



Bill Frank rings the United Church of Underhill bell at 10:30 AM in March of 2020. In July 2020, the church began ringing the bell at 10:00 AM each day to reflect the congregation's adjusted Sunday worship time. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

UCU church bell rings through the pandemic

Since March 2020, the church bell at the United Church of Underhill (UCU) has been rung daily each morning. The idea originated with Underhill residents and long-time church leaders Bill and Bev Frank. Below, they share more about where the idea came from, what it has meant, and what's to come even as the bell stops its daily tolling at the end of this month.

What gave you the idea to ring the bell?

Shortly after we returned from a trip to Bangladesh, the world was hit hard with the COVID-19 pandemic. Bangladesh is primarily a Muslim country. Five times each day at prescribed times there is a "Call to Prayer," signaled by the ringing of bells or prayer broadcast on a loudspeaker. Our idea came from witnessing this ritual. The ringing of the United Church of Underhill's bell has been meant to let everyone know the church has been thinking of them during this time.

As the most frequent bell ringers, what has been most meaningful to you about the experience?

Ring the bell daily gave us a purpose to get out of the house, if only for a few minutes, and to make a continued connection with our community. It has been a pleasure. There have been a number of other people who have been bell ringers this past year. They have also shared the feeling of contributing something meaningful to our community.

How has the community responded?

So many people have expressed their appreciation. One of the best experiences was receiving an email from a mother with two young boys. She wrote that her family paused each morning to listen to the bell and then say what they were thankful for that day. We met this family and invited the young boys to come with us and ring the bell. Their mother said it was like Christmas morning waiting for the time to come. It was truly a joy to experience the bell ringing with them.

UCU will stop the daily bell ringing on Memorial Day of this year. Why was that day chosen?

As more people are getting vaccinated and able to resume parts of their daily activities, we sensed it was time to return to just Sunday morning bell ringing at the time worship is about to begin. Memorial Day was chosen to remember all the lives lost to COVID-19 and also to celebrate moving forward as the community turns out for its annual parade.

The United Church of Underhill, which many know as the Harvest Market or Clutter Barn church, sits on the green off of VT Rt. 15 in Underhill Flats. The congregation worships online Sundays at 10:00 AM and anticipates a return to in-person worship with continued virtual connection in July. Stay tuned for more information.

Bolton Notch Road closed to through traffic May 24-June 23

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Bolton's Notch Road will be open to local traffic only – CLOSED TO ALL THROUGH TRAFFIC – from May 24-June 23 in the vicinity of 4162 Notch Road, to complete FEMA repairs.

Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Sally Laughlin's late husband Peter Krusch always wanted the Cambridge land he purchased in 1958 to become a nature preserve. Laughlin remembers that when she first met Krusch and he learned that she was the director of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, he immediately asked her for advice on how to do just that. When Krusch died in 2018, Laughlin had no trouble moving to fulfill his wishes.

No stranger to conservation efforts, Laughlin was a member of the Vermont Endangered Species Committee, directed the first Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas, and has served on the boards of the Association of Field Ornithologists, the North American Ornithological Atlas Committee, and the Friends of Green River Reservoir. "Vermont's environment has been my primary passion all my life," Laughlin said, "so keeping his dream alive was important." On Town Meeting Day in 2020, residents of Cambridge voted to accept a donation of the 51-acre parcel that is now the Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve. Laughlin worked with the Vermont Land Trust which holds an easement on the property and has established a number of restrictions including that the land can never be sold and must be kept as a natural area.

Laughlin is the Chair of the Krusch Preserve Steering Committee, which is tasked with helping to create a management plan for the property. An interim plan is currently in place. The group received a \$50,000 Recreational Trails Program Grant, through the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, although the final papers won't be signed until the first of June.

One of the first goals of the Steering Committee is the establishment of a one-mile trail through the property, complete with interpretive signs explaining the natural and geological history of the area. Actual construction of the trail will have to wait until weight limits are removed from town roads and a parking area can be constructed, mostly likely in June. Laughlin hopes nobody gets too impatient and tries to park on North Cambridge Road, which would not only be illegal but also dangerous.

An added benefit to the preservation of the land is that there will now be a way to access Cambridge Pines, a natural area which was established in 1942 but is currently land-locked. Laughlin said the state is contemplating a kiosk at the entrance to that area with perhaps a bench or two, but no trails because the Cambridge Pines management plan does not allow any tree cutting. The area is known for its ancient trees, some of which may be at least 250 years old.

Although the Krusch Preserve trail has yet to be built, people have been walking, skiing and snowshoeing through the area. "We're so excited for the town of Cambridge to have this land," Laughlin said. "It's the first nature preserve the town has owned." Laughlin said the land had been a hill farm since the early days of the white settlers but it was overgrazed and overcut, so Krusch devoted a great deal of time to bringing back vegetation and a variety of habitat.

Erin Amadon of *Towns4Trails* will hold a trail building workshop in May for those who have signed up to be crew leaders and others will be recruited to work with them. The trail will require the building of two bridges: one over Dragon Brook and the other over a bog so that those walking on the trail won't damage the ostrich ferns which grow in that section. Laughlin said the preserve also has an area with orchids, an open field which is wonderful bird and butterfly habitat, and wetlands. The Conservation Commission is planning a bioblitz to help identify all the species present in the preserve.

Laughlin stressed that the preserve is a team effort involving members of the Cambridge Conservation Commission and Trails Committee, VT Land Trust, and Lamoille County Planning Commission. "The Steering Committee has been meeting every couple of weeks since last fall," she said, "and everyone has been wonderful. We'll have some public meetings on the management plan this summer and hopefully we'll be able to have them outdoors."

Bolton Valley handles uncertain season

By Luke Vidic | Community News Service

At the beginning of the 2020-21 ski season, Bolton Valley President and co-owner Lindsay Deslauriers could not predict what the season would look like. "We knew we didn't know what to expect," she said.

Vermont regulations for ski resorts required all guests to wear masks and adhere to the state's quarantine guidelines. Guests were required to complete written attestations, stating that they adhered to all COVID-19 guidelines, including a 14-day quarantine. Restrictions on out-of-state travelers posed a financial risk to resorts which rely on travelers. The Vermont Ski Area Association (VSAA) reports that 75% of Vermont's four million annual skiers are from out of state.

Lindsay Deslauriers said Bolton Valley operated under the expectation that food and beverage sales would decline, which they did. "Even on a day we had a lot of skiers, you'd go into the



Karen Winslow painted and Bob Brunette carved this sign for the newly conserved Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve in Cambridge. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Independence Day Parade in Jeffersonville is ON!

After consulting with the Town of Cambridge Select Board, Town Health Officers, and the Jeffersonville Village Trustees, Cambridge Area Rotary has decided to proceed with the Independence Day Parade in Jeffersonville on Sunday, July 4 at 10:00 AM!

We encourage participants to use common sense, be sensitive to others, and to follow any CDC and State of Vermont health guidelines. In particular, we ask that folks maintain social distancing and wear masks as needed. We reserve the right to cancel this event if circumstances dictate.

This year's Theme and Grand Marshals will be announced soon. There will \$500 in Prize Money for the best decorated floats and vehicles. We already know that Alan Cary will be at the wheel of a Cambridge Fire Department truck.

The Town Fair that normally happens after the Parade will not be happening this year. But Visions of Vermont (with help from Cambridge Arts Council) will have food trucks and art demonstrations, and the Varnum Library will once again hold its annual book sale.

cafeteria and there were crickets," she said.

Ski and ride lessons and revenue from hotels were also down. Bolton Valley converted some hotel rooms to day-use cabanas, but this provided Bolton "significantly less revenue" than regular bookings, according to Lindsay Deslauriers.

VSAA President Molly Mahar reported that food and beverage revenue was down 70% through the end of February. Similarly, ticket sales were down 40% and lodging revenue was down 60%.

According to the VSAA, Vermont ski resorts lost an estimated \$100 million during the pandemic. As reported by the Rutland Herald, state officials estimate that the total economic impact is \$700 million in losses. VPR reported that since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, Vermont ski resorts have received \$5.3 million in aid.

The VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development

Bolton Valley continued on page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Cambridge Town Offices limited reopening

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk/Treasurer
The Cambridge Town Offices are happy to have reopened on a limited basis as of Monday, May 17, 2021. Visitors may ring the bell at the top of the stairs or access elevator, and we will admit visitors one party at a time. Well-fitting masks and distancing will be required during your visit. Our regular hours are Monday-Wednesday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. You can continue to request assistance at 644-2251 or clerk@cambridgevt.org.

Researchers will need an appointment for access to public records. Many resources are available at <http://www.cambridgevt.org/property> and an appointment schedule will be found there as well.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and grace during this difficult past year. I especially want to thank my talented and supportive staff for their dedication during a year of massive change in how we operate the office. It was difficult, but we all made it through smiling and ready to move on.

COVID vaccination available in Cambridge

Information from Cambridge Town Health Officer Donald Lange and Deputy Town Health officer Mark Nash

The VT Department of Health will be holding Pfizer vaccine clinics for ages 16+ at Green Mountain Tech and Career Center on all Wednesdays, May 19 and 26, 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM.

College students and part-time residents can now sign up to be vaccinated in Vermont. To sign up for vaccination at any site, call 855-722-7878 or go online to healthvermont.gov/vaccine.

Westford Selectboard Special Meeting draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk
Read the minutes from the Special Selectboard Meeting of Thursday, May 6 online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-05-06-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Free community meals on Fridays in Jericho

Vermont's *Everyone Eats* program is now available in Jericho, for anyone negatively impacted by COVID-19. Any person facing food insecurity or finding that covid has made it harder to get food can pick up a free meal on Fridays between 2:30 — 4:30 PM at the Community Center, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. No sign-up is required, just show up. The meals will be handed out until the supply is gone.

Restaurants are paid by the government to fix nutritious balanced meals, using 10% Vermont farm products. It is a stabilizing source of income for the state's restaurants, farmers, and food producers, as well as helping Vermonters in need of food assistance.

The program is funded by the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund and made possible through a grant from the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development. There are over 134 distribution sites statewide managed by 18 regional partners.

Green Up Day a huge success

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer
Did you remember to take and send a picture of yourself with your filled Green Up Day bags to greenupbolton@gmail.com to be entered into the Green Up Day raffle? If not, it's not too late! Forgot to take your picture? That's OK too! Just email greenupbolton@gmail.com and let Sarah know you participated, and you'll still be entered into the Green Up Day raffle!

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make Bolton a little greener and even more beautiful. The two 30-yard dumpsters at the Town Garage were filled to their brims with litter and tires.

A special shout out and thanks to Mischa Tourin of the Climbing Access Resource Group of VT (CRAGVT) for reaching out to the town to volunteer and quickly mobilizing a whole team of CRAGVT "greener-uppers" whose enthusiasm and "productivity" was amazing (you "rock" CRAGVT!), the Boy Scouts of Troop #23 for tackling US Rt. 2, the Green Up Day "transporters" – Doug and Allison Smith, Spencer Nowak, Mica Cassara, and the Lafreniere/Farnsworth Clan, Pamela "Flask" Gude for the pre-green-up-day reconnaissance and serving as the green up bag valet/deliverer, and Sarah Ludwin-Peery, our Green Up Day coordinator.

Thanks again everyone!

Green Mountain Passport Day at Jericho Town Hall

By Jessica Alexander, Jericho Town Clerk
Thursday, May 20, myself and Assistant Town Clerk Ben Joslin will be outside the Town Hall (67 VT Rt. 15) to issue Green Mountain Passports to Jericho residents, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. This Green Mountain Passport allows for free admission to State Parks and State sponsored events for a lifetime. No appointment is needed. The cost is \$2 and the passport is good for lifetime. You must be 62+ years old and a resident of Vermont or a Veteran to be eligible for the Green Mountain Passport.

If you applied for a Green Mountain Passport from Jericho in the past but have lost the card or it went through the wash, we can re-issue a replacement card to you at no cost. We have a file of past applications.

You need to come in person and you need to bring your VT Driver's License. You need to swear under oath that you are 62 or older and a resident of Jericho, VT. For Veterans, there should be a Veteran designation on your Vermont Driver's License. Thank you to those of you who asked about the program this winter but opted to wait until nicer weather. We look forward to seeing you outside the Jericho Town Hall on Thursday, May 20. I believe the State Parks will start charging admission Memorial Day Weekend.

https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/YF_Green%20Mountain%20Passport.pdf

Green Up Day data request

By Justin Marsh, Chair
Cambridge Conservation Commission
A big thanks to everyone who helped with this year's Green Up Day! The Cambridge Conservation Commission is collecting data about our efforts.

If you went out and picked up trash along the side of the road, please could you send us some details? Specifically:

- 1) where did you go (which road, from where to where, one or both sides)?
- 2) how many people collected in your group?
- 3) how many bags of trash did you collect?
- 4) what was your most interesting find?
- 5) what was your most disgusting find?
- 6) what was your most useful find?
- 7) any other interesting information that you'd like to share...

Please send your answers to: marshvt@gmail.com. All responses will be entered into a prize draw, and the winner will receive a 20 oz. aluminum Green Up Day Vermont water bottle.

Westford Town Office has re-opened

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk
Per the Vermont Forward Plan, the Town Office has reopened to walk-in service as of Monday, May 10.

- The office will be open:
- Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM — 4:00 PM for all services with the exception of zoning
 - Zoning hours (building permits, etc.): Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 AM — 3:00 PM, by appointment only
 - Town Planner (subdivisions): works remotely; please contact by email (planner@westfordvt.us)

Access to the Town Office is conditional upon the following:

1. Following the Universal Guidance requirements: stay home if you are sick; wear a mask; maintain a six-foot distance; practice good hygiene; think before you travel.
2. Access is limited to the front counter unless other arrangements are made prior to your visit. The counter area is very small and cannot accommodate six-foot distancing. If you enter the building and there is someone at the counter, please wait outside until they have finished.
3. Appointments are required for zoning and are limited to the lower level of the building.

Town staff are looking forward to seeing everyone again. However, we also want to do our part in keeping our community and town staff healthy, therefore we will continue to provide services electronically or by mail for those who prefer not coming into the office.

Backyard Bird Quest 2021 Saturday, May 22

Spring is here, and signs of seasonal renewal are emerging daily. For all of us at VCE, anticipation of spring migration signals another cherished annual event – Birdathon!

This year, like last, the pandemic requires us to limit gatherings and travel. So, VCE's dedicated staff team, the Green Mountain Goatsuckers, will again stick close to home and Backyard Bird Quest instead, and we invite you to join us from your neck of the woods.

In this one-day blitz, we hope to set a new single-day Vermont record of 200 identified species and 1000 Vermont eBird checklists, and raise funds to support VCE's wildlife conservation work. To accomplish these ambitious goals, we will surely need your help.

For more details, visit <https://vtcostudies.org/wildlife/wildlife-watching/birdathon/>. We hope you'll participate in this fun and educational event, which also serves as one of VCE's most important annual fundraisers.

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin at 453-6354

for more information or email mtngazette@gmavt.net

Underhill Plant Sale

What: Auction-Style Plant Sale
When: Saturday, June 5
Where: Underhill Town Hall
Time: 9:00am
Plant Donation Drop Off: starting at 8:30am

Gardeners Alert!
First Come, First Choice
Perennials, annual seedlings, plants of all types at rock bottom prices. Digging rights.

If you can donate some extras from your garden, please bring them starting at 8:30am.

Proceeds will benefit the work and programs of the Underhill Conservation Commission.

For questions, contact Karen at 899-4185.



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COMING EVENTS

**IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL and SOCIALLY DISTANCED
Wednesday, May 19**

Bees, Butterflies, and Beetles and the VT Atlas of Life, 7:00 PM, online. Interested in learning more about these fascinating Vermont invertebrates? Join us in this one-hour presentation with Kent McFarland, Conservation Biologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, who will introduce us to each group and share stories about their natural history, conservation status, and conservation actions. By learning to listen to insects, we can aid in their discovery and monitoring. Kent will also introduce how to record your observations into the Vermont Atlas of life. To join the meeting online: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/722040469>.

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

Racism in America Forum, 7:00 PM, online. Featuring members of Vermont General Assembly's Social Equity Caucus, which advocates for the creation and passage of social justice legislation affecting people of color. This interactive forum will hear and discuss priorities and progress that has been made. Admission to the forums requires a one-time registration of your name and email address with Rev. Arnold Isidore Thomas (pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org). Limited to 100 people. If you arrive after that limit has been reached, you may watch the Forum live on YouTube through the Mount Mansfield Community Television website. You can also log into past Forum programs through the MMCTV website <http://mtmansfieldctv.org/racism-in-america/>.

Thursday, May 20
Free Legal Clinic for Vermont Seniors 60+, 9:00 – 11:30 AM, by phone. Vermont Legal Aid is hosting a virtual legal advice clinic by phone for free legal assistance to Vermont seniors, aged 60 and up, to answer your civil legal question. We can help with health care, social security, consumer debt, housing, unemployment, and more. Give us a call and leave a message to book your free 20-minute appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 1-802-318-4169 and leave a message, or sign up online at <https://vltlawhelp.org/seniors>. If you have an immediate legal problem, call our general phone number and ask for help: 1-800-889-2047.

Friday, May 21
Virtual Speaker Series, 7:00 PM, online. We will be talking live with Juliet Grames, author of The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna, a book that The Oprah Magazine calls "epic in scale and richly detailed... Grames spins a tale of mothers and daughters across a hundred years." The book blends family history, biography, and imaginative nonfiction. Please note that we have switched our virtual platform to Crowdcast so you might notice things look a little different. We hope that this will provide a more seamless experience for our audience, and increase participation. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the new platform, please let us know. Contact us

SUMMER CAMPS

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

4-H activities are available all summer! There are so many activities and so many kinds of activities — far too many to list! Go online to <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements> to see for yourself!

Summer Symphony Camp June 21-25
The VT Youth Orchestra Association is holding Summer Symphony Camp June 21-25 for students entering grades 5-9. VYOA SSC is a great way to introduce young musicians to symphony and jazz orchestra!

To accommodate for social distancing requirements due to COVID-19, the camp will be offered twice a day, with a partnering 90-minute online session. Students entering grades 5 and 6 will attend morning sessions and students entering grades 7-9 will attend afternoon sessions. Each camp will come to a close with an end-of-camp concert that will be live streamed from the performance hall of the Elley-Long Music Center.

To learn more and register, visit <http://www.vyo.org/summersymphony/>.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp this summer
VT Fish & Wildlife's Green Mountain Conservation Camp (GMCC) offers hands-on learning experiences about fish, wildlife, ecology, botany, forestry, hunter firearm safety, outdoor first aid, and so much more.

GMCC offers opportunities for hiking, canoeing, fishing, archery, .22 rifle and shotgun shooting, orienteering, and other fun activities. Campers have a unique opportunity to meet Vermont State Game Wardens, foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, and others who work in the outdoors.

Wildlife education and outdoor skills are the focus of GMCC and the program's goal is to cultivate a caring attitude among our youth for Vermont's fish and wildlife resources.

As of April 7, 2021: All GMCC Sessions (Basic and Advanced) starting with the week of Sunday, July 4 will accept applications for the full number of campers. This change is based on new protocols outline by the Governor of Vermont. Due to current Vermont travel restrictions, no out-of-state residents will be permitted to attend GMCC this summer. Age exceptions will be made in 2022 to accommodate any campers affected by these regulations.

For information about registration and more, go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>.

Camp locations: Buck Lake Camp, 1051 Buck Lake Rd., Woodbury, VT – pleasantly nestled in the woods alongside Buck Lake; and Edward F. Kehoe Camp, 636 Point of Pines Rd., Castleton, VT – located on Lake Bomoseen, with a particularly beautiful mountain view.

Virtual summer camp: TDI@Home!
TDI@Home 2021 is a virtual summer camp/academic

Summer camps continued on page 5

at secretary@goodshepherdjericho.org. All proceeds go to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. To learn more, www.crowdcast.io/e/glimpse-speaker-series-5.

Saturday, May 22
Bolton Community Spring Plant Sale, 9:00 – 11:00 AM, Smilie Memorial School, Bolton. Come and support our local elementary school by purchasing vegetable, flower, herb or perennial plants at low cost to add to your garden. All plants donated from the community. Organized by the Smilie Community Association, and all proceeds will go to benefit the Smilie Memorial School. Donations can be dropped of May 17-21 to Sarah Courtemanche, 802-881-6731 or Lexie Haselton, 802-318-1296; please call or text ahead of dropping off, and label what you are dropping off (name of plant, and if it is hardened off). Questions? Email Sarah (Sarah.k.courtemanche@gmail.com) or Lexie (Lexie.haselton@gmail.com).

Sunday, May 23
First-Ever Virtual Community Potluck Conversation, 2:00 PM, on Zoom. Do you have a favorite local history site you can't wait to visit again, a history book you've been reading, or a contemporary topic with historical roots that you'd like to discuss? Bring your topic to a potluck conversation co-sponsored by the Chittenden County Historical Society and the Essex Community Historical Society. Like a traditional potluck supper, the fun is in the surprise of what we all bring to the table. Free and open to all. Zoom information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89853460908> or call 929-205-6099, ID# 898 5346 0908.

Wednesday, May 26
Age Well Grab and Go lunch, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, St. Thomas Parish, Church St., Underhill Center. The meal is free to anyone over 60. The meal includes roast beef with au jus sauce, home fried potatoes with paprika, french green beans with lentils, dinner roll with butter, chocolate cake with raspberry topping, and milk. No delivery available. Please register by calling Donna Lewis, 802-434-3155, by May 21. Age Well is a nonprofit organization that serves Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties and is the largest Meals on Wheels provider in Vermont. For more information: <https://www.agewellvt.org/>. Wednesday-Thursday, May 26-27

Summit on the Future of Vermont, 1:00 – 5:00 PM, virtual. The Summit will consider "The Vermont Proposition" – a set of bold and transformational goals for the state's economy, environment, and people by mid-century, and a non-partisan, multi-sector platform of action to achieve them. The Summit will generate key inputs for the Future of Vermont Action Team, which VCRD will convene to further define and drive implementation of the Proposition's key elements. To see the agenda and to register, <https://www.futureofvermont.org/summit>.

Bolton Valley continued from page 1

issued Ski Area Recreation Grants up to \$200,000. This grant was particularly helpful for Bolton Valley, according to Lindsay Deslauriers. Bolton Valley's \$175,000 grant gave the resort the means to switch its paper lift tickets, which were issued indoors, to scannable, pre-loadable, RFID cards issued outdoors at teller windows and kiosks. "The award was extremely helpful," she said. "What we had this summer was smashed almost to nothing. So the idea of having to lay out a bunch of money, to sort of change how we operate to get ready for covid, was really posing a challenge for us."

Bolton Valley ski patroller Hope Crifo said that ski patrol also changed a number of practices due to covid concerns and regulations. Patrolers had individual daily health and temperature checks, and questions about quarantine and possible exposures were asked of all injured guests. A separate covid treatment area was set up for those patients who could not be cleared of possible covid exposure.

Lindsay Deslauriers said, "I feel really good about how the season went." According to her, Bolton Valley averaged a normal number of skiers and great season pass sales. She cites Bolton Valley's local-mountain status and reputation as "one of the most progressive mountains for backcountry skiing."

Bolton capitalizes on backcountry reputation
Backcountry skiing takes place beyond most resort boundaries. Skiers and snowboarders venture into the wild, looking to escape crowds and find untouched routes down the mountain. Bolton Valley, unlike all other Vermont mountains, offers in-house backcountry guiding programs.

Skiers can traverse up mountains by applying grippy skins to the bottom of their skis, and therefore can skip lines at chairlifts. Some perennial skiers like UVM student Jamie Cole chose not to purchase a season pass or ride a chairlift all season. Cole cited lift lines and the threat of large crowds of people during a pandemic in his decision. He opted for Bolton backcountry tickets instead.

Bolton Valley requires all skiers within their boundaries to have a pass or ticket. In previous seasons, skiers could skin up Bolton Valley Resort at designated times without a pass. Beginning this season, Bolton required any skier skinning uphill to have a pass. Bolton Valley sells NBU tickets, which are required for all Nordic, backcountry, and uphill travel skiers.

Before the season began, backcountry equipment sales were up. "You could say hundreds of percent increase [in sales] for sure, across the board, just for alpine [touring equipment]," said Doug Stewart, a manager at Burlington-based Skirack. Likewise, ski equipment sales were up about 50% from the previous year between August and November of 2020 at Outdoor Gear Exchange, said OGE's Mission Controller Mike Donohue.

This increase was mirrored in Bolton's backcountry program. "We definitely did have a banner year for our backcountry program," said Bolton's backcountry guiding director Adam Deslauriers. Bolton Valley's guiding programs educate inexperienced backcountry skiers and riders, teaching safety methods, skiing and riding techniques, and routes through Bolton's backcountry. According to Adam Deslauriers, "the number of those clinics pretty much doubled this year for us. Luckily, we doubled the number of guides we hired this year as well."

Cole, an avid backcountry skier, said, "Every time I went [to Bolton] the parking lot was full and it attracts snowshoers, cross-country skiers, and backcountry skiers."

Even with an increased interest in backcountry skiing, Bolton Valley reported no significant increase in backcountry incidents. As Adam Deslauriers said, "Side effects for the mountain were pretty negligible. We had one night where we had a guy basically run out of daylight and he didn't have a headlamp. So he called



A Field Guide to May
Bees buzzing, migratory birds arriving, lady beetles emerging from hibernation—there's so much action unfolding outdoors right now! Celebrate the spectacle of spring phenology in VCE's Field Guide to May. To learn more, go online to <https://vtcecostudies.org/blog/field-guide-to-may-2021/>.
PHOTO CREDIT: Sharp-lobed Hepatica © K.P. McFarland

Wednesday, June 9
The Social Equity Caucus – Racism in America Forum Series, 7:00 PM, on Zoom, hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho. In the summer of 2019 Vermont state senators, representatives, and citizens met at Hartford Union High School in Hartford, VT to form the Social Equity Caucus to advocate for the creation and passage of social justice legislation affecting people of color. We shall hear and discuss what progress has been made from its founding members, State Representative Kevin Christie, State Representative Brian China, and State Representative Lucy Rogers. Pre-registration required at <https://goodshepherdjericho.org/racism-in-america-forum/>. If you're unable to attend, you can view the recorded broadcast by logging into the Mount Mansfield Community Television, <http://mtmansfieldctv.org>.

us with GPS coordinates and we were able to go get him and show him the way out. He was an experienced backcountry skier, he just didn't have a headlamp." Inexperienced backcountry skiers were not a problem for Bolton Valley, according to Adam Deslauriers.

Crifo seconds this. "Fortunately, we at Bolton Nordic and backcountry did not see an increase in accidents," she said. "With many people just getting into AT, split board, and other backcountry recreation activities, we saw more people going out with guides." Both Crifo and Adam Deslauriers cite Bolton's guiding program as key to preventing an increase in backcountry incidents.

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HEALTH NEWS

COVID vaccination available in Cambridge

From Cambridge Town Health Officer Donald Lange and Deputy Town Health Officer Mark Nash

The VT Department of Health will be holding Pfizer vaccine clinics for ages 16+ at Green Mountain Tech and Career Center on all Wednesdays, May 19 and 26, 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM.

College students and part-time residents can now sign up to be vaccinated in Vermont. To sign up for vaccination at any site, call 855-722-7878 or go online to healthvermont.gov/vaccine.

Choking emergencies

Essex Rescue

Anyone who has choked on a piece of food, or seen someone else choking, knows what a terrifying experience it can be. Over the past decade in the United States we have seen an increase in choking deaths, with just over five thousand people dying due to choking in 2019. That number would be much higher if it wasn't for the technique invented by the late Dr. Henry Heimlich. It is estimated that since its popularization in 1974 the Heimlich maneuver, also known as subdiaphragmatic abdominal thrusts, has saved over 50,000 lives. The Heimlich maneuver is a simple technique that does not require any medical training to perform. It is well worth taking a few minutes to watch a video online on how to properly perform the Heimlich, as doing so could help you save someone else, or even yourself.

If someone is choking but is still able to cough, it's best to let them try to clear the obstruction themselves. If they stop coughing, if they can't speak, or if their lips start to turn blue, it's important to take action. If someone else is present, have them call 911 while you do the Heimlich. If you are the only person present, dial 911 and put it on speaker. That will enable you to perform the Heimlich and speak to the dispatcher.

To perform the Heimlich on an adult you need to stand behind them, with one foot slightly forward to help yourself balance. Wrap your arms around their waist, make a fist with one hand and place it just above their navel. Then grasp that fist with your other hand, lean the person forward slightly, and give a quick upward thrust with your hands, almost like you are trying to pick them up. The blockage won't always clear on the first thrust, so repeat if needed. The procedure for a child over the age of one is the same, but you will likely have to kneel behind them instead of stand, and you should not need to use as much force as you would with an adult. If you are trying to save a woman in the late stages of pregnancy, instead of an abdominal thrust you will need to use a chest thrust. Place your hands just below the breastbone and deliver the thrusts to the chest.

For children under the age of one year you will need to sit down, hold the infant face down on your forearm keeping their head lower than their torso, and rest that forearm against your thigh. Using the heel of your hand, you will then firmly thump the baby's back. If the back blows and gravity have not cleared the airway, then swap the infant to your other forearm, this time face up. Keep their head lower than their torso and place two fingers at the center of the breastbone, giving five chest compressions.

When a person is choking and the blockage cannot be cleared that person will eventually lose consciousness. When this happens, you need to stop the Heimlich and start CPR. If you can clearly see the blockage in the person's airway you can try to remove it with your hand, but do not blindly sweep your finger to try and clear the airway, as this can push the blockage even deeper.

If you are alone and choking call 911, even if you can't speak, as they should be able to get your location from your phone and send help. You can try to perform a self-Heimlich by using a chair, table, or countertop. Bend forward, make sure the surface you are using makes contact just above your navel, and then force your full weight down onto the surface and repeat until the object has dislodged.

There are instances where swelling can occur and threaten the airway even after a blockage has cleared. It's important to contact your primary care provider to see if they advise going to the emergency department after a choking event.

If you are interested in volunteering with Essex Rescue, please feel free to visit our website www.essexrescue.org, give us a call at 802-878-4859, or reach out on our Facebook page.

Help make the world polio-free

Healthy volunteers, age 18-45, needed for a research study to test new polio vaccines. The duration of the study is six months, and it is an outpatient study. Enrolled volunteers are compensated for their time.

Interested? Go online to <https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=NHLPAMC9H7> or call 802-656-0013 for more information.

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Nutrition basics

By Mary Kintner

We all know that proper nutrition is important. We have seen labels on food products at the store, but *what do they mean and why does it matter?*

There are three components to all food, known as macronutrients. They are: carbohydrates, fats and proteins.

Carbohydrates derive their name from the fact that they are made of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen molecules. Carbs provide energy for the body and aid in digestion and absorption of food. Sugars, starches, fruits, and vegetables are carbohydrate sources.

There are two types of carbohydrates, simple and complex. Simple carbohydrates (or sugars) are small molecules that include table sugar (sucrose), milk sugar (maltose), and fruit sugar (fructose). These sugars are absorbed, and elevate blood sugar levels, quickly. However, the blood sugar can also fall quickly with these food sources, potentially creating blood sugar problems.

Complex carbohydrates are larger molecules and consequently are absorbed and processed more slowly. Blood sugar levels rise and fall more gradually, keeping blood sugar even, which is ideal. Vegetables, whole grains, and legumes are food sources. Dietary fiber is also a complex carbohydrate.

Refined carbohydrates are altered carbs. Usually they have had the fiber, minerals, and vitamins removed, hence their nickname "empty calories." Examples are cookies, cakes, sodas, and chips – the so called "junk foods." If eaten in abundance over a lifetime, they can lead to hypoglycemia and diabetes – blood sugar disorders. Furthermore, these foods also tend to contain hydrogenated (a.k.a. trans) fats and oils as well as sodium, which also creates nutritional imbalances. Given their usually high calorie profile and poor nutrition, it is a good idea to limit regular consumption of these foods.

Fiber is another component of carbohydrates. There are two types: soluble, which can be digested, and insoluble, which cannot. Fiber retains water, which creates bulkier and softer stools. Fiber helps prevent constipation, and there is some research suggesting fiber can reduce colon cancer risk. Fiber also helps bind cholesterol and eliminates it from the body. Food sources of fiber are whole grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables.

Protein is another macronutrient. Protein is important in energy production as well as a building block in tissue development, the manufacture of neurotransmitters, hormones (for example, insulin and thyroid hormones), antibodies, and enzymes. Protein is broken down during digestion into amino acids. Some amino acids can be manufactured in the body from other amino acids. Consequently, these are called "non-essential." However, other amino acids cannot be synthesized in the body so must be consumed, and are called "essential amino acids." Foods that contain all the essential amino acids are called complete proteins. Examples are meat, fish, eggs, dairy, and soy products. Combining incomplete proteins can provide the components to create a complete protein. Possible combinations could be legumes with corn or brown rice and nuts. Ethnic foods often combine proteins, like the Mexican combination of beans and corn or the Asian combination of tofu and brown rice.

The final macro nutrient is fat or lipid. Although much maligned, fats are essential for life. Fats are involved in energy production and have the highest calorie per gram ratio of all the macronutrients; consequently, their bad reputation. Fats make up cell membranes in the body. They are necessary for growth, to nourish hair and skin, to help maintain blood vessels, and as in the case of cholesterol, to help build hormones, to transport fat soluble vitamins like A, D, E, and K, as well as to provide body curves, to cover organs for protection, and to provide storage for excess calories. Approximately no more than 30% of daily calories should come from fats.

There are three types of fats: saturated, polyunsaturated, and monounsaturated. Saturated fats are typically found in animal products such as meat and dairy products. Vegetable shortening and coconut and palm oils are also high in saturated fats. Saturated fatty acids are converted in the liver to cholesterol, an essential precursor to hormones. The problem is that saturated fats tend to become a particular type of cholesterol, called low density lipoproteins or LDL for short, which have been linked to cardiovascular disease. Consequently, it is recommended that people consume no more than 10% of their daily calories from saturated fats. In severe cases of high cholesterol, 10% may still

Tips to chew on for parents of picky eaters

Parents have been picking my brain in regard to how to handle their picky eaters. Well, here's a healthy mouthful of information.

More than a quarter of three-year-olds are picky eaters, according to recent studies, and a new food may have to be offered at least 10-15 times before a normal eater will try it, let alone a picky one.

Even if children don't eat what you want them to eat, they usually get all the nutrients they need from the foods that they do eat. Parents need to keep their expectations in check since a toddler only needs a tablespoon of a particular food served per meal per year of age. When they get that, they usually take in much more than the required 1000-1400 calories per day for growing toddlers to thrive.

Don't make veggies a family food battle. If children don't eat their vegetables but eat fruit, they will usually get all the vitamins they need from fruit. You might also offer your toddler a choice between two vegetables. If the rest of the family eats that vegetable, your toddler will likely do so, too.

Milk is not the only way to build strong bones; calcium can be found in yogurt, cheese, broccoli, and even calcium-fortified juices, although juice intake should be limited due to its high

Ticks are out! Be tick smart this spring and summer

VT Dept. Of Health

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

Protect:
• Use an EPA-registered insect repellent: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you>

be more saturated fat than an individual can handle.

The second type of fat is the polyunsaturated fat. Food sources include corn, soybeans, and safflower, sunflower, and some fish oils. Polyunsaturated fatty acids appear to help lower LDL but they also seem to decrease high density lipoprotein (HDL) development, which is thought to protect against cardiovascular disease. For this reason, it is recommended that no more than 10% of your daily calorie intake come from polyunsaturated oils.

Monounsaturated fatty acids seem to lower the "bad" LDL without affecting the "good" HDL. These monounsaturated fatty acids are found in oils such as peanut, canola, and olive oils. As with the other oils, it is recommended to keep daily calories from these oils to about 10%.

Note should be made of the so-called trans fats, also known as hydrogenated oils. These oils are found in processed food, margarine, and shortening and were developed to prolong shelf life in foods. Recent research is beginning to show that they raise the LDL levels in a fashion similar to saturated oils. It has also been suggested that when forming cell membranes, hydrogenated oils make an inferior product. For these reasons, it is a good idea to reduce or eliminate these fat sources from the diet.

Essential fatty acids (EFA) are, as their name implies, essential. These fats must be consumed because the body cannot make them and they are necessary to be healthy. EFAs become prostaglandins (PGE), hormone-like substances involved in inflammation. There are three prostaglandin types: PGE 1, PGE 2, and PGE 3. The odd numbered prostaglandins, one and three, are some of our natural anti-inflammatories; the PGE 2s are pro-inflammatory. Contrary to popular belief, inflammation is not all together a bad thing. It actually is the first phase of healing. However, there is a problem when there is unchecked inflammation. The PGE 2s need to be present but must be balanced by the anti-inflammatory PGE 1s and 3s. The problem with the American diet is that it is typically high in food sources of pro-inflammatory fats (PGE 2s) such as meat, dairy, eggs, poultry, and shellfish, and low in dietary sources of the PGE 1 and PGE 3. Food sources for PGE 1 are corn, safflower, olive, cottonseed, sunflower, peanut, evening primrose, black currant, and borage oils. Food sources for PGE 3s are linseed, flaxseed, walnut, soy, wheat germ, chestnut, sesame, canola, and fish oils. Whenever possible, it is ideal to consume food for nutrients, but because the anti-inflammatory PGEs 1 and 3 are so important and so rare in our diets, supplementation is usually necessary. An oil that has been expeller-extracted and the heavy metals removed is recommended.

The final point to be discussed here is the concept of the recommended daily allowances (RDAs). These are now renamed Daily Values (DVs) and are still used by some to make dietary recommendations. They were developed by the Food and Drug Administration to advise people about nutritional requirements to prevent disease (as opposed to promoting health). They were developed by discerning how much of a micro nutrient (vitamins and minerals) were necessary to prevent a disease state in an average person. Whatever value was determined to be effective was then increased by 50% as a fudge factor, and thus became the recommended amount. Several problems arise from this approach. They are an average; therefore, do not take into account individual needs. An individual has unique biochemistry and may require higher amounts of nutrients. High levels of activity, stress, medication use, state of health, age, lifestyle habits such as smoking and alcohol consumption, and pregnancy all require higher levels of nutrients than average. The RDAs have been renamed and slightly modified with Daily Values (DVs). Optimal wellness is not merely absence of disease. The RDA/DVs are designed to prevent disease, not guarantee optimal well being. To attain optimal well being, higher nutritional requirements than the RDA/DVs are necessary.

Nutrition is an ever-evolving field. Discoveries are being made and modified regularly. In general, the best bet is to consume as much unaltered food as possible. That is, less processed foods like chips, cookies, sodas, etc. and more fruits and vegetables; and less salt, sugar, alcohol, and caffeinated beverages. Occasional indiscretions are one thing, but regular consumption of empty calories can contribute to a slow death.

Mary Kintner, D.C., R.N., has studied nutrition since the 1960s. She became a registered nurse in 1980, a chiropractor in 1988, and a certified clinical nutritionist in 1996. She continues to study nutrition and practices in Richmond, Vermont.

sugar content and ability to decrease your child's appetite for more nutritious foods.

It's doubtful your child, if otherwise healthy, really needs a vitamin supplement. But it may give you as a parent piece of mind to give your child a multivitamin if it can result in your not engaging in food battles with your picky eater.

Don't use bribes to encourage eating. Offering a cookie if they eat their vegetables only makes the less nutritious food more desirable to a toddler and rarely fixes a picky eater.

Remember to eat what your child eats, when your child eats and that serving small portions on large plates to a toddler goes down better than large portions on small plates.

Here's my favorite tip: when your picky eater sees their friends eating a new food, your child will probably try that food too even when they won't do it for you.

Hopefully, tips like these will whet your appetite when it comes to being better able to deal with the normal developmental phase of picky eating.

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

- Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, brush and leaf litter.
 - Wear long pants and long sleeves.
 - Talk to your veterinarian about tick prevention for pets.
- Check:
- Check your body, clothing, gear, and pets for ticks after being outdoors.
 - Put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes.

Health continued on page 5

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Join us for virtual Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June (June 13, 2021). Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Check the website for upcoming speakers and topics. For the time being, services are being held exclusively via Zoom. Please contact president@mmuuf.org or 899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service

Jericho United Methodist Church welcomes you to grow in Christ with us. We hold dear the United Methodist Church's motto: "Open doors. Open Hearts. Open Minds." We 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. Sean Delmore on Zoom for virtual worship. For updates or a Zoom invitation, please contact 802-899-4288 or Jen (luitjens@yahoo.com). Located at 71 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We 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) 899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 899-4583.

Calvary Episcopal Church on Zoom

Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. While the church

building is currently closed, worship services are being held on Sundays at 9:30 AM via Zoom. All are warmly invited to attend! The Zoom link can be found on Calvary's website: <http://calvarychurchvt.weebly.com/>. Hope to see you soon!

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>

Jericho Congregational Church

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways that we never could have imagined. Many of us are now working from home, home schooling, and in some cases, separated from those we care deeply about. 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 858-5452 or jchelps@gmail.com. You are not alone, and we are here to help.

Live virtual worship at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship with Good Shepherd Church at 9:00 AM every Sunday. Services continue to be live-virtual for the coming month. To join in: Zoom links are provided via Good Shepherd's communication document called the E-Bulletin. Subscribe ahead of time, by the Tuesday prior to a service you hope to attend, at www.goodshepherdjericho.org. You need to subscribe only once, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Pastor Arnold leads Tuesday Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM, also via Zoom. Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is offered on Fridays at 8:30 AM; access information is at <http://goodshepherdjericho.org/>. We are an open-minded Christian community 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.

Jericho Green Up Day

Maggie Swanke (Faculty Liaison) connected the MMU Global Service Club (MMUGSC) with the Jericho Green Up Day on Saturday, May 1, dividing it into three teams - one each for Underhill, Jericho, and Richmond. MMUGSC is students interested in global volunteerism, intercultural experiences, and using their time, energy, and efforts to positively impact people and places in need. In 2020 MMUGSC focused on Helping at Home, participating in various local service projects: a Mills Riverside Park Project Day, Random Acts of Raking for local senior citizens, JOY Baskets for Mansfield Place senior citizens, Valentines Cookie Decorating Kits for Spectrum and ANEW Place, a free community Easter Egg Hunt, and, of course Green Up Day. Green Up Day went fantastic! Fifteen MMUGSC members participated across the district; there were lots of strange finds and green bags filled!



PHOTOS BY MAGGIE SWANKE VIA BERNIE PAQUETTE

Health continued from page 4

- Remove:
- If you find a tick on your body, remove it as soon as you can using fine-tipped tweezers. Pull straight up. Flush the tick down the toilet.
- Watch:
- Watch for symptoms of tickborne illness for three to 30 days after a tick bite. Symptoms may include fever or chills, rash, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, or fatigue.
 - Contact your health care provider if you get any of these symptoms after a tick bite.
- Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/BeTickSmart>.

Free online health promotion workshops

Learn how to make practical lifestyle changes with the support of a trained facilitator and a small group of people. Workshops include Chronic Pain Management, Chronic Disease Management, Diabetes Management or Prevention and Quitting Tobacco. All classes held via Zoom.

Please visit <https://myhealthyvt.org/> for more information, or contact Rorie at roried@protonmail.com. Sponsored by Vermont's Blueprint for Health.

Summer camps continued from page 3

program for advanced, creative, and gifted students entering grades 4-9, held on Zoom Monday-Friday for two weeks: June 21-25 and June 28-July 2, 2021, with morning and/or afternoon options available for one or both weeks. The cost is \$230 per morning or afternoon session, with scholarships available. There are classes of many types – from science to language to arts to tech to humanities – which are designed to be engaging and fun, and to nurture students' creativity and their love of learning.

Go to <https://www.tdivermont.org/camp-info> for more information about our organization and TDI@Home 2021. Register at app.campdoc.com/register/tdi by Tuesday, June 8.

We look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary of TDI back on the Northern Vermont University campus in 2022!

The Talent Development Institute (TDI) is under the umbrella of the Green Mountain Center for Gifted Education, and is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with the mission of affirming, educating, and supporting Vermont's gifted and talented youth and their families. We welcome participants and staff of all colors, creeds, ethnicities, nationalities, orientations, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Summer Camps at the Barn School in Westford

The Barn School will be offering summer camps this year most weeks between June 14 and August 20. Register online at <https://forms.gle/WYiWX9iVnjJY5nCB9>.

Lots of outdoor play, fun activities, projects, and time to play! Camps will follow all protocols and safety procedures for safe operation. Please email with any questions: Kara@thebarnschoolvt.com.

Equine camps at Freedom Farm

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

Kids summer activity camp June 21-25

Does your kid need something fun to do this summer? Do they need to stay active? Do they need some structured yet fun time to keep from getting rusty with school skills or catch up? Who doesn't after this crazy COVID year? Skill work tailored to meet individual needs. Or do they just want to connect with other kids?

If so, tell them to grab a buddy and get them off the couch or screen and out of your house! This summer activity camp runs Monday-Friday, June 21-25, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

This camp focuses on fitness, soccer, nature, art, skill work; alternative activities available. Staff includes a licensed K-12 teacher (BA Art, English, and Elementary Ed; Masters in Education with a concentration in Reading; with summer recreation programming experience). CPR and first Aid certified; practices COVID protocols.

The Soccer Clinic has a four-year lettered MMU Girls Varsity Soccer offensive player: striker and Striker Clinic coach for CCS. There will be guest appearances by MMU Girls Varsity Soccer players.

The camp is located on five acres at 11 Covey Rd., Underhill, with field, woods, and pond adjacent to hiking trails for nature and fitness experiences. Snacks and beverages are included.

Call or email for schedule and information: Connie Esmay, 802-858-9171 or connieesmay@gmail.com.

Chittenden County Soccer School 2021

Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2021, July 12-16 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho, VT. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the "love of the game" to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

Half- and full-day camp options for all ages!

Age groups range from 4 and up.

Please email Eric Barker, barkereric15@gmail.com, with any questions. Or visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/chittendencountysoccerschool/home> to register!

Summer camps at Burlington Surf Club

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

ECHO summer camp registration is now open

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

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

ECHO has limited scholarship funds available for those requiring financial assistance to participate in our camps. Questions? Contact camps@echovermont.org.

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

Hoops 101 basketball camp this summer

MMYBL is pleased to announce that MMU Boys Varsity Head Coach Dan Hamilton is hosting his "Hoops 101" co-ed camp for grades 4-8 this summer at MMU from Monday-Friday, June 28-July 2. Camp sessions will run 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The cost is \$135. Space is limited so register now to secure your player's spot in this awesome camp.

More information is available at <http://mmybl.org/site/>.

Registration open for Part 2: the Early Years summer camp

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

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

YMCA summer camp registration is open

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

- Burlington – three day camps, each with eight one-week sessions, for ages post-K to age 12, ages 8-14 (girls and gender non-conforming), and ages 8-14 co-ed;

- North Hero – Camp Abenaki, tech-free overnight and day camp for boys;

- Underhill, Georgia, Waterbury, Fletcher – Camp Koda, post-K to age 12, with three- and five-day options.

The Y offers financial assistance to qualifying families. For more information, visit www.ghymca.org/camp.

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

5¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF GASOLINE

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COFFEE 12 OZ.

Cannot be combined with other offers. Ad required for discount.



This shows the building when it was the Barney Hotel. The photographer would have been standing about what today would be in Lee River Road at the intersection of Plains Road, so you can see the little park that is still there, where the war memorial is now located.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Buffy

By Joe Nelson

“Mom! Can I keep him?” asked Tammy. “He followed me home!”

But this cat didn’t follow Tammy home; those were other cats, other times. Actually, the cat in question adopted us. Well, not really us, it was more like the cat had adopted our dog, Hannibal. In good weather, we fed Hannibal outdoors, his pan and water bowl placed by the steps to our back porch.

When I looked out into the yard, I wasn’t surprised to see a large orange cat sitting next to Hannibal grooming itself with one hind leg poking straight into the air, the feed pan empty. Hannibal, stretched out on his side, looked up at me with a doggie grin, his tail thumping the ground. This has been happening for the past several days.

Ruth asked a friend up the road if she might know where our dinner guest belonged.

She found that it was a family expecting a new baby, and they were afraid this big tom might do the baby harm, you know, the fable about cats smothering a baby asleep in its crib, so they just closed the pet-door and stopped feeding it. So, we opened our pet-door to homeless Buffy the orange cat, and we became his.

Orange cats are not uncommon in Homestead Acres, and it’s not a mystery, it’s Samson, a huge orange tom who prowls the hill. We see him frequently because our home-place is part of his hunting ground. His favorite place here is on a tree stump on the grassy slope between us and our neighbor to the east. Suddenly he’s there, then just as suddenly he’s gone. I was given to understand that he once belonged to a family “up the hill,” and had gone feral.

The family up the hill had a motherly kitty that produced good strong litters. When momma cat was in the mood, the matriarch of the house let Samson in and mercy me — new kittens! Those kittens were so popular with some folks in Jericho and Underhill Flats that they would telephone the matriarch, hoping for a new litter. Our Buffy came from one of those litters.

Life with an alpha cat in the household could be interesting. One night when we were closing the house, we called Buffy and Hannibal in because of reports that pets were disappearing to a predator in the area. Buffy wouldn’t come, so I picked him up to take him in. Not a good idea. I was happy that I happened to be wearing a good heavy flannel shirt.

Then there was the night of the howling. Buffy jumped off the couch and charged the door. He wanted out to answer the howl, so rather than picking him up again, I opened the door and he was gone! An awful hissing and squalling began, followed by silence. Buffy didn’t come to our call, so as late as it was, we turned in for the night. The next morning, there was Buffy grooming himself on our front steps, and beneath our dining room window, a circle of cat fur, not one strand of it orange.

Eccentric? Yes. We took Buffy and Hannibal to the vet for shots, and left Buffy in our pickup truck to take Hannibal in first. When we went back for Buffy, there was no sign of him. How could he have gotten out of the truck? I found that he didn’t. When I went down on my knees to check under the seat, I saw his orange tail hanging down from under the dash. Buffy had qualms about the vet and his long sharp needles.

“Okay, Cat, let’s go,” I said as I pressed the glove box button, and it wouldn’t open. There was too much cat in there, and Buffy wasn’t about to climb out. I got a screwdriver out of the toolbox, laid down under the dash, unscrewed the hinges holding the box, and had the box with which to carry him in to the vet. “I won this one, Buffy!”

Buffy nearly always made our trips to the veterinarian memorable. There was the time a customer entered the waiting room with a pair of weimaraners on leashes. Buffy leaped off my lap with a deep throated hiss, and hit the floor with every hair on him standing up. The dogs, with a yelp, tucked in their tails and tried for the doorway.

Don’t get me wrong, Buffy had another side: he loved to be stroked, and he loved a warm lap. And strangely enough, we never saw him with a bird in his jaws.

Years later I had to take him to the vet for his last visit. It was hard.

Fallen behind on your mortgage due to COVID-19?

Starting May 3, VHFA began accepting applications for the VT COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP). Eligible Vermont homeowners could receive a grant for up to 12 months of past due payments due to COVID-19 hardship.

To apply, go online to <https://www.vhfa.org/map/>.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

The History of Jericho’s Barney Hotel / Beach House

By Gary Irish

Historic photos used with permission from Gary Irish

The old hotel was located on the north side of the corner of Main and Church Streets, what is today Route 15 beside the present location of Joe’s Snack Bar. It was built by Truman Barney sometime before 1817 and was one of Jericho’s most famous landmarks in the early days. Before the railroad, the arrival of the stagecoach was a noteworthy event, as it also brought the news.

The hotel, at that time known as the Barney Hotel, was operated by Martin and his brothers Lucius, Albert, and Solomon Barney over the years, but most notably by Martin and his wife Maria (Young) Barney, who operated it as a tavern and hotel as well as a livery stable from 1852 to 1870. It was noted that Mr. Barney was a genial landlord and Mrs. Barney was a woman of great executive ability that made it possible to run a successful business. In 1880 the hotel was sold to local businessman Ferdinand Beach and became known as the Beach House.

Read more about this Jericho landmark from the past in Bernie Paquette’s blog at https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/04/heritage-in-historic-homes-of-jericho_28.html.

Beauty and the Beast

By Sue Kusserow, Special to the Mountain Gazette

C’m on girls, lets go for a ride! Luna and Lucy wiggle all over in anticipation. A “NO” would have set them back on their haunches in deep disappointment. Luna and Lucy are our yellow labs; Luna is 11 years old; Lucy is six. They have been together since Lucy came as a tiny puppy. Luna is alpha dog but her manner is never mean. She just expects to be first at the feeding bowl.

The dogs head for the car; “What exciting places will we go, Missies?” It’s warm, so maybe a swim in Browns River or a trip to Dunkin Donuts to get a large, hot latte and a small orange bag holding three munchkins for all of us. I open the car door and Lucy leaps in; Luna paces, trying to judge if she can get her hind legs to obey and clear the distance. She struggles to get herself to accomplish what she has always done, but something is strangely different. I rush over before she slumps, defeated, to the garage floor. Sometimes, I can get to her fast enough to put all my strength into lifting her struggling legs onto the back seat. She obviously is puzzled and perturbed and licks her legs before sinking into the comfort of the seat.

A dog that has been with you for 11 years, tries hard to please. She settles in as if to assure me that she will try harder next time; there must be some mistake. Lucy, in the meantime, leans out the side window and barks at a tiny dog fettered by a long thick leash. What has he done to be in such a snare? I watch the dogs splashing in the river, Lucy chasing sticks while Luna finds that the nice mud slide into the water wasn’t designed for her to have an easy and predictable exit. I scout the banks of the river, to try and find an easier slope she can dig her claws into. But again, she has very little strength in her legs now. We finally make it back to dry ground and while they are nesting and wiping mud away with paws and tongues, I remember my other wonderful dogs over many wonderful years. Now we are home and I go slowly up our road; the speedometer registers zero. Luna leads the way, barely dragging one leg after the other. But she is leading the way, dear old alpha dog! The ice cream from my shopping trip gently sloshes on this trip to the freezer, but Luna is my leader and she must go first! The driveway ends and she slumps down on green grass, having led her entourage to safety: past huge downed pine trees, puddles of undetermined depth, and a cat who watches two pudgy dogs trying to act brave.

I know that one day... maybe this fall? ... when the copper sun sinks into an orange sunset, I will be lying out on the porch with Luna’s magnificent head peacefully resting on my legs. And I will listen for the sound of a car coming up the road... the vet. Luna’s ears perk up, just as tawny and soft as when we picked her out from her tumble-headed littermates... and I pat them gently in a way I know she likes. It is warm and breezy on this spring day and her eyes drift into a snooze. I hesitate; whose needs are being served? I can give her pills for pain; I can lift her to, at least, a soft pillow and blanket on the floor. I can clean up when she can’t walk outside. But somehow she knows, as I do, that it is not enough. The vet explains to me what she is going to do. I tell her I have been through this too many times before. Luna gives me a paw and the needle glides into a vessel; and breath is over.

And then there are humans who know that there is an end to walking, to jumping in cars, to lying still... belly up in the first sun of the summer. We know what animals don’t know: death, an ending to motion and breath, to memories of humans who were there when needed (they call it love; we call it responsibility). Some of us cannot mentally survive without thoughts of never knowing how or why the world will end — this immense world as versed by T.S. Eliot:

*This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.*

Some of us turn to other venues, other paths traveling through our living days. Religion is the strongest door that opens a view to another life, another way, a redemption of the poor choices we may have made, or a well-embedded routine that leads, inexorably, to a small but strong patch of peace. Spirituality is an amorphous path, which, if you are strong enough, you can design yourself. There is a direct corollary between one’s strengths and one’s protective armor. And I use the word armor because most humans are afraid of death. We keep busy as we count our years of achievement, of professionalism; we slow, often into discouragement, when we have only a small number of years left to count. Having done the human calculations of morbidity and mortality, the actual effectiveness of certain treatments, our own inner strength, our will to survive, makes us envy the animals who have very little sense of doom or survival.

So which is more fortunate? Those who do not know an ending, who try to bark at a strange car just coming up the drive? Or those who keep their sense of strength despite the discouragement of knowledge? Is it Beauty of the Beast?

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is — to be alive, to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

— Marcus Aurelius

Crystal River Manatees

By Douglas Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Years ago, we decided to go to the Crystal River area in Florida. We heard that the manatees were prevalent in the river. The condo that we rented was on an inlet and had a dock in back. There was a bridge within walking distance where we could view a mother manatee and her calf. The manatees are huge (1000 pounds) and ugly and their calves are also big (70 pounds). They are one of the mildest, friendliest animals, but because they are an endangered species, they are protected from people. The manatees get a lot of scars from boat motors because they are so friendly, and you have to be careful and go slow so your boat doesn’t hit them. They eat mainly aquatic plants and lettuce and, being a mammal, come up for air every five minutes.

Besides viewing the manatees, we found a lot of good places to eat. We found a great seafood restaurant and an ice cream place that made fresh peach cobbler every day. We went to a butcher to get some hamburger that was the best we ever had. I found out that he cut pieces of fat and meat off his whole tenderloins and ground them into filet burgers. There was also a great sub place. We had a fantastic week with good weather, great food, and lots of things to do.

We also took a short trip to Homosassa Springs, where they take injured manatees and birds. They also have a zoo. I heard that a hurricane had passed through and they had to move out most of their zoo animals including Lucifer, their lone hippo that had been there for many years. When people heard that they were going to move him out, they all wrote letters to keep him there, so they reversed their decision. If you go, don’t get too close to the chain link fence that goes around his pool because he poops and then sits and gets the poop on his tail which he uses as a weapon. He whips his tail back and forth and shoots it through the fence onto kids faces and cameras, etc. They have a sign that says “stand back” but when you get splattered, you understand why — Lucifer is doing it on purpose! They have a boat ride through the mangroves where you can see birds and sometimes you can see a snake. They put the bird houses on poles, but the snakes will skinny up the pole and eat the bird eggs.

In addition to a great week at Crystal River, we were able to visit my sister in Dunnellon, FL and other relatives along the way. That’s why we liked to drive and we would take three or more weeks off. If we were to fly, would miss seeing historic sites, zoos, aquariums, etc. We would stop at every Welcome Center in order to get coupons for motels and to see if they had interesting places to visit. When flying, you miss all kinds of interesting places. We have been to 48 states. The only states we haven’t visited are Delaware and Alaska. I do hope to visit them soon.

Some people tell me what a great vacation they had, and when I asked them what they did, they say that they sat in a lawn chair on the balcony or on the beach and read a book. We went to different places and did active things. Our vacations were a lot more than sitting around in the sun and reading a book. Why pay thousands of dollars to go on a trip and sit around or read when you can do that at home?

Next column: Routes 95 and 66

Endangered means there is still time... it’s up to us

By Bernie Paquette

I invite you to view two posts related to Bumble Bees.

The first *When is a Bumble Bee not a Bumble Bee* is a result of an under-reported if not uncommon recent sighting in our backyard. The look and the buzzing fooled me. A closer look showed me how creative evolution can be, perhaps even a bit sneaky too.

The second article speaks to what Bumble Bees need. This guest post speaks about the loss or decline of five of Vermont’s Bumble Bee species within the last decade, why they are unique and special amongst bees, what color they prefer, how they keep warm, and more. And then the article speaks to what Bumble Bees need and how we can help in that area.

The more we know about the life around us, the more we will appreciate the services they provide, and the almost incomprehensible beauty of sight and behavior that life exhibits.

<https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/05/when-is-bumble-bee-not-bumble-bee.html>

<https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/05/what-bumble-bees-need.html>

Observing life in nature.

Connecting native habitat, wildlife, and community.

Guns and a river of blood

By Bill Schubert

I’ve spent my 76 years fighting impulses, impulses to jump into quarries, impulses to ride uninspectable motorcycles, and impulses to binge on food — I once weighed 485 pounds. The ensuing years have taught me that keeping fatal attractions at a distance is my best option.

The presence of a gun enables, if not fuels, the impulse to kill — oneself or another. Impulse usually wins. The lack of a gun may mean fisticuffs, but fisticuffs are rarely lethal. Suicidal ideation with no gun at hand means delay and consideration. Suicide’s the eighth-leading cause of death in Vermont, the 10th-leading cause nationally, and guns are used in 59% of Vermont’s suicides.

330 million Americans own some 393 million guns, about 45% of the world inventory of weapons in the hands of civilians — strong nutrition for the impulse to kill. The deterrent myth for open-carry — that carrying a gun discourages violence — defies all scientific data, and law enforcement agencies claim that the presence of a gun usually gins up violence rather than deters it.

I was raised with guns. I took the National Rifle Association (NRA) riflery courses when I was eight, and after I’d earned my first four NRA medals: Marksman, Pro-marksman, Marksman 1-Class, and Sharpshooter Bar I, my parents gave me a Winchester .22 long rifle when I was 10.

We still have hunting weapons in our home today, mostly to kill varmints feeding on our flock of chickens. Our property is the only land in our neighborhood not posted. We’re not hunters

Community columns continued on page 7

Community columns continued from page 6

ourselves but welcome hunters of all kinds, and one local deer hunter has a deer-stand in our woods.

Humankind has so disturbed the balance of nature and threatened wildlife populations by altering land-use patterns through development that active game management through controlled hunting has become an imperative.

Even as technical advances in military-grade weapons has influenced the manufacture of hunting gear, the majority of hunters we meet don't carry military weapons, they carry crossbows, black powder guns, or deer rifles. Any hunter committed to the skill and sport of the hunt relies on his or her acumen, not technology, to get their game.

To me a gun is a tool, not a right, and as such, I focus on its utility. My vision, however, is shortsighted.

I won't presume to educate you on the mare's nest of legal activity generated by those wishing to limit the use of guns in our culture, and those who believe that gun ownership is their God-given right – or at least mandated without limit by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. To my layman's knowledge of the law, there are no single "constitutional rights" that don't have some appended legal limitations, such as limiting "free speech" – yelling "fire" in a crowded theater.

Although there is no formal definition of a "mass shooting," the most commonly accepted definition is an event in which three or more people are shot (killed or injured), not including the shooter. Media reports of mass shootings depict a river of blood, with almost daily reports of the slaughter visited on us by our absolutist beliefs – some 147 mass shootings this year according to the Gun Violence Archive. Friends abroad view us with confusion, pity, and sadness.

Have we become so inured to the weekly tragedies we see in the media that we can't agree to control sales and ownership of weapons designed for military use? Is our obsession with gun ownership so absolute that we've come to accept the carnage?

Where to start? When faced with complexity, I revert to values, principles, and objectives to try and make sense.

Most of us value human life. *Thou shalt not kill* is a fundamental tenet of most religions, and even support for the death penalty is waning.

And a civilized society strives to find an equitable balance between the rights and responsibilities of the individual and their community's well-being, as exemplified in Vermont's own "Freedom & Unity" motto.

A sensible objective would be to compromise and find the middle ground in gun-policy that honors a gun's practical utility in hunting, sport, and collectability and its potential to wreak havoc among our citizens.

Even though there's no clear definition differentiating military and civilian weapons, I would argue that the weapon's design purpose is the defining element. A .30-06, 410, and a .600 Nitro Express are hunting rifles. The BCM Arms F-Class rifle is for long-range target shooting. My Sturm Ruger .22 LR pistol is great for target shooting and killing small marauders. But as a good friend and gun-rights advocate points out, "All guns are

lethal and will therefore be used by humans to cause mayhem."

But the infamous Las Vegas shooter's arsenal, associated equipment, and ammunition included fourteen AR-15 rifles, all equipped with bump stocks, and twelve of which had 100-round magazines. A "bump stock" modifies a semi-automatic weapon so it can fire in rapid succession, mimicking an automatic weapon. Most agree that the casualties were much higher because he used these fast-repeat weapons.

The whole class of military-grade weapons semi-automatics, automatics, and machine guns fulfill no practical civilian purpose and, I would argue, should be kept out of the civilian marketplace. Gun-rights activists claim that military-grade weapons serve the practical purpose of enabling citizens to defend themselves, their homes, and property.

If so, what value are our police? If someone's breaking into your home, do you grab a personal defense weapon (PDW) and confront them, or do you call the police? Vermont law allows use of lethal force for protection within the home, but "only such force as is reasonably necessary to repel the attack or the perceived imminent danger." Wouldn't my pistol or 410 shotgun be adequate for such use?

In most armed confrontations, the tendency to impulsive action escalates on both sides, putting both at greater risk of violence. And it should go without saying that killing is not justified to defend property.

I believe that all weapons should be classified as either civilian or military. Civilian weapons purchases (rifles, pistols, black powder, shotguns etc.) should be subject to a three-day purchase delay so they can be checked against the FBI's NICS database of those determined to be legally ineligible to own a gun (about 6.5M), a guarantee of secure home-storage to prevent children from finding and using a gun, and in the case of minors, a hunter-safety course certificate.

Military weapons should simply be illegal to purchase or own. But the landscape is constantly shifting when it comes to guns. New all-plastic guns that cannot be detected in metal detectors and DIY gun kits will all require further definition and discussion.

Ultimately, people will continue to kill and will use various weapons to do so. One who is intent on killing but is denied a military weapon will find a way to kill. But a gun designed for hunting is an intrinsically different killing tool than a military weapon designed to kill as many of the enemy as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Like most contentious issues, a safe, civilian gun policy will require compromise on all sides. We have done it before and we can do it again.

Another way of looking at gun violence, however, might be to look at how to build a kinder, more decent nation by focusing on minimizing hunger, abuse, and homelessness and creating greater access to equal opportunity, education, a just environment, and mental and physical healthcare.

We might need fewer guns in that world.



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LIBRARY NEWS



Primrose flowers (*Primula polyantha*) bloom in early spring and are now blooming at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Primroses come in a variety of form, size, and color. In fact, there are over 430 species. Primroses grow well in the garden and should be planted in lightly shaded areas with a well-drained soil. Plant the plants 4 to 6 inches deep and 6 to 10 inches apart. Add a layer of mulch/organic matter around the plants to help retain moisture. Water thoroughly after planting. Continue to water your primroses thoroughly during the summer months. Growing primrose is easy and these plants are hardy in Vermont. You can purchase primrose perennials at a local garden center.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library has gone back to curbside only. We will open again for appointments once we see COVID numbers declining.

Curbside hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. You may place items on hold at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com>. You will receive an email or a phone call when your item is ready. Just let us know what day you would like to pick it up by calling 899-4962 or emailing rawsonlibrary@drml.org. Items may be returned in the book drop any time. Items are quarantined up to a week before they are checked in. Our WiFi remains active and is accessible from the parking lot or other areas adjacent to the building. WiFi is available 24/7. A password is not needed to connect. Please be aware that our WiFi does not offer a secure connection.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and open to all, but registration is required. To register, please email program_assistant@drml.org.

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers is always the second Tuesday of the month (June 8) at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Curbside Crafts (all ages) on Wednesdays. They will be put out with the curbside pickups starting Wednesday at 1:00 PM, and are first-come, first-served. If you would like a copy of the instruction sheet for a craft, please email youth_librarian@drml.org. Crafts this month are egg carton critters, celebrating spring, leprechaun traps, and bunny ear headbands!

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

Adult Programs

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers — New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month (June 8) at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Legislative Update — Tuesday, May 18, 6:00 PM. Join your local representatives George Till and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session. Registration required; to register, contact 802-899-4962 or program_assistant@drml.org. This program uses the application Zoom.

Mystery Book Club: *Full Dark House* — Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM. We will be discussing *Full Dark House* by Christopher Fowler. It is available on Libby through the VT Department of Libraries. If you need a book, please call the library (899-4962) to request a copy. Due to delays with our courier, you should request soon so that it has time to arrive. Registration required; to register, contact 802-899-4962 or program_assistant@drml.org. We will be meeting in person in the library garden, weather permitting. Please bring a chair! A Zoom meeting will also be available for those who prefer a virtual option.

Youth — offered weekly

Crafts on Wednesdays. They will be put out with the curbside pick ups starting Wednesday at 1pm, and are first come first served. If you would like a copy of the instruction sheet for a craft, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

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

Sign up for these great programs!

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

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

Among Us — Friday, May 28, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (teens/tweens). Join your friends and deduce who's totally *sus* and who's safe in a librarian-moderated online environment. The app is free on Android and iOS systems, or costs \$5 for PC play through Steam. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org for a Zoom link.

Ongoing at your leisure

Check out Ms. Abbey's recorded story times online any time on our YouTube channel. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjNvaBc6ECdlrei58PtcDQ> or just search "DRML Youth" on YouTube!

Board Games – Looking for a screen-free family activity? Check out one of our brand new board games! Place a hold through the online catalog, or call the library to reserve one for your family game night. Here is a brief description of our games: Pictureka is a game of visual hide and seek. Catan is the classic game of collecting and trading resources to build settlements. Telestrations is kind of like Telephone and Pictionary had a hilarious baby. Lanterns is a beautiful, peaceful tile matching game. Codenames is a team based guessing game great for deductive reasoning. Check out our YouTube channel for video instructions on how to play these games: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmLG9hSKPW1d1s3dhORdnKIL5HT6iUmIu>.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten – You can jump into the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program at any time! Visit their website for reading logs or to get the app, <https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/>. When you're ready, schedule a curbside pick up to get books. Have questions? Email youth_librarian@drml.org for more information.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

The Homebound Access Service provides delivery services to anyone who is homebound (permanently or temporarily) and can't come to the library to pick up their books in person. Patrons can request materials via phone, email, or a snail mail paper form. We'll deliver orders between 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and patrons can return books at that time as well. The community's health is our priority: for everyone's safety, deliveries will be contactless and outdoors. Please share widely to anyone you know who may be interested. All anyone needs is to be a Jericho resident; we can issue a library card if they don't already have one. You can reach us or ask for a paper request form to be sent to someone at library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686. Read more at www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/homebound-access-service.html.

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

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

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

Library hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Library is open for in person browsing and curbside as of Friday, May 14. Hours: Thursdays 11:30 – 6:00 PM; curbside only Fridays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and Saturdays 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

We will be following state mandated COVID policies including wearing a mask and staying six feet apart. We will allow up to 10 patrons in the library at a time. Our bathroom will be available for patrons only.

If you would like to make an appointment to browse in advance, 20-minute appointments are available on the hour and on the half-hour. Please call 644-2117 or email varnumrequests@gmail.com. Please provide your name, phone number or email, and the number of people in your party.

Please note the library has only one working computer at this time. If you would like to use a computer, please let us know in advance, if possible, and we will do our best to accommodate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bree on Books is back with a two part episode! Lots of new adult fiction and non-fiction books are available at the Westford Public Library: <https://youtu.be/KC2oolLdtaJA> and <https://youtu.be/1dMCbGKiYW0>. Do you like these videos? Many of you have told me to continue them even after we open the library. Let me know what you think!

You can now visit the library (meaning come in and browse the shelves, use the computer, grab a DVD, etc.) Wednesdays from 1:00 – 7:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. We are still doing curbside service on Thursdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Fridays from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Patrons of all ages are welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Based on Governor Scott's Vermont Forward plan for Group B establishments, the library board feels it is safe to open the library under Universal Guidance:

- masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene are required;
- the library will allow patrons inside at 50% capacity;
- high touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly.

We also ask that patrons limit visits to 30 minutes unless using the computers or internet.

Our first outdoor, in-person storytime on Thursday was great fun! Storytimes will now be outside on the Common on Thursdays at 11:30 AM, unless the weather is bad. It was SO nice to see all those kids! (and the adults were pretty great too!)

We are in phase 5 of our reopening plan. See our website for more details. We will monitor and re-evaluate our opening plans monthly based on state and local health data.

The library is doing a lot of virtual programming, available on YouTube. Search YouTube for "Westford Librarian" and subscribe to see all virtual story times and the popular "Bree on Books" series. Virtual Early Literacy Story Time is fun for all ages and is posted every Thursday on YouTube, FPF, Facebook, and the website. Curbside Craft Kits available weekly, as a curbside order (see above).

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday, 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.

Like us on Facebook. Bree Drapa, Librarian. 878-5639; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COUNTY LIBRARY

Because of COVID-19, all of our programs are virtual. Please sign up at least one week before the program date!

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; contact 802-849-2420 or libraryprograms@fwsu.org.

Youth Events

Thursday-Friday, May 20-21: Grassy Fairy Houses: make a cute little house with real grass growing on it! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday, 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 4:00 PM. The video will be available afterwards, so don't worry if you miss it! Ages 6+ Please register!

Thursday-Friday, May 27-28: Galaxy in a Bottle: make your own galaxy in a bottle! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday, 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 4:00 PM. The video will be available afterwards, so don't worry if you miss it! Ages 6+ Please register!

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

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

Adult Events

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

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

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

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

Regular curbside pick-up hours are: Monday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Tuesday 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Saturday 12:00 – 2:00 PM. You may request anything from the Library's holdings: books, audiobooks on CD or Playaway, DVDs, music CDs or magazines. Browse the catalog at rfl.kohavt.org. Call the library for more details.

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

Contact us at 434-3036, rfl@gmavt.net.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Restaurant Revitalization Fund; vaccines for ages 12-15

By Lucy Rogers, State Representative, Lamoille-3

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), run through the Small Business Administration, began accepting applications on Monday, May 3: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/restaurant-revitalization-fund>.

This is \$28.6 billion of federal relief for restaurants, bars, and other similar places of business that serve food and drink. This money is expected to be fully subscribed quickly, so local restaurants must apply as soon as possible in order to access the funds.

For the first 21 days after the program opens, priority will be given to applications from businesses owned and controlled (51% minimum) by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, so be sure to apply early if your business falls in that category.

Even if your business does not fall into those categories, you could still apply starting on Monday, May 3. Following 21 days, all eligible applications will be funded on a first come-first served basis, so it still matters to be early in line.

Most importantly, expert advisors are urging everybody to pre-register, so that applicants are all ready to submit the application at 12:00 PM Monday. Here is a link to the pre-registration site: <https://restaurants.sba.gov/requests/borrower/login/?next=/>.

This pre-registration will allow applicants to understand precisely what will be needed on Monday, so that there are no hiccups with the application that could cause that application to be put aside by SBA.

Additional resources: Program Guide - <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-restaurant-revitalization-funding-program-guide>; Sample Application - <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-3172-restaurant-revitalization-funding-application-sample>; SBA COVID-19 Cross Program Eligibility Chart - https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/cross-program-eligibility-sba-covid-19-relief-options?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

May 12: Vaccinations for ages 12-15

The FDA is expected to approve the Pfizer vaccine for teens aged 12-15 this week. Vermont anticipates that it will be easy to get an appointment for teens in that age group quickly after FDA approval, both at state sites and at pharmacies. One parent or guardian must accompany the teen and give consent.

To sign up for vaccination at any state site, visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine> or call 855-722-7878. Many sites and appointments are available. The Department of Health will be holding Pfizer vaccine clinics at Green Mountain Tech and Career Center on all Wednesdays in May, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

CVS in Morrisville has Pfizer vaccines and has many open appointments this week, so parents eager to vaccinate their younger teens can make appointments there once approval is expanded. Many other pharmacies around the state also have open appointments for Pfizer in the coming days, such as Walgreens in Williston.

The state is beginning to offer vaccination through primary care providers. You can contact your primary care provider to find out if you can get vaccinated in your doctor's office.

Legislative update

By Theresa Wood

State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

May 2

There was a public hearing regarding the Department of Labor and issues with unemployment benefits on Tuesday, May 4, for employees and employers who have been impacted by

unemployment during the pandemic. The public was invited to register to speak at the hearing or submit written testimony. The hearing was live-streamed on the Legislature's Joint Committees YouTube channel: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/shared-joint-committee>.

Here's what was on tap at the virtual State House last week:

S.45 – this is a bill sent over from the Senate and relates to certain updates to the law regarding earned discharge from probation.

H.265 – this bill creates the Office of the Child, Youth and Family Advocate which is intended to provide independent assistance to individuals involved with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems provided by the Department for Children and Families; this bill came out of my committee (House Human Services).

H.449 – this bill provides an interim step to help address the State employee and teachers' pension funds by creating a Pension Benefits, Design, and Funding Task Force charged to work over the summer to make recommendations to the Legislature for action next session. The bill also makes changes to the Vermont Pension Investment Commission to increase investment expertise on the Commission.

S.114 – this bill provides resources to increase student literacy in grades PreK – 12. The bill uses federal funds from COVID relief to provide technical assistance to schools.

May 13

Last week at the virtual State House, we acted on the following bills:

S.16 – this bill creates a task force on equitable and inclusive school environments in an effort to eliminate suspensions and expulsions for all but the most serious student behaviors.

S.20 – is legislation that puts certain restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products, firefighting foam, ski wax, and rugs/carpets. This is a bill that my committee, House Human Services, spent weeks taking testimony on from numerous witnesses.

S.115 – is a bill that makes miscellaneous changes in education law. The bill particularly addresses public libraries as well as enabling municipalities and school districts to jointly fund certain staff positions and requires the provision of menstrual products in schools at no cost to students.

H.108 – is a bill that authorizes the Secretary of Natural Resources to administer a Clean Water Act Section 401 certification program to review activities that require a federal license or permit to ensure that a proposed activity complies with the Vermont Water Quality Standards.

The legislature is tentatively scheduled to adjourn on Saturday, May 22, 2021. However, as with all things at the end of the session, this is subject to change.

Please feel free to reach out to me at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

VT Senate recovery-focused session winds down

By Kesha Ram, State Senator, Chittenden District

May 5

Wishing you renewal and joy as spring enters full bloom and we begin to see our friends and loved ones again. May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and I invite you to think about the contributions of our AAPI community while standing against violence and hatred toward Asian Americans, which has sharply risen during the pandemic.

We will also likely wrap up the legislative session toward the end of this month. There are many bills, provisions, and budget items in play, so I will not be able to address them all here, and I encourage you to reach out to me directly.

Unless circumstances change, this is likely to be the last session conducted remotely, and there is hope that we will build back better and provide robust relief to Vermont families. The major bills and issues that will likely be negotiated until late May include the budget, economic recovery grants, unemployment relief for businesses and families, revenue provisions, and pension governance and oversight reform. Within those, I hope to ensure there is a dependent benefit for unemployed Vermont families, that we remove taxation of federal business grants received in 2021 for small businesses, and that pension reform moving forward centers the voices and needs of our vital educators and state employees.

We have also not lost sight of future sessions and the other critical issues facing Vermonters. Among my major priorities are climate change, green jobs, and environmental health. I was proud to introduce S.148, which would ensure Vermont has an environmental justice policy overlaying its environmental, land use, and public health policies to ensure everyone receives environmental benefits and shares environmental burdens more equally. Otherwise, it is often low-income people and neighborhoods, as well as communities of color, that shoulder a greater burden of pollution, undesirable land use, and health impacts. This dynamic became even more apparent in the pandemic, but existed long before and Vermont is behind much of the rest of the nation in addressing these environmental health disparities and opportunities for sustainable growth.

Though my response might be delayed as the session comes to a close, I will make every effort to stay in touch with you. Please feel free to reach out with any thoughts, questions, or concerns: kram@leg.state.vt.us.

Upcoming deadline for Sole Proprietor Grant Program

By Thomas Stevens, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden

May 11

We received this press release Tuesday, May 11. If you are a sole proprietor, this program may be of some help. The program is statewide, even though the program is administered by organizations located in Southern Vermont.

Sole Proprietor Stabilization Grant Program Application Closing May 26

The application for Vermont's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cares Act-CV economic relief grants for Sole Proprietors closes on May 26. All applications must be submitted through the online portal. Recorded webinar training, program information, and the application are all available at <https://www.vermont-cdbg-cv.com/>.

Eligible applicants must be either Sole Proprietors with no W2 employees, or S-Corp owners with no W2 employees. Applicants may have received CDBG-CV or other grants but must have remaining unmet need. Other key applicant eligibility criteria include:

- Low to moderate income household per federal guidelines.
- For-profit entity, providing goods or services to clients.
- Physical establishment in Vermont.
- Pre-pandemic or current gross annual business revenues of over \$24,450.
- Legally established prior to March 15, 2020.

This statewide program is administered by the Two Rivers-Ottawa-Orleans Regional Commission (TRORC) Cdbg-cv@trorc.org and the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) cdbg-cv@brattleborodevelopment.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Message from the Varnum Library Board of Directors

To the Editor,

A message from the Varnum Library Board of Directors about changes at the Library and in response to ongoing public comments about these changes.

It is unfortunate that snippets of misinformation have been communicated across our community. It is important to understand the facts. The Varnum Memorial Library is owned and operated by the Crescendo Club Library Association. We are fortunate to receive funds from the Town of Cambridge, donors, and a small endowment. Funds are used to anticipate and meet the needs of our community, which is in keeping with the original purpose of the women who founded the organization in 1898.

In January of this year, the Cambridge Select Board appointed four new Town Library Trustees to fill vacancies. In March, these appointees were elected by the voters to continue in their appointed roles. These trustee appointments were necessary due to the rapid departure of most of the Board members for what was now the second time in three years.

The new Board's first action was to work to understand the factors that led to the effective dissolution of two previous consecutive Boards. To this effort, the new Board undertook interviews with previous and remaining Board members, the Library Director, and Library staff.

This fact-gathering process (more than 100 hours of background interviews, site work, and documentation research) shed light on the strengths of our community's Library while also verifying some challenges that were thought to be known, and uncovering additional operational and infrastructure deficiencies that had been ongoing for the past few years.

Our review of the Library systems revealed:

- No system of checks and balances with regard to staff payroll.
- No consistent tracking of grants and associated reports.
- No consistent system of accounts payable and receivable.
- Building deficiencies in the roof, floors, furnace, stairways, and more.
- Significantly decreased donor engagement.
- No organized system of inventory with regard to materials for programs.

- Significant drop in books checked out while other local libraries saw surges.
- Missing electronic and hard-copy records.
- No documented processes could be located.
- Operational policies and procedures laid out by the bylaws were not being followed.
- Poor internet service, unsecured computers, wifi system, and library management accounts.
- Town funds being used to support programs in other towns.
- No cohesive communication plan in place.

As community members and elected officials, the Board was disheartened to discover the very real challenges facing what we consider to be a vital part of our community, and began to take immediate steps to address them. This includes provision of a governance structure to rectify the issues unearthed and to support the library staff in their work as librarians.

The ongoing public discourse about the Board's actions has focused on the departure of two paid staff members and a volunteer. Despite some public comments implying the contrary, the Board states unequivocally that no staff at the Varnum were forced to resign, asked to leave, or given any untenable choice.

This has been an emotionally-charged process for both the Board and the Varnum Library staff, especially within the context of the challenges posed by an ongoing pandemic. There have been several public statements made by staff and community members who frankly do not know all of the details of what has transpired. In fact, the Board is bound by state and federal laws NOT to divulge details of the organization's personnel matters. This obviously presents a challenge to the transparency the Board would prefer to provide. Many statements of assumption have been made because the facts cannot all be made available to the public.

The Board is committed to helping ensure the library is vibrant, relevant, and accessible to all members of the community. We want to support the safe and brave place where ideas are shared, explored, discussed, and debated. We want to contribute to a library that is integral to our community, one in which people feel empowered to support the library in whatever way they can.

No one remembers their favorite board member, but they will remember their favorite library. The Board's role is to make sure that is possible.

We will be issuing a formal report to the Select Board by the

end of June. Our Board meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If you would like to join us, ask additional questions, or continue to support the library, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Board of Directors at varnumboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Wanda Cochran
Courtney Hale
Krista Huling
Michael Moser
Carol Plante
Jayson Rivard
Jan Schilling
April Tuck



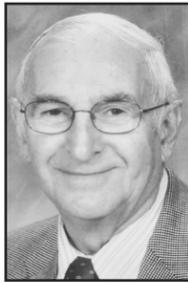
**ADVERTISE
IN OUR 2021
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SECTION IN
THE JUNE 17 PAPER
to the
Mountain Gazette
at
mtngazette
@gmavt.net**

OBITUARIES



Gilbert Michel LeClair of Westford VT died on Thursday, April 22, 2021. After several months of home hospice, he checked into McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT and spent his final days in comfort and good company. He was fiercely independent until the end, fighting Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma for over a decade, while maintaining his appreciation of each day and "the good life" he had lived. Gilbert was born at home on December 3, 1950, in Charlotte, VT of French-Canadian immigrant parents, Rolland and Germaine (Bouchard) Leclair. He grew up in a large Victorian house on a small dairy farm, the fourth of six children. Gilbert was independent and daring right from the start. There are many stories of his shenanigans growing up on the farm. When he was about 10 years old, he broke both of his legs in a hay baler accident. He wore full casts for the summer, even into the beginning of the school year. Gilbert healed well and became an expert skier later in life! During high school, Gilbert moved to the Plouffe farm in Charlotte to help on their farm. This was a great opportunity for him to work and become part of another French-Canadian family. Gilbert graduated from Charlotte Central School and from CVU High School. He enlisted in the Navy and received training in Great Lakes, IL, where he was first exposed to the profession of welding, as well as scuba diving. Upon his discharge from the Navy, he continued his vocation and became a most proficient and sought after welder (pipe-fitter). Gilbert worked as an underwater welder at many nuclear plants in the Northeast. He also worked on the construction and maintenance of many buildings locally, including IBM, UVM, and the Ben & Jerry's factory. His brothers in the Pipefitters Union Local 693 were some of his closest friends and the source of his favorite stories. Gilbert enjoyed many adventures on and below the water. He often fondly recalled his small ship sailing journeys to Bermuda and around the Caribbean. His own boats, Starbuck and Sea Rose, were points of great pride. He was an expert diver who enjoyed treasure hunting on the bottom of Lake Champlain and lobster hunting in Long Island Sound. He was quite comfortable in zero visibility water under several feet of ice, and installed quite a lot of pipe in these conditions. Gilbert was the salt of the earth and content with the simple joys of life. In retirement, he took up hobby farming on his Westford land, affectionately called Nonconformist Farm. Some of his projects included raising birds, beehives, sugaring, gardening (including the best cannabis around!), logging with his Timber Talon, and creating the most impressive stacked woodpiles. He was known for riding his horses, Onyx and Ben, into town to pay his taxes. Gilbert's only child, Kristin, spent most of her life with her mother and half-siblings in Chicago IL. A few years ago, Gilbert was very excited that Kristin decided to come back to Vermont and reconnect with her father. Gilbert's family is most grateful and indebted to Kristin, as well as her partner Tristan, whom Gilbert saw as a son. They have been here for him these last years, caring and giving meaning to his life. Gilbert's friends and neighbors were a huge and very important part of his life, especially Gretchen Woerner, Yvan Plouffe, Johnnycat Adams, Tom Parker, Justin Morrill, and the Trombleys. All who met Gilbert were instantly taken in by his smile and his stories. His big wide-brimmed cowboy hat was superseded only by his big heart. His free spirit and bravery in the face of every challenge he encountered in his life will always be an inspiration to all of us. Gilbert is survived by his daughter Kristin LeClair and her partner Tristan Kading of Jeffersonville, VT; his brother Gerald LeClair of South Burlington, VT; his three sisters Claudette and Harry Swett of Danville, VT, Lorraine O'Brien of Lake Dallas, TX, and Gisele Hathaway of Colchester, VT; numerous cousins, most of them in Canada; one uncle and aunt, Roma and Noella Bouchard of St. Chrysostome, QC; and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, Rolland and Germaine Leclair, and by his younger brother Maurice, who died tragically in 1991, and Maurice's twin brother, who died shortly after his birth in 1952. Gilbert chose cremation. There will be no services at this time, but a celebration of his life will be held later in the year. The family requests that no flowers be sent. Those who wish to honor his memory may do so by greeting each other with a smile and kindness.

Charles Karoly Erdelyi, 83, a long-time resident of Essex, VT passed away at his home in Williston, VT on Wednesday May 5, 2021. He was born in Rakoscsaba, Hungary on May 1, 1938, son of the late Karoly and Rozalia (Lanc) Erdelyi. A refugee from the Hungarian revolution, Charlie came to the U.S. in 1957 and became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1963. He was a very loyal and dedicated family man and kept close relationships with his Hungarian family and friends throughout his lifetime. As the first college-educated member of his family, he was very proud to study Electrical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and of his multiple Master's Degrees. He had a long and distinguished career at IBM. His ingenuity and creativity led to several



patents. He enthusiastically applied his creative engineering skills to household repairs and projects. He loved music and passed that love on to his children and grandchildren. He could play almost any melody by ear on the violin, enjoyed playing clarinet with the "Little German Band" in Raleigh, NC, and was a long-time member of the choir of the Holy Family Church in Essex Junction, VT. He also enjoyed sailing, travel, and fishing in the surf of North Carolina. Charlie was predeceased by his loving wife of 43 years, Judith Erdelyi, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Douglas and Catherine Waugh. He is survived by his sister Erzsebet "Babu" Bolla (Gabor Bolla); four children: Elizabeth "Lisa" Marcus (John Marcus); Joseph Erdelyi (Lauren Aldrich); Julia Erdelyi (Joe Beliveau); John Erdelyi (Tracy Erdelyi); by 10 grandchildren: Sarah Marcus, Dan Marcus, Katie Erdelyi, Alex Erdelyi, Jordan Erdelyi, Marley Pratt, Morgan Erdelyi, Andrew Erdelyi, Averil Beliveau, and Aliza Beliveau; and by several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visiting hours were held on Tuesday May 11, 2021 at A W Rich Funeral Home - Essex Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday May 12, 2021 at Holy Family Church with Reverend Charles Ranges, S.S.E. officiating. Burial followed in the family lot in St. Thomas Cemetery, Underhill, VT. Memorial contributions in Charlie's name may be made to Holy Family Church, 4 Prospect St., Essex Junction, VT 05452. The family invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting awrfh.com.

It is with deep sadness, that we must announce the passing of our father, **Larry P. Godin** of Jericho, VT on Monday, April 12, 2021. He was born June 8, 1948. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his seven children; his brother Bruce, his sister Ann and his wife Anita. Larry found his calling, later in life, being a nurse and caring for others, which he really enjoyed. There will be no funeral service at this time; rather, a small family gathering at a later date. We thank everyone for their condolences and thoughts during this time of hardship. Elmwood-Meunier is in charge of arrangements.

Randall Edward "Randy" Palmer, Jericho, VT. It is with great sadness that we announce Randy's passing on Friday, April 16, 2021, the result of complications from a stroke suffered last August. Born March 2, 1945 to Richard and Arlene (Hunt) Palmer, Randy grew up in Jericho on the farm belonging to his beloved grandparents, Harold and Amy (Bentley) Hunt. He was part of the seventh generation of the Bentley family in Jericho, and a great-grand-nephew of Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley. He graduated from Jericho High School in 1963 and for a few years after, worked on farms in the area. At heart, Randy was a "car guy" and spent most of his career as an auto mechanic, in spite of being severely impacted by arthritis. He worked at several garages and for a period of time for himself, but mostly at Mark's Auto Service in Williston. Even after he retired, he still enjoyed going "over to the garage" just to talk with the guys or help out occasionally — it was home to him. In his earlier years, he enjoyed racing at the Milton Drag Strip with his buddy Roland and cousin Art, along with a lot of (shhh, don't tell anyone) street drag racing. Randy was a man of many talents — he was the guy who could fix anything. He



was always ready to help, whether it was repairing a car for a family member or friend, helping his father-in-law on a building project, or plowing the driveway for a neighbor. He gave freely of his time and talents. How do you sum up someone's life in a few sentences — Randy was a voracious reader and student of history, especially Civil War history, having visited many battle sites. He was a gifted story teller and had a wicked sense of humor. Randy's favorite times were those spent with family. He was the one who always kept in touch, traveling to Idaho, Texas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina for visits. He had a deep love of the outdoors and spent many hours riding the back roads on his scooter, fishing the rivers, lakes, and streams, feeding chipmunks in the back yard, or just sitting in the sun on a warm Spring or Fall day. He was a "cat whisperer," having rescued and cared for many of them over the years. A devoted son, grandson, brother, father, grandfather, and friend, will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Randy was predeceased by his father Richard Palmer of Arizona, mother Arlene Mayers and step-father George Mayers of Jericho, grandparents Harold and Amy Hunt of Jericho, and brother Ron Palmer of Idaho. Left to cherish his memory are his beloved children both of MA, Karen Palmer and her companion Al Giffen, and Jeff Palmer and wife Meghan, an amazing nurse who lovingly helped care for Randy in his last weeks. He also leaves his cherished grandchildren of whom he was so proud: grandsons Riley and Avery Palmer and granddaughter Jessica Choiniere, all of Massachusetts. Also surviving is his brother Dennis Mayers (Ferol) of North Carolina and his sister Sue (Mayers) Richardson of Essex, VT with whom he made his home the past two years. Randy also leaves behind a large extended family, including special niece and nephew Beth Fazzini (Jim) and Richard Palmer (Tracey); grand-nephews Anthony Fazzini and Dr. Michael Fazzini, all of PA, along with many cousins in the Palmer, Hunt, and Bentley families; his former wife and mother of his children, Marsha Bowen of AL; and in-laws in the Bowen family. Randy will also be missed by his close friend of over 50 years, Mark Jaro, who faithfully called him every few days to check on him, talk about the NASCAR race, or just share stories and memories. Those calls meant a lot to Randy. In honoring Randy's wishes, there will be no formal funeral. He will be interred at the Jericho Center Cemetery with a private graveside service to be held this summer at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Randy's name may be made to the Jericho Historical Society, 4A Red Mill Dr., Jericho, VT 05465.

Carol Grant Brouillard, 96, of 243 North Prospect St., Burlington, VT passed away on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT following a brief illness. Carol was born August 10, 1924 in Yonkers, NY to Alice Baldwin Grant and William R. Grant. She was predeceased by her parents; husbands Joseph Brouillard, Carlton Holmes, and Charles Comstock; sisters Irene Nelson, Dorothy Barca, Evelyn Shear, and Marion Young; brother William Grant; and her special son-in-law, Jake Shea. Carol worked at the former Burlington Savings Bank for many years and was a volunteer at the H.O. Wheeler School grandparent program after she retired. She worked for several years at Merola's Market in Burlington. One of Carol's favorite things to do every year was to watch the Vermont City Marathon and cheer on the runners. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Burlington for many years. She is survived by daughters Carolyn (Comstock) Moore (Susan Hood) of Essex Junction, VT; Cheryl (Comstock) Casey of Westbrook, CT; Tracy (Holmes) Mayo (Stephen) of Colchester, and grandchildren Nikki Hughes (Michael) of Vienna, VA., Erik Moore (Melanie) of Colchester, VT; Colleen Boothroyd (Damon) of Higganum, CT; Erin Casey of Westbrook, CT; and great-grandchildren Harlin Boothroyd, Matthew Hughes, Mason Moore, Althea Moore, and Wyatt Boothroyd; and several nieces and nephews. Cindy Hooley of Essex Junction, VT and John Hooley of Jericho, VT fondly called her Gram. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her, including her granddogs Charlie and Maddie. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Joseph's Residential Care Home for their wonderful care during the past two years; especially to Chris, Maria, Amy, Natasha, and Deb. A special thank you to Mary for being such a great friend. A thank you to the staff at McClure Miller Respite House for their very special care. Donations in her memory can be made to St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, at 243 North Prospect St., Burlington, VT, or the McClure Miller Respite House, 3113 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, VT. Arrangements are in care of Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home in Essex, VT, and burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery, Burlington, at the convenience of the family.



Rebecca Baca (Cooley, Willis-Eaton) Becki, our beloved mother, wife, friend, daughter, entrepreneur, teacher, and grandmother left this earthly plane on Thursday, May 6, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. She will be remembered for her silliness, intuition, compassion, and her fiery, free spirit that touched all who knew her. She was born November 7, 1957. In her early adulthood, Becki pursued her dream of starting a family, and even took her new baby to classes with her in order to complete her college degree. Becki dedicated her young adulthood to raising her three children. She had many passions that she fervently pursued, including being a waterfront director, teacher, tutor, writer, and mentor. Her successful catering business *The Welcome Kitchen*, which began out of her home selling cookies, was a huge source of her pride and joy. Her dedication to catering weddings, parties, as well as grab-and-go meals out of her Jericho home was a community staple of delicious, nourishing, and comforting foods. Becki had the gift to make true connections with her customers, often developing long-term friendships with her "regulars." In 2013, Becki wanted to experience something new and enrolled at St. Mike's (St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT) to obtain a master's degree in TESOL. This degree took her to the Boston (MA) area, where she taught at UMASS Boston as well as elementary schools, working with English language learners of all ages. She was well-loved



Obituaries continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY June 9, 2021 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Wesley Grove & Mari Leme to amend a previously approved conditional use review. This property is located at 91 Governor Peck Road which is in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB by Wesley Grove & Mari Leme for a 3 lot PUD. This property is located at 91 Governor Peck Road which is in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zoning District.

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



Taken on May 16, 1995 at about 2:30, this photo shows the original Autosmith building at 5 South Main Street, Jericho burning. The fire started from sparks while an automobile was being worked on and completely destroyed the building, along with several automobiles. John Burke, the owner at the time, soon rebuilt the building that is still on the site today, although it is no longer used for auto repair, as the business is now located on North Main Street.



The Jericho Post Office on October 6, 1982, when it was located in the former millinery shop building at 53 VT Rt. 15, what today is the parking lot of the Jericho General Store. The building had many uses through the years, at one time being a snowmobile business, a photography business, the office of Homestead Design, and back in the '50s and '60s it was the Jericho Post Office. This building was taken down in December 1982 to increase the size of the store's parking lot.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY GARY IRISH

Spring 2021 Honor Society inductees, awards at VTC

2021 marks the twelfth annual Vermont Technical College Honors Celebration, a chance to celebrate our students' success. These students have demonstrated the hard work, commitment and dedication needed to succeed in rigorous programs, and soon will be leaders in their professions. They are joining a history of students recognized for academic excellence and college service, and are receiving recognition by professional societies.

Colby Surprenant of Waterbury, VT has been recognized for Mechanical Engineering Technology Faculty Award and Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society.

Nicole Cutler of Waterbury, VT has been recognized for USCAA Academic All-American - Women's Cross Country and YSCC Academic All Conference - Women's Cross Country.

Marcus Wadlington of Jeffersonville, VT has been recognized for Alpha Delta Nu.

Brittany Rudacille of Jericho, VT has been recognized for Alpha Delta Nu.

Brandon Hanley of Waterbury, VT has been recognized for Phi Theta Kappa and Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society.

Orin Goss of Jericho, VT has been recognized for Phi Theta Kappa and Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society.

Obituaries continued from page 10

by her students and staff. It was in Massachusetts that she met her best friend and partner, Luis, and they settled into a special life by the ocean. She also worked at World's End in Hingham, MA, a natural land preserve that allowed her connection to nature to thrive, sustain and fulfill her. Becki loved everything about the outdoors, especially the ocean, clean air, nature trails, and animals. She loved to read and write, especially spiritual texts. She loved to connect deeply with people from all walks of life, and especially, she loved her children and granddaughter. Her down-to-earth, magnetic personality drew many close to her. Becki is survived by her mother Doris Cooley Walvoord; her husband Luis Baca; her children Jess Willis, Elizabeth Willis, and Nathan Eaton; her granddaughter Grace Willis; and her "BFF" Shawn Willis. She is also survived by her sisters Martha Benoit and Mary Retting; as well as nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her father, Walter Cooley. We love you forever. Services are pending

Jericho Town History, Volume 3, coming soon

By Gary Irish

Volume 3 of the History of Jericho, which has been in preparation for some time, is nearing completion. The text is complete, the pictures have been chosen, and final editing and formatting are now under way. Volume 1, printed in 1916, covered the history of the town up to that time, and Volume 2 covered the period from then up to 1963. The present volume covers the years from 1963 to 2013, with a similar format to the earlier books. Topics include schools, government, businesses, clubs and organizations, libraries, athletes, musicians, artists, writers, town celebrations, roads and bridges, and of course family genealogies, as well as numerous other categories. It also includes an appendix listing town residents who have served the town in some capacity, not just in this time period, but often going back to the earliest days as information was available — yes, if you wanted to know which year Parmenius Huntoon served as a Jericho Justice of the Peace, you can find it here!

As with the earlier volumes, this will be a hard bound book, approximately 480 pages in length. Fundraising to pay the cost of printing is going well, with donations not only from the town but also businesses and individuals, but the total is still a bit short of what is needed to cover the printing costs. We are still accepting donations, and in addition are announcing that we are accepting advance orders for those interested in a copy. The cost is \$25, and checks should be mailed to: Jericho Town History, 279 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, VT 05465. Be sure to include a return mailing address. It is expected the book will be available in late summer. Jericho Farmers Market begins May 27

We're counting down until the first Jericho Farmers Market of the year! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 27, 3:00 — 6:30 PM, and come on down to Mills Riverside Park to check it out!

Wondering what vendors are going to be at the market this season and want to make sure you don't miss any news? Head to our website at <http://www.jerichofarmersmarket.com> to join our mailing list to get weekly news and updates throughout the market season.

We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Community Food Sharing Shed

By John Connell, Underhill

The Community Food Sharing Shed across from the Underhill Town Hall will officially open on Friday, May 28.

The shed is a resource for those who would like free fresh garden produce. Local home gardeners and a few commercial growers donate the food.

The shed accepts only fresh produce. This does not include canned goods or used clothing.

Happy Growing Season as we celebrate the coming of summer!

Road crossing by nesting turtles: help in emergency

We certainly hope no turtle is injured by a vehicle as they cross roads to find nesting areas. However, in the event that you find an injured turtle, below is contact information for people who can help/advise. Here is the 2021 statewide list of wildlife rehabilitators. If there is an R listed that stands for Reptiles, which includes turtles.

https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Living%20with%20Wildlife/Rehabilitation/Wildlife_Rehabilitator_Locator_Map.pdf

In our area there is a a rehabilitator in Fairfax and Westford.

Fairfax: Audrey von Lepel, MD: home 802-849-6937, work 802-849-2023.

Westford: VT Wildlife Rescue Association (Carol Winfield): 802-870-4449.

Also, Toni Mikula of the VT Fish and Wildlife is a resource for reptile and amphibian issues, and can handle injured turtle calls: toni.Mikula@vermont.gov or 802-622-4525.

Slowing down over the next few months, and watching the road, go a long way in keeping these animals alive.

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

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

GETTING READY FOR CAMP – Common Ground Center needs help getting their Starksboro site ready for camp! Outdoor clean-up projects and more. Sunday, May 23, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Great project for families, teens, or groups. For more information contact Emily Gibbs, emily@cgcv.org or 802-453-2592.

SPANISH INTERPRETER – Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile will be bringing books to Spanish speaking migrants in Franklin County. They need a volunteer fluent in Spanish to help communicate with the families and coordinate book drop offs. This position may also help with translation of promotional materials and other paperwork. Contact Lauren Welsh, americorps@fgbookmobile.org or 802-232-2554.

MAKE IT WORK – the ReSOURCE Electronics Department is looking for volunteers who are technically inclined and can gain hands-on experience testing equipment for resale. Depending on skills and abilities, the volunteers will assist in processing donations of televisions, VCRs, DVD players, printers, routers, monitors, speakers, drives, and systems. Tasks include cleaning, testing, and preparing for resale. Shifts available Monday-Sunday. If interested, email volunteer@resourcevt.org.

TUTOR ADULT LEARNERS – Mercy Connections, an educational nonprofit in Burlington, needs qualified volunteers to tutor adults on-site in their Education and Transition Tutorials. If you have educational experience and the heart to volunteer, consider joining the tutoring team on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings to be matched either 1:1 or with a small group of 2-3 students. To learn more, contact Cathy Ainsworth, cainsworth@mercyconnections.org or 802-846-7162.

CONNECTING TEENS TO VOLUNTEERING - Find a volunteer opportunity today as summer is right around the corner! Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/need/index?tag=Teens+16+and+over>, click TEEN VOLUNTEERING 16 and older to find ways for older teens to connect and engage in our community!

Lamoille Transportation Study

By Seth Jensen, Principal Planner

Lamoille County Planning Commission

The University of Vermont Transportation Research Center (www.uvm.edu/cems/trc) is looking for your help in identifying transportation challenges in your community and possible solutions. We are inviting you to participate in a focus group meeting where you will have a chance to discuss these issues with other people in the Morristown/Morrisville community and UVM transportation researchers. To remain COVID-19 compliant, focus groups will be held virtually with access by phone or computer.

If you are interested in participating, please go to https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_0PXQZMhQIRxEt3E where you can learn more about the study and how to participate; or you can contact the research team with any questions about the study: Erica.Quallen@UVM.edu.

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Underhill Cemetery Association news

Underhill Cemetery Association (UCS) Fence Painting Project: We were able to complete over one-third of our total fence, thanks to our volunteers: Ann and Katelyn Hudson; Pam, Kasey, and Randy Clark; Debbie and Mike Henry; Doug St Amour; Rachel Becker; Alan Morse; and Mark and Lois Lavoie. We also received many cash donations (\$1495).

We would like to sincerely thank Clark's Truck Center for printing and mailing 25 newsletters.

Mapping: Marc Maheux has continued to do the mapping. We would like to thank Marc for doing this and encourage him to keep up the good work. Thank you, Marc.

Mowing: Our mowing contractor Jim Driscoll took over in 2020, and Jim and his crew did a good job. Thank you, Jim and crew. Jim has agreed to continue for the 2021 season.

Trash by the gate: Please remove your old flowers and Christmas wreaths, and take them away. Move and put them in your trash as we do not maintain trash at our cemetery. Thank you.

Monuments: Monuments are not the responsibility of the UCA; if your monument is leaning or down and or needs repair, please have it repaired. Contact us and we will guide you in the right direction, call or text our Sexton: 802-899-2233

Monument Repair: We hired James Woodman to repair some of the monuments in the older part of the cemetery, and Trustee Alan Morse, sprayed "all" of the monuments with a cleaner. The cleaner takes time to work and we are already seeing good results. Thanks, Alan.

We graciously thank the donors for 2020; total donations received: \$6102. Thank you! This amount is up 3% from 2019. We are not town supported; all of our expenses are aid from our investment accounts and donors like you. We cannot thank you enough! Let's see if we can do it again in 2021; donations may be sent to: P.O. Box 7, Underhill, VT 05489.

Planned Giving Creating a Legacy: The Underhill Cemetery Association has received generosity from family and friends of people buried here. People have made many types of gifts to support the cemetery and its upkeep.

A gift to the Underhill Cemetery Association can bring important financial benefits to you. Planned gifts can generate lifelong income, convert low-yielding assets into a higher income stream at reduced tax rates, obtain significant income tax deductions, and reduce estate taxes.

There are only three places that your assets will be distributed after your lifetime: your heirs, charitable organizations, or the government. Planning now will assure that you control the way your assets are used instead of the federal government doing that for you by default. Our Trustee can work with you to design the most advantageous ways of giving to meet your goals.

If you would like more information about planned gifts to the UCA, please contact Randy H. Clark, Trustee, at 802-899-2233, or honorarichief@aol.com.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING: UNDERHILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The members of the Underhill Cemetery Association's annual meeting was set for Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Clark's Truck Center, 6 Orr Rd., Jericho, VT to transact its business.

Jericho Bioblitz at Mobbs Park

By Tom Baribault, Jericho Conservation Commissioner

Here's an opportunity to thrill or just chill between now and Sunday, May 23. Get to know Mobbs Park in more detail in a relaxed setting with family or your small pod. Sharpen your senses and blossoming skills as citizen scientists as you enjoy the arrival of migratory songbirds and the emergence of the spring flowering plants, budding shrubs and trees, and the diversity of habitats within the Park. The well orchestrated trail system takes you through meadows, past wetlands, across streams, and along shaded woodlands. Take time to notice what insects are busy themselves with, which fungi are growing on what surface, which plants already harbor eggs. Come back to that spot in a week or so and see what has changed. What about the egg masses in that shaded pool, any tadpoles or salamanders yet? Remember how fresh and alive it all smells, sounds, and feels?

Thanks for participating in this community event! We'd like to remind visitors to keep safe distances from others, have a mask in the ready, don't forget to bring your camera or smartphone, and do check yourself for deer ticks. Please do not collect specimens or disturb any wildlife you may observe; many animals may be rearing young.

In order to capture your observations, please take a photo or make a sound recording. To post your data visit iNaturalist (inaturalist.org - you will need to set up a free account) and while you're there look for updates on our Spring BioBlitz project page:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/jericho-conservation-commission-mobbs-bioblitz-spring-2021>

There is additional information on the town website <http://jerichovt.org/conservation-commission>.

May is National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month — a time to honor and celebrate the over 1500 foster and kinship caregivers in Vermont who offer safety and stability for children while they can't be at home. Without the care and support of these incredible caregivers, the work of the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) would not be possible. And for that DCF says, Thank you for all that you do!

Please join us in celebrating Foster Care Month by thanking a foster or kinship caregiver you know, and by watching and sharing this appreciation video: <https://youtu.be/v7u63ECi0GA>.

Want to help? With over 1100 children in foster care, there is always a need for more caregivers.

You can be single, married, living with a partner, or joined through a civil union. Straight or gay, young or old, stay-at-home parent or work outside the home — all types of families are needed, and all are welcome to apply.

To learn more, go to <http://dcf.vermont.gov/foster>; or complete this short form and someone will contact you: <http://dcf.vermont.gov/foster-care-inquiry>.

**Seeking landowners to help with powerlines and pollinators study**

Just as hayfields are essential habitat for grassland birds like Bobolinks, consensus is building that the scrubby open habitat maintained under utility rights-of-way (ROW) plays an important role in the conservation of a diverse suite of wildlife. This summer, Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) is launching a collaborative research project with Vermont's largest electric utility, Green Mountain Power, to study how common rights-of-way management practices affect pollinator populations.

We aim to make recommendations for pollinator-friendly rights-of-way management techniques across New England. This work could have significant conservation impacts, as Green Mountain Power alone manages over 12,000 miles of rights-of-way. We need your help, landowners! We're looking to connect with landowners in north-central Vermont with ROWs on their property about conducting weekly surveys for pollinators this summer. Learn more at <https://vtecostudies.org/blog/powerlines-and-pollinators-undervalued-and-underappreciated/>.

VT specialty food producers win 2021 sofi Awards

Three of Vermont's specialty food producers received three awards in this year's annual sofi Awards presented by the national Specialty Food Association (SFA). The sofi Awards, which stands for "specialty outstanding food innovation," are the most prestigious awards in the specialty food industry and honor excellence across a variety of food categories, from vinegars to vegan snacks.

Winners were announced on May 5, with two of Vermont's producers awarded gold: Mount Mansfield Maple Products and Vermont Creamery; and one awarded silver: Big Picture Farm.

"Each year Vermont's innovative specialty food and beverage producers are recognized for their hard work and dedication to quality products," said Alexandra Jakab, Assistant Director of Vermont Specialty Food Association (VSFA). "Vermont is and continues to be a leader in the specialty food industry. Congratulations to all the winners on this remarkable achievement."

Big Picture Farm won silver in the confectionery (non-chocolate) category for their Farmstead Goat Milk Caramels — Brown Butter Bourbon. Mount Mansfield Maple Products won gold in the chocolate candy category for their Organic Dark Chocolate Maple Bark. Vermont Creamery won gold in the Other Dairy Category for their Sea Salt Cultured Butter.

To learn more about the work VSFA does, visit their website at www.vtspecialtyfoods.org, follow them on Facebook & Instagram, call their office at 802-839-1930.

Please don't take plants from JCC Pollinator Garden

In 2018 the Jericho Community Center (JCC) received a grant from the Native Plant Trust to establish a pollinator demonstration garden in the lower section of the Town Green. The garden was installed by volunteers and is there for people to see examples of native plants they can use in their own gardens to attract pollinators. We also use it to demonstrate alternatives to traditional gardening techniques. For example, each year I rake the leaves from the red maple right onto the bed and leave them there along with the plant stems. By doing this, habitat for overwintering insects and their larvae is created, and the soil is enhanced and protected from weeds.

As part of my spring garden chores this year I noticed that someone has helped themselves to a large clump of our plants. I am having a hard time thinking of any scenario when going onto public or private property and digging up plants is "okay."

Please do not remove plants from the public pollinator garden. If you have questions about the garden please reach out to the Jericho Conservation Commission, or to me directly — Sabina Ernst, beanvet@gmail.com.

SPORTS

Youth football back in August!

Football is back for the Wolverines for 2021!! Registration is now open. Please send email to atosch@ups.com to receive registration information and answers to any questions you have about the program and upcoming season, which will start up in mid-August.

We are also looking for volunteers and coaches for upcoming season.

Register for Chittenden County Soccer school

Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2021, July 12-16 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the love of the game to all our players. Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

Half and FULL Day camp options for all ages! Age groups range from 4 and up.

Please email barkereric15@gmail.com, with any questions. Or visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/chittendencountysoccerschool/home> to register!

ARTS / MUSIC / THEATER

Lamoille Union Middle School comedy online

Lamoille Union Middle School proudly presents *Check, Please* — a popular one-act comedy by Jonathan Rand — for online viewing Wednesday-Saturday, May 19-22.

Quinn Cayton of Cambridge and Gaia Meegan of Hyde Park star as “Guy” and “Girl,” enduring many disastrous blind dates at opposite ends of the same restaurant. Twelve of their classmates each take a turn at trying to impress their date. Middle school Administrative Assistant Darcey Fletcher shines in her cameo role as “The Waitress.”

Tickets are now on sale for five online showings: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 19-21 at 7:00 PM, and Saturday, May 22 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

Tickets are \$9 each. Each ticket has a unique access code and cannot be shared on more than one device. Visit <https://www.ShowTix4U.com> and search for “Lamoille.” For more information, look for Lamoille Union Theater Program on Facebook or Instagram, or email us at LamoilleTheater@luhs18.org.

Special thanks to Hoagie’s Restaurant, Lamoille County Players, and YOU for supporting the Lamoille Union Theater Program.

Stowe Jewish Film Festival concludes May 23-25

Stowe Jewish Film Festival, a program of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, is pleased to present a free virtual film festival in collaboration with Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center.

Please join us for the remaining film, which will be available to view over a 72-hour period at any time of the day.

Sunday-Tuesday, May 23-25: *Hummus: The Movie*. It unites, it divides, and it’s delicious! Who makes the best hummus and where did it come from?

Registration is required; donations are welcome. To register, go online to <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival-2021/>.

Hear MMU Madrigal singers on YouTube

MMU Madrigal Singers perform “True Colors” arranged by Tim Brent in this YouTube video of their virtual choir. We hope you enjoy it and share it with others! Here is the YouTube link to copy and paste into your browser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CV1g7bPesA.

Howard Center’s Arts Collective Spring Show

Howard Center’s Arts Collective Spring Show will be on exhibit through Monday, May 31 at the Arts So Wonderful Gallery, located in the University Mall, S. Burlington. The gallery is open Thursday, Friday, and Sunday from 12:00 – 4:00 PM.

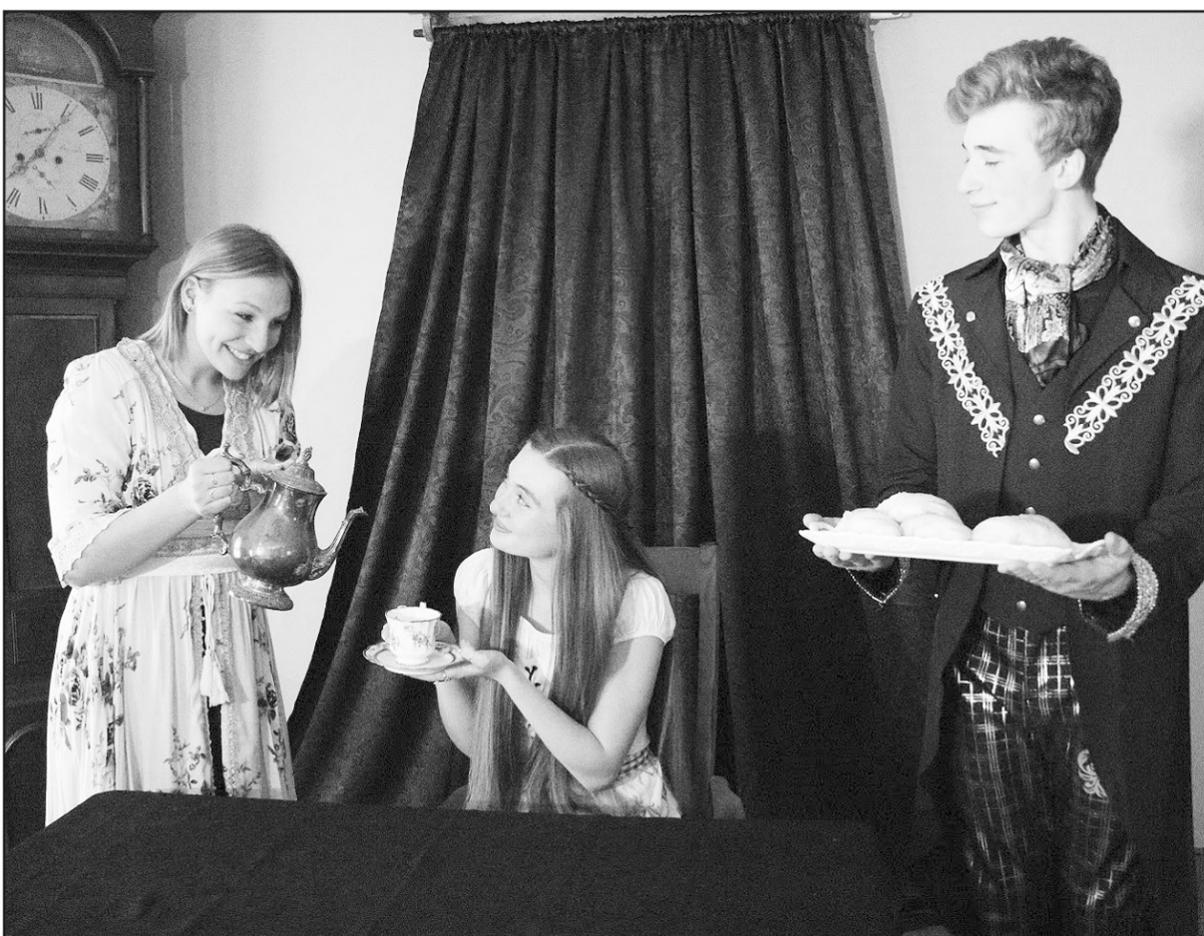
The Arts Collective works collaboratively to ensure that there are opportunities for artists with lived experience to connect, create, and exhibit work.

Artwork by Tony Shull at Sequoia Salon

The Sequoia Salon (38 Kilburn St., Burlington) is mounting an exhibit featuring the works of local artist Tony Shull, running through Friday, June 25. A project put together by several close friends of the artist, this retrospective highlights Shull’s whimsical, and often provocative, sense of humor as well as his iconic commentaries on our society and “the human condition.” Burlington photographer Carolyn Bates has spent the past several months collecting images of murals around town for a book she is preparing. In the course of researching her book, she became especially intrigued by Shull’s body of work found on the outsides of building all over town, but also collected inside various businesses and at the homes of his many friends. In collaboration between Bates and a group of those friends, the exhibit now being held at Sequoia Salon was “hatched,” including a collection of some of Shull’s original paintings, along with photographs of iconic murals, sculptures, and playful “toys” that are a specialty of the artist. Prints of about 40 pieces of artwork are available to buy, as are printed sets of cards featuring Shull’s images. Shull is a long-time resident of Vermont, having moved to Vermont and the Burlington area with his family when he was a child. He is a self-taught artist, musician, and inveterate tinkerer, and is always busy creating something out of whatever is at hand, according to his friends. The exhibit at Sequoia Salon is open to the public by appointment; call 802-540-8333, Monday-Saturday, to arrange a viewing. All proceeds from the sale of prints and cards will go to the Shull family for use in a future scholarship in Tony’s name.

Vermont Youth Dancers is back with *As You Are*

Vermont Youth Dancers presents *As You Are, The Story of Belle and the Beast*, a dance theatre production of the classic fairy tale. They will be at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe with a small in-person audience on Sunday, May 30, with unlimited simultaneous live stream tickets for sale for both shows at 12:30 and 6:30 PM. A selfish young prince and his castle staff fall under a spell of a mysterious enchantress, who turns him into a frightful beast until he can learn to love and be loved in return. The misunderstood and determined Belle may be their only hope, as she takes her mother’s place as prisoner at the castle. But time is running out... Will the spell be broken? This wonderful story of community, sacrifice, and identity is told by VYD through exciting hip hop and poignant lyrical choreography, along with stunning sets, lighting, and costumes. Do not miss this unique performance – the choreography, song lyrics, and the acting and emotion the dancers put on the stage is something extraordinary to experience! Tickets on sale at sprucepeakarts.org or 802-760-4634, and more information at vermontyouthdancers.org.



Christiana Davis (left) of Jericho as the Teapot, Emma Montgomery of Underhill as Belle, and Owen Bauman of Underhill as the Candlestick in a scene from the upcoming performance — live onstage, and live-streamed — by Vermont Youth Dancers. On May 30 at 12:30 and 6:30 PM, VYD will present *As You Are, the Story of Belle and the Beast (Re-Imagined)* at Spruce Peak Arts in Stowe. For tickets: sprucepeakarts.org; for more information: vermontyouthdancers.org or call Mia Geoff, 802-373-6157.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MMU Senior Theatre presents *The Actor’s Nightmare*

At the end of each school year, the seniors of the Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department put on a Senior Theatre Production. Last year a show was not possible, due to the pandemic. But this year, the seniors will be presenting *The Actor’s Nightmare* by Christopher Durang. The theatre department, which has been creating virtual performances all school year, is thrilled to be doing its first LIVE performance in a long time.

The Actor’s Nightmare is a play in one act and will be performed in the Mills Riverside Park Pavillion in Jericho on Friday, June 4, 7:00 PM; Saturday, June 5, 4:30 and 7:00 PM, and Sunday, June 6, 2:00 PM. The show is appropriate for the whole family.

Tickets will be on sale in the park (cash or check only please) for \$7, general admission; \$5 each students and children. Please bring a blanket or chair for seating.

If you’re looking for some lighthearted fun, and some outdoors entertainment, please come out to support the MMU Theatre Department.

A Ceilidh from the Mountains

This year Green Mountain Celts and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho present their annual Mid-Winter musical event featuring both music and photos intertwined to whisk you away to the Celtic World. There will be a mix of freshly recorded tunes as well as selections from past concerts. Join us from wherever you are. We will draw you away to the “mystical isles” with a montage of music and photos of the Celtic World. This is a multi-part series with part 5 of this adventure available on Friday, May 28. Sit back in the comfort of your own living room and enjoy the sites and sounds of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

This year Joanne and Terry Ranney, Mike Reynolds, Iain MacHarg and Pastor Arnold Thomas bring both new music and glimpses of past events with Mike MacNintch, John Guay, Nancy Bakemeier, Vonnie Estes, Carl Lorentson and Richard Salzman. The skirl of the bagpipes, the merry sound of Celtic whistles, the heartbeat of the drum are joined by fiddle, Hammered Dulcimer, keyboard, guitars, bass and photography to make up a lively and entertaining event for all ages.

Please consider a gift in support of the ministry of Good Shepherd. Your gift is vital and appreciated whether you are members, friends or visitors, as we continue to do important work. We thank you for your generosity. You may make your gifts by check or secure online gifting. These options are available below. For more information and to give a gift, go online to <https://goodshepherdjericho.org/e-giving/> or send a check to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, P.O. Box 495, Jericho, VT 05465.

VT International Film Festival runs through June 2021

The Vermont International Film Festival has partnered with the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival to present Split/Screen, an eight-month curatorial collaboration. Running through June 2021, the festivals will co-present a monthly series of films online. Learn more about Split/Screen at <https://vtiff.org/vtiff-now/split-screen/>.

Send your news to the Mountain Gazette
at mtngazette@gmavt.net

EWSD COVID Recovery Plan survey

By Ben Dickie, EWSD Communications and Public Relations Coordinator

The Essex Westford School District has been awarded approximately seven million dollars from federal relief funds (CARES Act) to support our students and learning community.

We are asking that those in the district take this short, anonymous survey to share your thoughts on how the District can best use these funds to create a COVID Recovery Plan that supports our students and learning community!

You can view the survey here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrOm-hdwkek5EDtgUraeh1JSSnhcc-nVVT_scFzRv7ilmCRQ/viewform?gxids=7628.

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If you’re looking for some lighthearted fun, and some outdoors entertainment, please come out to support the MMU Theatre Department.

Scholarship for Community-Minded MMU Seniors

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

If you know an MMU senior who excels in community service/volunteerism and is interested in business, they can still apply for the Western Slopes Business Association’s Business Entrepreneur Scholarship by Friday May 15th. The application for two \$2,150 scholarships is online here: <https://www.westernslopes.org/wp-content/uploads/WsbaScholarshipApplication2021.pdf>.

Note that Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) will stream and record this year’s MMU Commencement. You can watch it live on Comcast Channel 1076 and online at <http://bit.ly/MmctvYoutube>. To pre-order graduation DVDs, mail \$15 checks to MMCTV, P.O. Box 688, Richmond, VT 05477.

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2021

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

The *Mountain Gazette* store-delivers 4,500 - Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Essex Junction, Essex, Essex Center, Fairfax, Huntington, Hinesburg, Jonesville, and Richmond.

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The *Mountain Gazette* is owned and operated by Brenda Boutin. Boutin has a B.A. in Graphic Design and is the Graphic Designer. Ads are designed for you at no added cost.

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Publication: First & Third Thursday/Month

Deadlines: Thursday before publication:

Copy – 12:00 Noon

Advertising – 5:00 PM

Business Directory: \$18 each, must buy 5 issues (\$90 pre-paid) Size: 3-1/4" x 1-1/2.

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Cambridge Elementary early childhood program

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2021? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program is now enrolling children for our pre-kindergarten program for school year 2021/2022. Our 5 STARS program offers a morning or afternoon session, Tuesday-Friday, 12 hours per week.

Pre-register your child at <https://www.lnsd.org/>. To inquire about our program, please call Liz Lamphere at 521-5613.

May 4 EWSD Board meeting takeaways

By Ben Dickie, Essex Westford School District

Here are the major takeaways from the Essex Westford School District Board meeting on May 4, 2021. They include updates on an equity audit, a report from student Board members, in-person instruction, and an open seat on the EWSD Board.

Summary of Equity Audit Presentation

This is the second time this climate survey of students and staff has been conducted (2019 and 2021). We missed last year due to the disruption of COVID-19, and that likely impacted the drop in participation among students and staff. Overall, the survey results show improvements for students in four key areas including physical integration, social-emotional engagement, opportunity to learn, and instructional excellence. There was no notable change in engaged and inspired learners. The full report is available on the EWSD Board website: <https://www.ewsd.org/cms/lib/VT02217845/Centricity/Domain/185/EWSD%20Equity%20Presentation%20May%204%202021.pdf>

Student Report

Our student Board members presented feedback they gathered from conversations with middle school students. The students provided feedback about what's working, what's not working, and ideas for improving their educational experiences. The student Board members also provided an overview of a student proposal for taking a different approach to school safety and the District's relationship with the Essex Police Department. You can view the student report online at: <https://www.ewsd.org/cms/lib/VT02217845/Centricity/Domain/185/05.04.2021%20Student%20Report.pdf>

In-Person Instruction Update

Superintendent Cobb updated the Board about the District's plans to increase in-person learning. This is made possible due to recent changes to updated safety and distancing guidance from the VT Agency of Education. EWSD middle school students are moving to four days a week, as schools are returning in a staggered fashion during the first two weeks of May. Due to the number of students at Essex High School and the challenge of meeting distancing guidelines, as well as the success of the hybrid model for some students, EHS and the Center for Technology-Essex students will have the option to attend in person four days a week or continue in the hybrid model. End-of-year gatherings (proms, graduations, etc.) are being planned around updated guidance from the Agency of Education, which is to follow the Vermont Forward Plan guidance. View the latest COVID update and presentation given to the Board on May 4 online at: <https://www.ewsd.org/cms/lib/VT02217845/Centricity/Domain/185/05.04.2021%20Covid%20updates.pdf>

School Board Vacancy

Due to a resignation, there is a school board director vacancy for a member from Essex Junction. The term of this appointment will be until the next regular EWSD election in April 2022. Letters of interest were due to EWSD Board Chair Kim Gleason (kim.gleason@board.ewsd.org) no later than Sunday, May 16. The Board reviewed submissions at its May 18 meeting and will make an appointment no later than June 1. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kim.

Seeking host families for exchange students

FLAG is looking for host families for the 2021-2022 school year. MMU as well as many other schools in the area are accepting exchange students. If you're curious about what's involved, please contact me at epaula@flag-intl.org for more information.

You do not have to have a teen of your own to host. Single parents, parents of young children, couples with no children, empty nesters — all make great host parents!

Our exchange students have their own spending money and health insurance. We ask host families to provide three meals per day, a place to store their things (dresser and/or closet), a non-portable bed, and to treat the student like one of your own. Students are expected to help out around the house and to be an active member of their host family.

Below are descriptions of a few of the available students. I'd be happy to help you find a great match!

Bence is a 16 year old boy from Hungary with a great sense of humor. He likes hiking, snowboarding, fishing, and swimming. He plays basketball and soccer. He loves dogs and describes himself as a dog person. His third language is Spanish. His teachers describe him as reliable, hardworking, and polite.

Jeanne is a 16 year old girl from France who enjoys spending time with her brother and little sister. She loves skiing, cycling and playing sports. She also enjoys drawing, playing clarinet, reading, and singing. She describes herself as smiley and organized. She is looking forward to meeting new people.

Hina is a highly motivated and friendly girl from Japan who loves gymnastics. She also enjoys playing the piano and listening to music. She's learning to speak Korean. She likes pets and has a dog. She is interested in helping with social justice and environmental issues.



Canadian Geese in the pond at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

Mountain Gazette Publication & Deadline Dates 2021

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month .
The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at noon.
The advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

Publisher of the Mountain Gazette
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On the web at www.mtngazettevt.com

PUBLICATION DATES:

PUBLICATION DATES

- THURSDAY
- January 7
- January 21
- February 4
- February 18
- March 4
- March 18
- April 1
- April 15
- May 6
- May 20
- June 3
- June 17
- July 1
- July 15
- August 5
- August 19
- September 2
- September 16
- October 6
- October 20
- November 4
- November 18
- December 2
- December 16

DEADLINE DATES:

- THURSDAY
- December 30
- January 14
- January 28
- February 11
- February 25
- March 11
- March 25
- April 8
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27
- June 10
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- August 26
- September 9
- September 30
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- October 28
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Swallows feed on insects captured in midair, and it takes time to develop the necessary flight skills. Young Barn Swallows don't leave the nest until they're about three weeks old. At first the fledglings often perch close together in spots where it's easy for the parents to come and feed them. Later the adults stop feeding the perched youngsters, making them fly out to receive food in midair transfers instead; this probably helps the young birds to develop their flying abilities.

PHOTO FROM AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

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JUNE 17 PAPER
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at
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Annual Underhill Plant Sale June 5

This benefit for the Underhill Conservation Commission is an auction-style plant sale that takes place at 9:00 AM sharp! You place your donations (if you have any) in a line, next to everyone else's. Then you stand in front of your first choice. When the caller calls it, everyone picks up their first choice and puts it in a secure location (usually their car). Then you go to your second choice and so on, until they are all gone. The price is less for each subsequent plant: #1 is \$5, #2 is \$3, #3 is \$2, and after that every plant is \$1. Please take a look at your gardens over the next couple of weeks to see if there are any plants you might be able to bring to the plant sale to donate, or consider writing your information on an index card and posting "digging rights" for a specific plant at your house! Please wear a mask and practice distancing at this event. See you June 5!

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Westford - \$630,000
Beautiful parklike setting on 8 acres in Westford just over the Essex border. Enjoy sharing the great pond that attracts wildlife year round. 1872 sq ft with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths with our to be built open floor plan, contemporary colonial with a full front porch. Great location, private and exclusive.



Fairfax- \$410,000
To be built! 1,872 sq. ft. colonial w/ mountain views on .90 level lot w/ over 6+ acres of common land. Primary suite w/ large walk-in closet & bath. 2 additional bedrooms and full bath up. Open kitchen and dining area. Living room and den with a view. 2 car garage & full front porch. A Vermonter's dream!



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



Westford-\$150,000
This amazing land borders Essex & is an easy commute to towns & schools. Build your home on this 8.14 acre parcel w/ wonderful 1.5 acre pond that greets you as you arrive. S e p t i c permit for 4 bedrooms. Land is mostly level & open some trees add shade & interest to the land!

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*Underhill
Plant Sale*

What: Auction-Style Plant Sale
When: Saturday, June 5
Where: Underhill Town Hall
Time: 9:00am
Plant Donation Drop Off: starting at 8:30am

Gardeners Alert!
First Come, First Choice
Perennials, annual seedlings, plants of all types at rock bottom prices. Digging rights.

If you can donate some extras from your garden, please bring them starting at 8:30am.

Proceeds will benefit the work and programs of the Underhill Conservation Commission.

For questions, contact Karen at 899-4185.



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