library Community Room; then outdoor play time with old and new friends. For Storytime, families will spread out in the spacious community room. Adults and children over the age of two are asked to wear masks. After Storytime we move outside to the playground for playtime for as long into the fall as weather allows. Once the days are too cold for outside play we will see if a transition to inside playgroup is wise. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from infant to age 5 and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

Kaiut Yoga with Caroline Sheffel: Mondays, 5:00 PM, Community Room, starting December 6. Do you have aches and pains from daily life activities? Are you flexible? rigid? The Kaiut Yoga method applies biomechanical, integrative, and therapeutic techniques in the practice. Every individual class is designed with the purpose to increase freedom of movement and integration between body and mind. Caroline believes that yoga is for EVERYONE, and finds this universal accessibility in Kaiut Yoga. Bring a yoga mat, a yoga bolster (or equivalent), and strap (or equivalent). By donation.

Free Tong Ren sessions: Molly Lawney leads a free bimonthly community energy healing class every other Wednesday (December 15). She practices a form of energy healing called Tong Ren, which works well in a group setting and is contact-free. For more information, contact molly@openchannelenergy.com, or drop in at 5:30 PM every other Wednesday.

Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 802-878-6955.

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

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Our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook

and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EFtCpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJr4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. 802-879-0313; essexfreelibrary.com

We have room for your ad.
Call Brenda Boutin at 453-6354
for more
information
or email
mtngazette@gmavt.net.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held at 9:30 AM

on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. December 12: Rick Castillo. December 24: Christmas Eve Service. January 9: Gaye Symington. February 13: Sarah Ward. **Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring**

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Williston - \$439,900
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Georgia - \$339,900
Year-round home on Lake Champlain w/ 60+ feet of Lake frontage. Open concept, 2 bedroom w/ remodeled kitchen that opens to sunlit living/dining. Walkout lower level for a bedroom, office & rec room. 2 decks, stairs to the water off the concrete patio, property continues across the street for parking & storage.



Underhill - \$315,999
3 bedroom, 1 bath modern farmhouse on 4+ acres. Open living room features exposed beams and natural light. Eat-in kitchen w/ an open pantry, newer stainless steel appliances, farmhouse sink, and teak countertops. Paved driveway and a three-car garage, easy commute and close to the town center.



Fletcher - \$55,000
A gorgeous piece of land. 10 acre wood lot located in the idyllic Vermont country town of Fletcher, just over the Fairfax border. Perfect place for recreation or a private camping retreat. Close to ski resorts & VAST trails for winter fun and many nearby brooks & streams for summer fishing and cooling off.

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Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways that we never could have imagined. Many of us are now working from home, home schooling, and in some cases, separated from those we care deeply about. We at Jericho Congregational Church want you to know that we are here for you during this unsettling time. If you need a listening ear or someone to pray with about any of the impacts of this crisis, please contact us at 802-858-5452 or jcchelps@gmail.com. You are not alone, and we are here to help.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. The building is accessible — all are welcome! In addition, online offerings include Monday evening *Lectio Divina*, Tuesday Vespers, and Centering Prayer on Friday mornings. Good Shepherd also hosts offers the monthly online *Racism in America* Forum. Access information and more about the church is at Goodshepherdjericho.org. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information at 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We are young and old; single, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. All are welcome. Some people think of us as the Harvest Market Church or the Clutter Barn Church. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children's sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 802-899-4583.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church now worships in person at the church on Sundays at 9:30 AM. Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho; Calvary has a new phone number: 802-899-0453. All are warmly welcome!

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch> or <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>.

Sports continued from page 5

MUSC is a competitive, community based soccer club serving the communities of Huntington, Richmond, Bolton, Jericho and Underhill. It looks to combine quality coaching, instruction and team building while maintaining a sense of community. Deadline for registration for the Spring 2022 season is Friday, December 10, 2021.

For more information, contact mountmansfieldsc@gmail.com.

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Vermont would take part in a national Civilian Climate Corps, creating good-paying, green jobs to tackle our climate crisis.

We are at a critical moment in history for the future of our climate, health care systems, and global economy. We need bold solutions to tackle our multiple crises — and those solutions will require decisive action and collaboration from leaders across the country. We need the Build Back Better Act, and we need it to include the social supports, from paid family leave to increased Medicaid eligibility, that help working families. I hope you will join me in

supporting our federal delegation as they fight to get it passed.

Please don't hesitate to reach out: kramhinsdale@leg.state.vt.us, 802-881-4433.

P.S. This week, Senator Patrick Leahy announced his decision not to seek a ninth term in the U.S. Senate. For decades, Senator Leahy has been a titan of the Vermont and American political landscape. Please join me in taking a moment to honor the Senator and Marcelle for showing us how to serve selflessly and with honor, representing Vermont's values in Washington and beyond.

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