

Flyin Ryan makes Adventure Scholar Award to Griffin Larson



Griffin Larson is the latest recipient of the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation's Adventure Scholarship. Griffins's Core Values are: 1. Be dedicated to what you're passionate about; 2. Pursue your goals; 3. Always have fun; 4. Make smart choices; 5. Explore new things; 6. Take advantage of opportunities; 7. Listen to others; 8. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help; 9. Create positive energy; 10. Encourage others to try new things.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Flyin Ryan is proud to announce the addition of a new Adventure Scholarship recipient to their Adventure Scholar family!

Griffin Larson is a 17-year-old freeskier from Smugglers' Notch, VT. Last year, he was honored with a Flyin' Ryan scholarship for his trip to the Junior Freeride World Championships in Austria.

The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation was formed in 2011 to extend the impact of the life

of Ryan Hawks who, at the age of 25, tragically died while competing on the freeride world ski tour. Before he died, Ryan composed his 14 Principles for Living. The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation has focused its mission around the concept that "core values matter." Over the last three years, the Foundation has developed a five-step program called Flyin Ryan Decisions. The program was pioneered at South Burlington High School, where over 1200 students have deliberately taken ownership of their lives by composing and communicating the core values which arise from within, and using their core values as a basis for increased self-respect and future decision making. The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation is currently introducing this same program to other schools around the state.

Griffin began skiing at Smuggs when he was 3, joined the SNSC freeski team at 8, and has been competing ever since. He has traveled across North America and into Europe for freeskiing events. This year, he's excited to be a freeski coach for the Smugglers' Notch Freeski Team, and is looking forward to sharing the joy of skiing with the younger generation. In the summer he transitions into a competitive cyclist, racing on both mountain and road bikes. He is also a mountain bike coach at the Catamount Outdoor Center, where he guides kids aged 6-14 on how to become better mountain bikers. He is using this second award to travel to Europe to compete at the Junior Freeride World Championships.

The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship Program exists to provide monetary awards to assist adventurers of all kinds, from all around the world, in pursuing their passions. Applicants must come up with their own set of Core Values and demonstrate character, passion for their goal, and financial need. To date we have given out over 120 awards. Learn more and apply at www.FlyinRyanHawks.org/Adventure-Scholarship-Program/.

Wind damage, roads, power outages, and patience: Jericho

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

Last night (Tuesday, January 9) we experienced one of the most serious wind, heavy snow and rain events in recent history -— and there could be another coming Friday into Saturday (January 12-13). Aside from widespread power outages, property damage, and a number of now resolved road closures, we are fortunate. UJFD has reported no injuries or serious EMS activity. 1200 Jericho residents have been waiting for power to return. As of 2:00 PM on Wednesday, January 10, these were the updates from the utilities providing power to our community. If/when able, please vist these sites for restoration updates:

• 16 incidents reported, 909 homes without power, 100% of subscribers affected —https:// outages.vermontelectric.coop/

• 13 incidents reported, 331 homes without power, 17% of subscribers affected —https:// greenmountainpower.com/outages/town/ jericho/

We will provide another update tomorrow morning, both on the Join in Jericho website and via FPF post. If you, family members of neighbors have any concern re: staying warm don't hesitate to contact the American Red Cross.

I want to give a big shout of gratitude to the Town of Jericho Road Crew, who started at 3:00 AM during the height of heavy wind — did an incredible job plowing, assessing downed trees



for triage and removal — and had all affected roads passable by midday. Thank you for all of your hard work. Only Barber Farm Road and Skunk Hollow are still waiting to reopen downed power lines have resulted from larger tree fall. Stay safe and don't hesitate to seek help if needed...

(From the Editor: we know this is out of date by this edition's publication, but wanted to acknowledge the seriousness of this event. The photo above was taken on Governor Peck Road Wednesday morning, January 10 — what the previous night's extreme high wind event did to a pole-mounted, fixed rack of solar panels.) PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Lamoille FiberNet looks back at 2023, builds momentum in 2024 By Lisa Nolen Birmingham, Interim Director, Lamoille FiberNet CUD

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) had a very productive 2023 and is poised to make great progress in 2024. Our 2023 efforts and our 2024 priorities are summarized below and on our website, but first I want to thank our remarkable Governing Board for their leadership.

These individuals leverage their professional skills and community knowledge and give considerable personal time to bringing broadband to our unserved communities. If you know them, thank them. If you have questions, ask them. Belvidere: Carol Caldwell-Edmonds; Cambridge: Sam Lotto, Matt McCabe; Eden: Carey Earle; Elmore: Randy Tomlin; Hyde Park: Michael Rooney, Carol Fano; Johnson: Paul Warden, Jeffrey Bickford; Morristown: Jane Campbell, John Meyer; Stowe: Stephen Friedman; Waterville: Jeff Tilton (Chair), Scott Johnson; Wolcott: Andrew Ross (Vice Chair), Bradley Horstman. I also want to thank the Lamoille County Planning Commission, the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation, and the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) and their talented staff. Their guidance and expertise

helped us navigate the complexities of state and federal funding and build capacity.

Finally, I want to thank our Lamoille County legislative delegation and our federal delegation, particularly Senator Peter Welch's office, for their unwavering support. Their collective leadership has helped bring universal broadband within reach.

So, let's take a quick look at our 2023 milestones:

· Developed a two-phase Universal Service Plan to bring high speed fiber broadband internet to all unserved and underserved addresses in Lamoille County, and successfully applied for \$15.6 million in Vermont Community Broadband Board funding to build Phase 1 of the two-phase plan. Phase 1 reaches 86% or 4,170 of Lamoille County's unserved and underserved addresses. Because our partner Consolidated Communications (CCI) is investing almost \$10 million, Phase 1 is fully funded and can begin this spring! • Thanks to widespread community support, Lamoille FiberNet also raised \$225,800 in local ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) pledges to support construction costs in Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Wolcott, and Waterville! The VCBB approved a 1:1 match, doubling the investments in these seven communities!

• We negotiated a 20-year partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI) to operate and maintain the new fiber network with service quality, network performance and consumer protection commitments. This includes building a future-ready, 10G network designed for growth and commitments to keep our network current — offering the same products here as the rest of northern New England and keeping prices competitive and affordable. For current information on Fidium products and pricing visit https://www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-internet.

• We also continued to build organizational

all of Lamoille FiberNet's footprint in Elmore and Wolcott, most of Hyde Park, except the northeast corner, and all of Morristown, except a few addresses on VT Rt. 15 east near the Wolcott border. We plan to build roughly twothirds of Cambridge and Stowe, building to the ends of line in Sterling Valley and Nebraska Valley in Stowe, and North Cambridge to Fletcher in Cambridge. We will be sharing our construction plans with each community and publishing town-by-town details when they become available.

• Develop a program, funded by the local ARPA grants, to subsidize installation or extraordinary construction costs for some premises.

capacity to oversee the implementation of the universal service plan and to remain accountable to our communities. Towards that end, in 2023, we recruited several new board members, launched a new website, and completed audits for 2021 and 2022.

Turning to 2024, we have four major objectives:

• Complete construction of Phase 1 which includes all unserved and underserved areas in Belvidere, Eden, Johnson, and Waterville,

• Design and fund Phase 2, which will complete the universal service plan, ideally by December 2025.

• Draft a long-term sustainability and governance plan, to ensure that our grant commitments are fulfilled and our communities continue to benefit from digital equity initiatives.

Our 2024 plan is a manageable challenge. With the continued support and leadership from our Governing Board, our communities, and legislative leaders, I am confident we will be

NEWS BRIEFS

Varnam Library offers help to residents without power

Just a reminder to all who are still without power, The Varnum Library in Jeffersonville is open and available to all who need to charge devices, use computers/printers, warm-up, or grab a snack and cup of something hot to drink.

The internet is accessible from the road 24/7, and there is a protected outlet on the porch next to the book-drop that can be used even if the Library is closed.

Please use whatever resources you need, we love our community and are here for you.

Jericho prepares for the Presidential Primary March 5

By Jessica R. Alexander, Jericho Town Clerk

The Presidential Primary is upon us. Presidential Primary Ballots are available now at the Jericho Town Clerk's Office.

There will be two ballots for the Presidential Primary: Democratic and Republican. At the polling place or when requesting an early/ absentee ballot, voters MUST declare which ballot they want. This preference for a particular party ballot is recorded on the voter checklist for the Presidential Primary Election. This is the only time (every four years) in Vermont when the voter must declare a preference for which ballot that they wish to vote. We do not register by party in Vermont, but this Vermont law was created so that Vermont can participate in the national party primary for President. (17 V.S.A. section 2704)

You can request an early ballot by phone, 802-899-4936 x 100, in person at the Town Clerk's Office, by filling out an early/absentee ballot request form at Town Hall, or from our website or through *https://mvp.vermont.gov/*.

In person voting will be available 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 5 at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho.

If you are interested in working at the polling place on election day March 5, 2024, you must be a registered Jericho voter or a youth 16 or older residing in Jericho. Contact Jessica at *jerichovermont@yahoo.com* to find out more about volunteering as an election official.

MMCTV seeking board member

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) is looking to fill an open seat on **News briefs continued on page 2**

COMING EVENTS



Join the conversation at Burlington City Arts Center's Lorraine B. Good Room (or on Zoom) on Thursday, January 25, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, on contemporary sculpture with Material World, a panel discussion led by BCA Curatorial Assistant Jacquie O'Brien featuring Texture & Response artist Karen Cygnarowicz — whose work Loose Ends is pictured above and Vermont-based sculptors Kevin Donegan and Meg McDevitt. Panelists will delve into their experiences working with a wide range of materials and reflect on the dynamic and evolving arena of three-dimensional artwork. Come out to the BCA Center in person or register for the free virtual option online at https://mailchi.mp/burlingtoncityarts/january-2024-happenings-212845. And get creative together at Family Art Saturday on Saturday, January 27, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at BCA Center's 4th Floor Education Studio. Drop in for an artmaking activity inspired by the work of Texture & Response come explore the fascinating textures and bright colors of fiber macro-weaving while you create and decorate your own fun and funky textile wall-hanging. The Material World exhibit will run Wednesday-Friday, 12:00 - 5:00 PM and Saturday, 12:00 - 8:00 PM through Saturday, January 27.

PHOTO BY LIZA VOLL

Ongoing Events

The Underhill-Jericho Walking Club meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5:30 PM, at the United Church of Underhill on Park St., Underhill. We walk for 30-45 minutes; we don't walk if it is raining or snowing. Please bring yak tracks and a headlamp. Join us whenever you like!

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (February 8) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety. org/events.html.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (January 25, February 8, 22), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper, on the last Thursday of the month (January 26), 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come and enjoy some great soups and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

Bone Builders Class: at the Jeffersonville Church (Second Congregational Church of Christ, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville) from 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. It is a drop-in class, but first-timers have a couple of pages to fill out and sign. It is free, but a donation bucket is available for those wishing to reimburse the church for the use of the space. All are welcome. We have a good time - be prepared for some laughter as well as improving your strength and balance. Call Melody Tobin (802-644-2409) to discuss, or just show up.

Bone Builders Class: at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center, on Mondays/Wednesdays/most Fridays, 9:00 10:15 AM; first Friday of the month, 9:45 AM. Sponsored by the United Way of Northwest VT, RSVP Bone Builders is a free exercise program for men and women, designed to prevent the negative effects of osteoporosis. For more information contact Danielle Schwer, 802-861-7821 or danielle@unitedwaynwvt.

Thursday Trivia nights — Thursdays, now through May 1, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Supersounds Trivia at Jericho Cafe & Tavern, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come by for Trivia, hosted by DJ Mike Toomey. Lots of awesome prizes, and a way to ward off the winter blues.

SongFarmers, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (January 17, February 21), 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments: guitars, banjos, mandolins, fiddles, ukuleles, bass, keyboard. No electronics except keyboard and bass. It's a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. If you plan to lead, please choose a song that you can play at a steady rhythm and bring a chord chart for your song. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just come and enjoy the gathering, are welcome too. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Weekly Community Choir — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join Mountainsong! We are a volunteerrun community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on the second and fourth Thursdays (during the winter) of the month (January 25, February 8, 22), 6:30 - 8:00 PM at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Whether you sing in the shower, sing Karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable here. Our aim is to sing for the joy of singing (no performances except for one short one for family and friends at the end of the season). Come as often as you are able. Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Questions about the group? Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Doug Varney, 802-343-4513 or vthockeyman@gmail.com, or just show up!

Healthy Habits VT, meets Friday and Saturday mornings: Fridays in Essex Junction at 9:30 or 11:00 AM; Saturdays in South Burlington at 9:30 AM. Leslie Dunn leads weekly group meetings where participants talk about managing weight, being more physically fit, and motivating each other - building habits to achieve better health is the underlying theme of each meeting. For more information, go to https://www.healthyhabitsvt.com/, email leslie@healthyhabitsvt.com, or call 802 234-1277.

Coming Events

Wednesday, January 17

BCA presents Arts & Economic Prosperity Study results, 4:00 PM, BCA Center, Lorraine B. Good Room, 135 Church St., Burlington. Burlington City Arts (BCA) will unveil the local results of Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6), a comprehensive economic and social impact study of the Great Burlington Area's nonprofit arts and culture industry. Results of the study, conducted by Americans for the Arts in partnership with BCA, reports on the impact of arts-related economic activity on jobs and tax revenue generated to the greater Burlington area, Vermont, and the federal government. Learn more about the AEP studies series at https://aep6.americansforthearts.org/. Included at the event will be Joan Goldstein, Commissioner, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development; Doreen Kraft, Executive Director, Burlington City Arts; Susan Evans McClure, Executive Director, VT Arts Council; Harold Steward, Executive Director, New England Foundation for the Arts; Kara Alnasrawi, Director, Burlington Business Workforce, and Development/

Church Street Marketplace. The press conference will also be streamed live on YouTube and remain on BCA's YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/c/BurlingtonCityArts after the event.

Thursday, January 18

Preserving Ash for the Future, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, online. As the Emerald Ash Borer makes its way into VT forests, we have an opportunity to mitigate the loss of ash trees and help preserve them for the future. Join us to learn about strategies that landowners, foresters, conservation organizations, and community leaders can employ to promote well-adapted forests that include ash in the future. Presenters in this Vermont Land Trust event are Paul Catanzaro, Associate Professor and State Extension Forester, University of Massachusetts, and Caitlin Cusack, Forester, Vermont Land Trust. This event is perfect for landowners, foresters, and community forest managers. Free; donations welcome. For more information or if you have questions, contact events@vlt.org. Please pre-register at https:// vlt.org/events/preserving-ash-for-the-future/.

Friday, January 19

Let's Do Lunch, 11:30AM-12:30 PM, Second Congregational Church, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville. Community lunch provided by the Town of Cambridge Recreation. Join family, neighbors and friends for lunch and conversation. Vegetarian and gluten free options are usually available. By donation with a recommended donation of \$4 for adults. Made possible with support from the Cambridge Elementary School, Hanleys, and various community members. Volunteers and donations of food gladly accepted. Questions? Contact Nanci Lepsic, 802-343-2372.

Saturday, January 27

Pie for Breakfast, 8:00 - 11:00 AM, Cambridge Elemetary School cafeteria, Jeffersonville. Cambridge Area Rotary's annual event — \$5 for all the pie you can eat and all the coffee you can drink! There will be a variety of pies and quiches to choose from. Plus, it's a chance to visit with friends and neighbors and shake off cabin fever. Donations support Rotary's various efforts in Cambridge and Jeffersonville.

Monday, February 5

Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Akeley Building, 67 S. Main St, Stowe. The session begins with a light breakfast, followed by a short briefing by the legislators attending, and a Q&A session. Breakfast by Two Sons Bakehouse; coffee by Jenna's Promise Roasting Company. Learn more and please register at https://lamoilleeconomy.org/breakfast/.

Wednesday, February 7

Lions Blood Drive, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Covenant Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. Please consider making the time to donate. As always, the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be serving pie with ice cream after you have donated. Appointment times can be scheduled at https://www. redcrossblood.org/, code: COVENANT.

Friday, February 16

VTSU Calcutta Night Fundraiser, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. VT State University, Johnson. The softball team at VTSU Johnson is doing their Calcutta fundraiser again — tickets this year are \$50; if you want to bring a guest it is an additional \$17 or they can just purchase a ticket for double the chance to win. The cost of ticket includes a dinner, but you don't need to be present to win! The Grand Prize is \$750. All the money we raise goes the team trip to Myrtle Beach at the end of February for spring training. To purchase a ticket, please contact slbsweet802@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 17

Third Annual Westford Winter Festival, 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Westford Town Common, VT Rt. 128, Westford. Save the date!

Sunday, February 18

Winter Soup Bowl, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center. A variety of soup selections will be provided, including a vegan option. Bring your own utensils, bowls, beverages, and cheese or bread or dessert to share. Come share in the fun of this free and family friendly event!

Monday, March 11

Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast, 8:00 - 9:30 AM, Jenna's Promise, 117 Saint Johns Road, Johnson. The session begins with a light breakfast, followed by a short briefing by the legislators attending, and a Q&A session. Breakfast by Two Sons Bakehouse; coffee by Jenna's Promise Roasting Company. Learn more and please register at https://lamoilleeconomy.org/ breakfast/.

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our nonprofit organization's board. We are the local community media center for Jericho, Underhill, and Richmond. While audiovisual production, outreach, and fundraising skills might be helpful, we are interested in board members with a commitment to our mission to connect community through media. It's not a time-demanding role, with just four meetings a year, plus optional special projects.

portions will be chipped and taken away. If anyone wants some of the chips it will be up to you to talk to the contractors while on site and ask them to blow some chips on the ground for you. The Town cannot pay to have the contractors deliver wood products to abutting residences. Our goal here is to remove hazardous and potentially hazardous trees to make the roadway safe for travel. This is an expensive endeavor and this is just the beginning of the ash removals that the Town will need to do over the next several years. Please, if you have any questions do not hesitate to email myself or the Town Administrator.

From the Planning Commission: Happy New Year! The PC is pleased the Selectboard adopted a new Town Plan just in time for 2024. The PC will be working to implement Plan elements, such as zoning updates for housing development and natural resource protection, and improving walking and biking around Jericho. As we begin the new year, we welcome residents to share joys and concerns about life in Jericho, with our Town Planner, Linda Blasch, or at a PC meeting, held the first and third Tuesdays of every month, 7:00 PM, Town Hall and on Zoom. From the Town Clerk: If you are considering running for office in Jericho, visit the Elections Page to see a list of open positions and download a nominating petition: jerichovt.org/elections/ news_feed/elected-position-openings.

We are interested in bringing new voices to the board! Learn more about us at https://mtmansfieldctv.org/ and apply (or nominate someone) at *mmctv15@gmail.com*.

Ash tree removals

on Bolger Hill Rd., Jericho

By Don Tobi, Tree Warden, Jericho and Underhill

This is to inform residents living along and with property adjacent to Bolger Hill in Jericho that we will soon be having DJ's Tree Service remove hazard trees in the Town right-of-way (ROW) along the entire length of Bolger Hill. These trees have already been marked with blue tree-paint. They are mostly dead and dying trees which includes a number of ash trees possibly already infected with the ash borer. Only those trees that pose a threat to the town ROW and the road will be removed. Those that may be in the ROW but are leaning away from the road will be left.

Those residents wishing to keep the wood from any trees located along your respective road frontage should contact me at dtobi@uvm.edu. I will then mark the trees with pink flagging with a note to the contractor to leave that portion of the tree that you wish to keep. Any trees left will be left where they are, but moved up and out of the roadway and ditches. All tops and unwanted

MMCTV's top 10 local 2023 videos By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

What topped Mount Mansfield Community TV's (MMCTV) most-viewed list in 2023? Here are a few hints: Graduation, Jericho Town Plan, and July Flooding. Check out the full list here: https://mtmansfieldctv.org/watch-2/mmctv-top-ten-in-2023/.

Happy New Year to all! Keep your input coming at our yearend viewer poll (with some sweet prizes), found at http://www. MtMansfieldCtv.org.

News from the Jericho Town Hall

From the Town Administrator: The Town's Maintenance Facility needs to be replaced and voters will be asked to decide on a bond at Town Meeting in March. The town is holding a second public open house for residents to ask questions and tour the current facility. The date will be announced in the upcoming weeks. Read more online at https://jerichovt.org/Highway-Department/news feed/town-maintenance-facility-2.

Legislative update with representatives Squirrell, Graning

By Edye Graning, State Representative

Chittenden-3 House District

Representatives Trevor Squirrell and Edye Graning will be holding monthly legislative updates for Jericho and Underhill residents at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on River Road, Jericho. Our first session will be on Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 - 7:00 PM. We hope to have remote attendance capability for these updates and will provide that information as we get closer to the event date. If you have specific questions or would like to know what is being discussed at the statehouse, please join us for this conversation.

The dates for the rest of this winter and spring, all 6:00 - 7:00PM, are Thursdays, February 15, March 14, April 11, and May 9.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

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Forest management at Westford's Maple Shade Town Forest

By Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester January 4

This winter we will be continuing the forest management the Maple Shade Town Forest (MSTF, a.k.a. "Jackson Farm"). As in the past two winters, this work will be done by (Westford's own) Evan Aiken, with trees marked to be cut and the project supervised by me. We will be getting started as soon as the ground freezes, as soon as this week. Here's some more information about this project:

Over the last two winters we have gotten some great work done at the MSTF! This project is helping make the forest at the MSTF more diverse and resilient, with improved wildlife habitat. It has also provided some excellent education and outreach opportunities - demonstrating what healthy forests and responsible forest management looks like. Finally, the project has been generating revenue (which has been used in part to fund trail improvements at the MSTF) and local renewable resources. Some of the hemlock timbers harvested last winter will be used in the restoration of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps East Monitor Barn (learn more about this project here: https:// eastmonitorbarn.org/ and watch a Stuck in Vermont episode about it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgG6BFq49W4) and some of the firewood went to Westford's own Trent's Bread.

Most trails at the MSTF will remain open this winter, but please respect and follow trail closure signage and be aware that heavy equipment will be using the main entrance to the Maple Shade Town Forest, so please use caution when entering.

I hope to see you all at the Westford Town Lands this winter!

Cambridge Community Center history, part 3

By John Dunn and Russ Weis, owners

Part 3: The Future of the CCC

Many people worked very hard and donated their time and money to create the Cambridge Community Center (CCC). It is not perfect. The main building is fully functional, but needs some improvements. It is a work in progress, yet it already serves hundreds of people - from its preschoolers' play group and teenaged weightlifters to its dozens of senior pickleball players, and many others between.

Currently the CCC functions mainly as a recreation and fitness center but, in the dream that Russ, Linda Collins, I, and others had when we started this venture, it can become a regional center for supplemental education, social interaction, and many additional services related to community health and well-being. Imagine a place where adults could learn a new language, nutrition/cooking, computer or other technical skills, where teens could hang out after school or on weekends, support groups could meet, preschoolers could interact with grandparents. A strong community center fills in the gaps between traditional institutions like churches and schools and helps us prevent and/ or deal with the problems of our modern society such as social isolation, poor mental and physical health, substance abuse, and other unhealthy behaviors.

So how can we get there? We believe community ownership, along with non-profit management of the community center, is the best way to reach its potential. This would not be a "government" enterprise, but rather a public-private partnership combining the strengths of an experienced management team with the stability, volunteer base, and other resources available to a strong municipality.

It would begin with the Town of Cambridge acquiring the facility and partnering with a non-profit group such as the Lamoille Health Partners, which would be responsible for its staffing, programming, and other day-to-day operations. A committee of community volunteers would serve as a liaison between Town officials and the non-profit manager. This committee's role would include assessing the effectiveness of existing programming, identifying groups that might benefit from community center services, soliciting and suggesting ideas for new programming, keeping a watch on the physical condition of the facility, and assisting with grant writing and other fundraising activities. A similar model has functioned very successfully at the nearby Hyde Park Opera House, in which the Village of Hyde Park owns the Opera House, and the Lamoille County Players takes care of programming and the bulk of the operating expenses using revenues gained from their programming, grant writing, and other fundraising activities. This partnership has been highly successful for over 70 years, with minimal cost to taxpayers.

In addition to its physical infrastructure, the 7.2 acres of land

Westford's third annual Winter Festival February 17

It's almost here, folks! The third annual Westford Winter Festival will be on Saturday, February 17, 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM. To volunteer or for questions contact Westfordwinterfest@gmail. com. Watch the Westford Events page and the Town Newsletter for updates and more details.

Park at the Westford School, and ride the Horse-Drawn Trolley down to the Common — free, thanks to our generous sponsors!

On the Common, feast on special selections from our own Westford Country Store, taste a chili from the third annual Chili Cook-off, enjoy tasty sausages from the Butcher Barn, enjoy a cold beer served by Switchback Brewery!

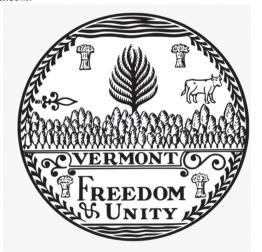
Warm up at a campfire with S'mores and marshmallows, visit the Library to follow the Story Walk around the Common, and learn the History of the village area at the Historical Society.

Play Mini-Golf at the Red Brick Meeting House, take the kids up the hill to the Westford Common Hall to have fun with Rocking Ron the Friendly Pirate at 12:30 PM.

Tap your feet to excellent music from 2:30 – 4:00 PM while choosing your favorite items at the Raffle at the Common Hall. When you're ready to take a break and relax, catch the Trolley

back up Brookside to warm up at the Bonfire! More information and events to come!

To volunteer, or for questions, contact Westfordwinterfest@ gmail.com.



Leadership and the Governor's "affordability crisis" By Bill Schubart

For over 70 years, I've confronted each New Year reviewing what got better, what got worse, and what I hope for in the ensuing year. At 78, I'm grateful that I have what I need for a

peaceful retirement but I want more for my fellow Vermonters. In 2017, Governor Scott took the reins of government and has done a good job as a crisis manager (COVID and flooding) and as a navigator, steering clear of the reefs. But the waters are falling and the reefs are rising. It's time for the kind of courageous leadership that tackles the complex challenges that make life harder and harder for many Vermonters.

I and others have written extensively about them: cost of and access to healthcare, financing public and higher ed, affordable housing, hunger, nutrition and food systems, taxation and regulatory systems, criminal justice, and the existential threat of environmental degradation. These seven issues deeply affect the lives of Vermonters, and the difficulty of solving them can no longer serve as a duck blind for executive, legislative, and judicial evasion.

Governor Scott has long taken shelter by using the term "Vermont's affordability crisis," citing housing, education, regulation, and taxes. But "affordability" is a function of both costs and the revenues available to pay for them. It is also a self-defeating argument, as pushing these complex challenges down the road only increases their expense and adds to the affordability crisis.

Vermont's 230-year-old-motto Freedom and Unity urges an equilibrium between what we do for ourselves and our families and what we do for our communities. We pay a lot of attention to the "every man for himself" idea of freedom, but could do better on the "unity" part. There is no true freedom without unity.

Thirteen years ago Bill Sayre, Kathy Hoyt, Mike Costa, and

wealthiest 5% of households have incomes 9.6 times as large as the bottom 20% of households and 3.7 times as large as the middle (\$65,700) 20% of households. Income is post-federal tax and includes the value of the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the value of food stamps and housing subsidies. Income is also adjusted for inflation (to 2009 dollars) and for household size. Those of us who have done fundraising in Vermont know there is significant, if discreet, wealth here.

What if Vermont were to introduce a "community-benefit investment assessment (CBIA)" under which Vermonters who earned incomes exceeding \$1M a year invested 3%, those with \$500,000 a year invested 2%, and those with over \$200,000 a year invested 1% to raise revenue to invest in community services that educate, prevent, diagnose, and address problems before they become much less affordable to fix?

According to Vermont Tax Department 2021 data, such a community benefit assessment could produce about \$184M that could be used for this upstream investment to reduce the impact of complex systems challenges before they become too expensive to fix. Founding father Ben Franklin famously stated in 1736, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Have we learned nothing in the ensuing 288 years?

During our tax system redesign work, we heard from several rich Vermonters who encouraged us to tax them more. So might it make also sense for leadership to innovate by trying out a voluntary tax focused on alleviating one of the challenges mentioned above. A Vermonter could commit a special tax contribution to solving the complex challenge of their choice: affordable housing, addiction treatment, local primary care, access to higher education, prison education.

There are lots of opinion pieces and letters-to-the-editor about Vermont's progressive leaders allowing our cities to degenerate, with homeless people living on the streets, addicts surrounded by needles shooting up on sidewalks, unsavory panhandlers importuning locals, and shoplifters helping themselves in downtown stores. Sadly, we like to forget that our current systems have failed us precisely because we've ignored the need to expand them. The above are all symptoms of a society that has failed to invest in the wellbeing of all its citizens. Homeless people need housing, addicts need treatment, panhandlers and shoplifters need job training and opportunities for economic selfsufficiency.

Our current criminal justice system may temporarily remove these unsavory reminders of our socio-economic failings from view, but they do not solve our long-range problems.

I'm not saying that there are not among us those from whom we need protection, but they are the exception. Most people simply need our help and direction and a sense of security in their daily lives. All the evidence shows that to provide that is cheaper than jailing them.

While housing, education, the environment, and food systems definitely need legislative and executive attention, it's clear that physical and mental healthcare and addiction treatment resources are the main drivers of the Governor's "affordability crisis." So let's start by moving our socio-economic investments upstream where they're more cost-efficient.

And let's explore new revenue resources that will ultimately save us money and lead to a healthier, more abundant society. We can't afford to fix downstream what we ignore at its source. My hope for the New Year is that leadership will lead.



on which the CCC sits can have considerable value to the Town of Cambridge as open green space, access to the Brewster River and Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, its dog park, playing fields, and many other activities. In the future, portions of the land might be used for flood mitigation while other areas could be developed for affordable housing or other community needs.

Some fear the Cambridge Community Center will become a drain on community resources, but Russ and I believe the opposite is true. We believe that with stable ownership, a sound management plan, and strong community support, the center will remain financially viable while continuing to improve the health and well-being of our residents and visitors to this extraordinary community.

Please send (*jmatthewdunn@gmail.com*) your comments and questions!

College news

Rachel Boyden of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Melina Brooks of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Honors List at Husson University, Bangor, ME for the Fall 2023 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Brooks is studying toward a degree in Psychology. Mason Combs of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023

President's List at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.

Jacqueline French of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. French is a member of the Class of 2027 studying Neuroscience.

I served on a Blue Ribbon Tax Structure Commission (https:// ljfo.vermont.gov/subjects/revenue-and-tax/blue-ribbon-taxstructure-commission-brtsc) to examine and, if necessary, redesign Vermont's tax code. We took our duties seriously and tried to do a comprehensive job over two years, but little or no action was taken on our recommendations. One of the facts we learned in our work was that Vermont had a "Gini index." Gini is the measure of statistical dispersion intended to represent the income inequality, the wealth inequality, or the consumption inequality within a nation or a social group.

According to the Economic Policy Institute's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data (https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/ files/atoms/files/Vermont.pdf), income inequality has grown substantially in Vermont. After decades of widening inequality, the richest 20% of Vermont households have dramatically bigger incomes (\$243,900) than the poorest 20% (\$25,500). The

Ethan Howard of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Ceilidh Rose Kiegle of Jericho, VT, a senior majoring in literature, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2023 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Aurora Lamoureux of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Southern New Hanpshire University, Manchester, NH.

Lily Loomis of Jeffersonvlle, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

Tristan C Magnuson of Jericho, VT, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.



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The Mountain

Gazette 6558 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net

Deadline January 25, 2024 Published February 1, 2024 Brenda Boutin - publisher, ad design/delivery Editor - Sara Riley

Letter Policy: Maximum 450 words

One letter per writer, per calendar month. Must be signed for attribution with writers address and phone number. Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net



Welcome the new year with a commitment toward the safety and wellbeing of children. Become a foster, kin, or respite care provider to a child or youth in need. Find out how at:

https://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/foster

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Tired of bad news?

Restore your faith in humanity with a daily dose of Angels in Medicine, the site that highlights the work of medical humanitarians! Recent stories include:

• From Yorkshire to Phuket: How a British Couple Sparked a Rabies Revolution;

· Oregon Dentist Leads Life-Changing Missions to Honduras; • MrBeast's Prescription for Medical Philanthropy.

Go online to https://medangel.org for more heart-warming stories.

Lions-sponsored blood drive February 6

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 7, from 12:00 – 5:00 PM. The drive will be held at the Covenant Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction.

The nation's blood supply is at dangerously low levels, so please consider making the time to donate. As always, the Lions Club will be serving pie with ice cream after you have donated.

Appointment times can be scheduled at https://www. redcrossblood.org/, code: COVENANT.

Upcoming events from Healthy Lamoille Valley

Substance Prevention 101 - The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs, in partnership with the Northeast Vermont Prevention Consortium Prevention Lead Region 3, will be hosting virtual Substance Prevention 101 trainings in January. This training will provide an introduction to substance misuse prevention and demonstrate how to use prevention concepts to support community change. Learn more and register online at https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/ basics.

Lunch and Learn: Prevention Planning Toolkit - Please join Healthy Lamoille Valley for a virtual lunch and learn on Wednesday, January 24, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, and find out how to make the most of the new edition of the Community Planning Toolkit: Preventing Youth Substance Misuse and Building Protective Factors. Gain up-to-date insight on current data and how to prevent youth substance misuse in our community and in a variety of settings, featuring tips and tricks on turning your toolkit into a beneficially active workbook. We look forward to seeing you! Register online at https://www.healthylamoillevalley. org/lunch-and-learn.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including 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. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at https:// mmuuf.org/ and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant community. We are young and old; straight and LGBTQIA; singles, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. We are an Open and Affirming and Reconciling church, which means all ARE truly welcome. We are the Old Fashioned Harvest Market Church, the Clutter Barn Church, and a church of fellowship, mission, and service. We gather to worship together virtually and in-person every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM for a traditional but lively service with music, and Sunday School and nursery for the children. We welcome you to join us for worship or just come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary email secretary@ucu.church. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joiningworship-from-home/.

Jericho Congregational Church "An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message" On the Green in Jericho Center, VT Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages Fellowship time at 9:30 AM Worship Service at 10:00 AM Nursery care provided Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building 802-899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible all are welcome! There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. Weekday online offerings include Centering Prayer. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at www.goodshephrdjericho.org.

St. Thomas Catholic Church

St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center invites you to join us in person for the Holy Mass at 8:30 AM every Sunday. There is also a vigil Mass at 4:00 PM on Saturday evenings. Our priest, Fr. Richard Calapan, also celebrates Mass during the week, on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and Fridays at 8:00 AM. Confessions are available on Tuesdays before Mass. Visit us at www.stthomasvt. com or call 802-899-4632 for more information.

HEALTH NEWS

Howard Center services, contact information

Howard Center offers many programs to help individuals with their recovery and maintain sobriety.

The Bridge Program provides short-term stabilization and detoxification in a non-medical setting for individuals 18 and older who are experiencing problematic alcohol or other drug use. For screening, please call 802-488-6425, 8:00 AM - 5:00PM, daily.

Chittenden Clinic offers comprehensive outpatient treatment for opioid use disorder, including medications (e.g., methadone and buprenorphine), counseling services, and care coordination. Walk-in appointments Monday-Friday for intake start at 7:30 AM, or call 802-488-6450 to schedule.

Northern Vermont Outpatient and Spoke Services provides outpatient substance use and mental health counseling, and medication for opioid and alcohol use disorder, to residents of Grand Isle and Franklin County. Walk-in hours are Monday-Friday, 8:15 – 8:45 AM; 802-524-7265.

Pine Street Counseling offers individual and group therapy, education, impaired driver rehabilitation, care coordination, psychiatric consultation, and office-based spoke services including medication for opioid and alcohol use disorder. This program promotes wellness and recovery in all areas and through all phases of a person's life. Clinicians help clients focus on their strengths and encourage self-care, connections to others and the community, and independence. Walk-in hours Monday-Friday: 8:15 - 8:45 AM; 802-488-6100.

Safe Recovery is a safe place for people to come to for support, even if they are currently using. Safe Recovery provides harm reduction services including syringe exchange, low-barrier buprenorphine treatment, fentanyl and xylazine test strips, Narcan kits, and HIV and hepatitis testing. Walk-in hours Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 - 5:00 PM; 802-488-6067.

Howard Center needs your help! Please donate today. Please consider donating to Howard Center in support of our critical services for mental health, substance use, and developmental disability needs. Gifts of any size make a positive difference in the lives of the more than 19,000 people we help each year, and we are grateful to all who contribute. Visit our giving page to send your support today: https://howardcenter.org/communityeducation/howard-center-giving/.

If you or a loved one need support, our Access and Intake main number 802-488-6000 is available Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM -5:00 PM. Our First Call for Chittenden County crisis hotline 802-488-7777 is available 24/7/365. Help is here.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislative update with representatives Squirrell, Graning

By Edye Graning, State Representative **Chittenden-3 House District**

Representatives Trevor Squirrell and Edye Graning will be holding monthly legislative updates for Jericho and Underhill residents at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on River Road, Jericho. Our first session will be on Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 - 7:00 PM. We hope to have remote attendance capability for these updates and will provide that information as we get closer to the event date. If you have specific questions or would like to know what is being discussed at the statehouse, please join us for this conversation.

The dates for the rest of this winter and spring, all 6:00 - 7:00PM, are Thursdays, February 15, March 14, April 11, and May 9.

SUMMER CAMP

Registration open for summer camps at Poker Hill Arts

Summer dreamin' on a cold winter's day! Registration is open for two camps: Art from Nature, Monday-Wednesday, July 1-3; and Fairy Camps, from Mondays, July 8 or 15. See Poker Hill Arts summer camps online at https://www.pokerhillarts.com/ summer-camps.

Poker Hill Arts will also offer Musical Theater camps from Mondays, July 22 and 29, contact http://dthomas0712gmail.

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:00 - 11:00 AM, in person or on Zoom. 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 webspace! https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it! Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho and worships Sundays at 9:30 AM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@ gmail.com or 802-899-0453.

Covenant Community Church — "Come As You Are!" What is the Covenant? The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo - people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 - 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 -11:00 AM: Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM - ? Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane. Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo's)

Waterville Union Church

We meet in person at 9:30 AM at the church; masks recommended. Zoom is only available when there is bad weather or illness of a speaker. We do not post our recorded services to Facebook. But information can be found at https://www.facebook. com/watervilleunionchurch, watervilleunionchurchvt@gmail. com; 32 Church St., Waterville.

com; and Music Rocks camps from Mondays, August 12 and 19, contact timbolandusa@gmail.com.

GMP programs to help switch from fossil fuels

Green Mountain Power (GMP) is continuing its popular rebate programs to help customers save when they switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity for driving, heating and cooling, yard care, and more. All of GMP's programs are designed to help cut costs for all GMP customers while also cutting carbon emissions.

GMP is updating its heat pump program to expand access to the super-efficient heating and cooling technology by more than doubling its enhanced, post-purchase heat pump rebate for income-eligible customers to \$2000. It had been \$600. To qualify, customers must have a household income at or below 80% of area median income (AMI). To see if your household qualifies for the enhanced post-purchase rebate, check the AMI information available on the heat pump rebate page on the GMP website. At the same time, the \$300 post-purchase rebate for moderate-income customers and the \$400 midstream rebate paid to suppliers will end. The rebate program changes are for ductless mini-spilt cold climate heat pumps and centrally ducted air source heat pumps, and they went into effect on January 1, 2024.

Learn more about GMP's incentive programs at http://www. greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM; Sunday: 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Adult programs

The artist of the month is Betsy Chapek.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention. Age Well and DRML are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Falls Prevention for those 60+ or those who have limiting conditions who would like to improve their balance, strength, and well-being. We will learn the Sun Style Form and ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed. The form can be adapted to your personal needs, so all can participate fully. In person or on ZOOM from the comfort of your own home. Zoom link will be provided. Registration required, please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne at joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Representatives Trevor Squirrell and Edye Graning will be holding monthly legislative updates for Jericho and Underhill residents at the Library, the first on Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 - 7:00 PM. We hope to have remote attendance capability for these updates and will provide that information as we get closer to the event date. If you have specific questions or would like to know what is being discussed at the statehouse, please join us for this conversation. The dates for the rest of this winter and spring, all 6:00 - 7:00 PM, are Thursdays, February 15, March 14, April 11, and May 9.

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 PM: DRML's annual meeting. The proposed budget for 2024-2025 will be voted on at this time. All registered voters of Jericho and Underhill are encouraged to attend. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the library and on the library's website under the Trustee page.

Thursdays, January 25, February 8, 22, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Crafters' Group. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Thursday, January 25, 7:00 PM: Nuclear Now. Presented by the Jericho Energy Task Force, this movie produced by famed director Oliver Stone explores the possibility of meeting the existential challenge of climate change through nuclear power. Stone conducted interviews with people involved in the nuclear industry in the United States, France, and Russia. He argues that fear of nuclear energy was sown, in part, by coal and oil interests. Please note that the JETF is presenting this film to show a variety of viewpoints and does not take a position on the viability of nuclear energy. Light refreshments will be served but this is a waste-free event so please bring your own plates and mugs.

Tuesday, January 30, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. We are taking a holiday break. Our next meeting is in January We will be discussing Dog on it by Spencer Quinn. If you need a copy call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. Additionally, please read a mystery of your choice and we will share what we read at that meeting also. We will meet in person in the program room.

Youth programs

Here is what's going on this month! All programs meet in person at DRML, unless otherwise specified.

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM Baby Toddler Storytime [birth to PreK] This roughly half-hour story time is focused on babies and toddlers. We will play finger games, do lap bounces, sing, dance, and read a story or two. No registration necessary. Thursday, January 18, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [ages

10+] Curious about stop motion animation? The library has all the tools and software needed for you to make your own mini movies. Space is limited, and this is a really popular program so make sure you sign up when you call, visit or email youth_

librarian@drml.org. Fridays January 19, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London [birth to PreK] Beth and David are here to sing, dance, and play.

Friday, January 19, 3;00 - 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+] There's no wrong way to LEGO! Sign up and when you call or visit the library, or email *youth librarian@drml.org*. Wednesday, January 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Pasta Snowflakes.

Saturday, January 20, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Read to Wyatt

the Dog. Cozy up with therapy dog Wyatt and share some stories with him. Please sign up for a 15-minute spot when you call, email or stop by the library.

Tuesday, January 23, 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Nintendo Switch. Catch up with friends after the holidays and play some Switch basketball, skateboarding, Mario Kart, or Mario Party. No sign up needed. If there are more than four players we'll take turns. eed to bring your personal switch or controller. Thursday, January 25, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Snowman Stretch STEM Challenge [ages 6+] Using only copy paper, tape, and a few items to decorate, build the tallest "snow"man you can! Everyone is going to figure out a different way to do it. How will you? Please sign up by stopping by the library, or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

802-899-4686. library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, www. jerichotownlibraryvt.org

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Please check our website http://www.varnumlibrary.org for the most up-to-date offerings and information.

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM: Story Time.

Tuesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Crafternoon.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM: Story Time.

Wednesdays, 9:00 - 11:00 AM: Mobile Rural Resource Navigator.

Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: Crafternoon.

Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Kids Cooking Club.

Thursdays, 10:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

As always, please contact the library for more information or visit our website: http://www.varnumlibrary.org, 802-644-2117, or varnumrequests@gmail.com.

Hours: Sunday/Monday, closed (unless otherwise posted); Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday/Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 - 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. Patrons of all ages are welcome; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. If you feel you need curbside service, for whatever reason, please email Bree at the library (westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

Have you tried Biblio+? Sign up with your library card at www.biblioplus.com to start streaming their selection of films and TV series today! The biblio+ app is available for download on Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, Apple TV), Android phone and tablet, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku, or stream directly from www. biblioplus.com.

Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Crafting with Marianne. Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: LEGO Club. Grades 1-4 - sign up required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. More information on bussing to those who sign up. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun! Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early. Priority will be giving to kids who did not get in the first session.

Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31, 3:00 - 7:00 PM: Tech Help. Sign up for a 30-minute slot.

Thursdays, 11:30 AM, inside the library: Early Literacy Storytime. January 18: Bears; January 11: Mittens; January 25: Opposites. We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome.

Tuesday, January 23, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Whatever your game, we will play it. Meet with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards — a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, especially looking to connect with seniors. Please be prompt so we can include all in play.

Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 - 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group, reading Project Hail Mary by: Andy Weir. A lone astronaut must save the Earth from disaster. Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission — and if he fails, humanity and the Earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two dead crewmates for company. His memories fuzzily returning, he realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Alone on a tiny ship that's been cobbled together by every government and space agency on the planet and hurled into the depths of space, it's up to him to conquer an extinctionlevel threat to our species. And thanks to an unexpected ally, he just might have a chance. Part scientific mystery, part dazzling interstellar journey, Project Hail Mary is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival to rival The Martian — while taking us to places it never dreamed of going. This month's book group is part of our Let's Get Excited About Space series in preparation for the total solar eclipse coming in April! Participants will get eclipse glasses. Print and ebook copies available.

Thursdays, January 25, February 8, 22, 6:30 - 8:00 PM: Table Top Game Night. Meets the second and fourth Thursdays, hosted by avid table top gamers Bill & Martha McClintock who will bring games from their extensive home game collection to share with those who come. This is a new group, so we will see how it goes. Please come to make things like this possible. Snacks provided. Bring your own beverages.

Saturday, January 27, 10:30 $A\breve{M}-12{:}00$ PM, on the Common

to-date information about programs, visit our website www. fairfaxvtlibrary.org where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

Mango Languages is another language learning resource, with a site and app that offers lessons in more than 70 languages, is made possible through the support of the Green Mountain Library Consortium (GMLC). Choose from over 70 world languages to learn on your desktop or mobile device. Family Profiles are the perfect way to enrich the lives of your loved ones with language and culture; once logged in, tap on the three horizontal lines in the upper right corner to find the Family Profiles setup page. To begin using Mango Languages, all you need is a Fairfax Community Library card. Learn more at: https://connect.mangolanguages. com/fairfaxvtlibrary/start. Find the link to Mango Languages on the library website under the Resources tab and at: https:// fairfaxvtlibrary.org/mango-languages.html.

Youth events

Tuesdays, January 16, 30, 5:30 PM: D&D Club. Dragons! Danger! Dice! The library is now hosting a middle school D&D club. Join our DM Nic and create a character to take on exciting magical adventures! No prior Dungeons and Dragons knowledge is necessary, and players of all experience levels are welcome. Materials provided. Grades 5-8. Club meets every other Tuesday. Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Wednesday, January 17, 3:00 PM: DIY Snowmen Plushies. Build cute snowmen out of socks — no sewing required! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@ gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, January 24, 1:00 PM: Salt Painting. Make a textured piece of art with glue and salt! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact *libraryfairfax@gmail.com* or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, January 31, 3:00 PM: Slime Making. Have fun making different kinds of squishy slime! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact *libraryfairfax@gmail.com* or 802-849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Tuesdays, January 16, 23, 30, 5:30 PM: Mandarin Club with Keyuan Xiang. Interested in learning Mandarin, or just want to know more about Chinese culture? Join Keyuan Xiang at the library for lessons! You don't need to come to each club meeting, but registration is required for the day or days you would like to attend. Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM (Fridays, 4:15 PM); Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM -7:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Seeking Artists and Collectors — RFL is currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2024. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, contact us to choose your month. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of thimbles, old books, feathers, nutcrackers, or anything else that would fit in our case that you would be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Call or email the library, 802-434-3036 or *library@richmondvt.gov*.

Children's Art from the Ukraine: On loan from The Fermata Arts Foundation in Avon, CT, we will be displaying 16 drawings done by students of the Vasylkivskyi Children's Art School in Izyum, Kharkiv region, Ukraine. Ranging in age from 9-14, students created a piece in support of Fermata's mission of promoting peace through arts and culture.

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge to discuss The Third Victim (Robin Lockwood Mystery, #1), by Phillip Margolin. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

Saturdays, January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, 10:30 - 11:30 AM: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime). Join native Spanish speakers, Chichi and Eva for 30 minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us in the Community Room on the third Saturday of every month, September-May.

Tuesday, January 23, 3:00 PM: Dog Come learn Carloons. how to draw a cartoon dog with youth librarian and comic artist L.J. Kopf. Kids ages 8-14 are invited to sign up for this fun hourlong program. Call or email the library to register. (802-434-3036/ library@richmondvt.gov). Thursday, January 25, 4:00 PM: Gardening Roundtable. Get together with fellow gardeners to start planning for the 2024 growing season. Conversation will be facilitated by Hannah Harrington of Richmond Community Garden and Vermont Garden Network. No registration required. Saturday, January 27, 11:00 AM: Woof! What's the Dog Saying? Dog behavior workshop. Learn what your dog is telling you in this fun, interactive workshop from Deb Helfrich at Gold Star Dog Training. Demystify dog communication, reveal some common dog-human misunderstandings, and explore how we can all live safely and happily together. No registration is required. Do not bring your dog, thanks! Saturday, February 3, 11:00 AM: Staycation in Space! NASA Solar System Ambassador Bridget Kimsey will be at the library on for the first in a series of three interactive space programs as we explore our universe and get ready for the big 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. Staycation in Space focuses on our solar system and includes live visuals from NASA's Eyes and fun take-home activities. The second program will be Friday, February 23 at the Huntington Public Library and the third on Sunday, March 3 at Richmond Free Library. These programs include activities for kids, teens and adults. No registration necessary. Wednesday, March 13: Vermont Reads: Last Night at the Telegraph Club. RFL joins libraries and community groups

Please visit drml.org or call 802-899-4962 for the most upto-date information. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml. org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

New hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM; Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Saturdays 10:00 AM -1:00 PM. We are completely mask-optional and fully reopened.

Please be advised that our historic building is not currently ADA-accessible and has a set of four steps leading up to the building entrance. Our second floor is only accessible via a staircase.

Adult events

Children's events

Thursdays, 10:00 - 10:30 AM: Storytime Yoga.

Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:00 PM: Playgroup.

Saturdays, 9:00 AM: Baby Storytime, followed by Coffee and Conversation (for the adults).

Don't have a library card yet? Just drop by; getting a library card takes only a minute! We just need some quick contact information from you and you'll be all set, no ID or anything else needed.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@jerichotownlibrary) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections.

ermitting): Sunny Saturday. Swing by for a look at the sun! We will have a solar telescope set up to safely view the sun, several pairs of sunoculars and a sunspotter. Thanks to S.E.A.L and VTLIB for this opportunity. Participants can sign up for guaranteed eclipse glasses to be distributed in April.

First Thursday of the month (February 1, March 7), 6:30 -8:00 PM: Makers' Group. All types of crafters are welcome to attend. Bring projects to show off, share expertise, and enjoy each others' company.

Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 - 9:00 PM: Tea Blending Class. Join local herbalist Amber Kennedy for an evening of tea blending. Sip hot tea, learn the benefits of herbs, discover how to concoct a delicious and therapeutic cup of tea and make your own custom blend to take home along with recipes to create more! Sign up early, as space is limited.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (February 7, March 6), 4:30 -5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (January 20, February 17), 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.

(www.facebook.com/ Facebook Find us on westfordpubliclibrary) Twitter and (www.twitter.com/ WestfordVT pl). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; www. westfordpubliclibrary.org; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFÁX COMMUNITY LIBRÁRY

Please sign up at least one week before the program date; all events free unless noted. Please contact libraryfairfax@ gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register for events! For up-

LIbraries continued on page 6

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Purchase of Hannaford bags benefits Johnson Food Shelf

The Johnson Food Shelf has been selected by the Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program — for all of January, whenever a \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag is purchased at the Hannaford in Morrisville, \$1 will be donated to the Johnson Food Shelf. This is a great way to broaden awareness and help our cause.

Please share the news with friends and family — make calls, send emails, and post on social media. The more people who purchase the Fight Hunger Bag in January, the more we can raise! To learn more about this program, please visit: *https://hannaford.2givelocal.com/*.

The Food Shelf is also looking for volunteers. We are open Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, and Wednesdays, 4:00 - 6:00 PM. Please contact Diane Lehouiller at 802-635-2375 or call the Food Shelf at 802-635-9003.

Preliminary report on 2023 VT deer seasons

The final number of deer taken in Vermont's 2023 hunting seasons will not be available for a few more weeks, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says the final tally will be a little over 16,800 deer. Those deer will provide approximately 3.4 million servings of local, nutritious venison.

The buck harvest will be close to 9800, which will be up from 2022 (9619) and the previous three-year average of 9336. The final antlerless deer harvest will be around 7000, which will be down from the previous three-year average (8101).

"Hunting conditions were mixed in 2023," said Nick Fortin, the department's deer project leader. "Warm weather in October limited deer movement during the day, and frequent weekend rain events reduced hunter effort. This resulted in harvests during the archery, youth, and novice, and October muzzleloader seasons being down considerably from 2022. Conversely, seasonable temperatures and snow in much of the state during November and December resulted in increased harvests during the regular season and December muzzleloader season."

The primary goal of Vermont's deer management strategy is to keep the deer herd stable, healthy, and in balance with available habitat. "Maintaining an appropriate number of deer on the landscape ensures deer and the habitats that support them remain in good condition and productive," said Fortin.

The 2023 White-tailed Deer Harvest Report with final numbers will be on Fish and Wildlife's website in early March. Beginning in late March, the department will be holding informational hearings to share biological information and to listen to any information people wish to share.

Foster parenting tips: support groups

Foster parent support groups are one of the most effective ways to help foster, adoptive, and kinship families by allowing time for parents to gather together, learn, and support each other. Research shows that support groups are effective at helping parents be better parents, which ultimately benefits the kids who find ways to thrive too!

The benefits for parents and caregivers

Here are a few benefits we uncovered when studying effective parent and caregiver support groups: improved quality of life; decreased feelings of anxiety; decreased stress; increase in their parenting confidence; feeling understood and connected (a sense of community); increased awareness that they were not alone; more likely to access resources; improved family functioning; more efficiently meet their children's needs and with greater confidence and hope; increased self-efficacy (more self-efficacious) in their interactions with their child; increased awareness of the importance of self-care; decreased internalized blame.

Why do parents and caregivers seek support groups?

Not surprisingly, foster, kinship, and adoptive parents and caregivers search for support groups for various reasons. You or the families you serve might identify with several of these.

1. A state of crisis in their home. All parents hit road bumps when parenting. We know that foster, kinship, and adoptive families are more likely to hit more of these road bumps along the way. When they face one of these challenges, they often feel like they cannot navigate alone.

Raising a child exposed to trauma or neglect can be an isolating and lonely journey. These are the times when foster, kinship, and adopted parents benefit from being with others who "get it." Parents and caregivers need the camaraderie and encouragement that these groups offer. They need to know they are not alone.

2. The need for education and support. Sometimes parents and caregivers come to groups seeking support for their child's particular issue. Other times, they need education specific to the issues of raising a foster, kinship, or adopted child. The collaborative nature of group discussions can encourage parents and caregivers to learn from each other's experiences and from the expert-based content offered in their group.

3. A desire to improve parenting skills. Unfortunately, predicting which parenting skills a parent or caregiver will need before the child or youth lives in their home is hard. Attending a support group that also provides skill-building or training can fill in the gaps — even if they didn't know they had gaps. Seeking a group indicates a readiness to grow and learn to meet their child's needs.

4. The need for a safe place to learn and grow. Parents and caregivers want to learn in a safe space among people who will not judge them for what they do not know. They may often feel

"under a microscope" with the many visitations, therapies, and caseworker check-ins that fill their calendars. The feeling of being watched can inhibit learning for some parents or caregivers. A parent support group offers a peer-to-peer learning environment. The sense of equal footing with peers who "get it" can open them up to increased learning.

In summary, the most effective groups are spaces of empathetic understanding where parents and caregivers can choose to learn and grow together, even when the experience in their group stretches their skills or beliefs. After all, it is not just our children who learn better when they feel safe.

Find out more by visiting *www.creatingfamily.org*; and reach out to your Resource Coordinator or Recruitment & Retention Specialist to find out what support groups are available in your district, or ask to start one if it does not already exist in your region.

United Way Volunteer Connection

GET CONNECTED TO VOLUNTEERING — United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Go online to *https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital. com/* to learn more about these and other opportunities.

MAKE A MATCH – HomeShare Vermont is looking for volunteers to play an important role in making home sharing matches. Volunteers make calls from the HomeShare office to take reference information for applicants to ensure safety, security, and compatibility in home sharing matches. Volunteers also make calls to current hosts and guests to participate in their annual Outcomes Survey. Basic computer skills required. Flexible scheduling, about four hours a week. Background check required. Contact Amy Jelen, 802-863-5625 or *amy(@ homesharevermont.org.*

MENTAL WELLNESS – NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is seeking volunteers to serve as mental health teachers. If you are passionate about supporting those facing mental health challenges, you can become a NAMI Family-to-Family teacher and provide valuable resource information about mental illness and recovery to family members, partners, and friends of individuals living with a mental health condition. Teachers must be family members to individuals living with mental health conditions and must teach one eight-week course per year. Training provided. Contact Lindsay Reid, 802-876-7949, ext. 102, or *program@namivt.org*.

THE CHILDREN ARE WAITING – United Way of Northwest Vermont invites volunteers to serve as Foster Grandparents to children in local schools and early childhood centers. Share your wisdom, help guide young students to higher academic achievement, and provide the love and comfort that help set children on the path to a successful future. Training and assistance with transportation are provided. Contact Trezanra Robertson, 802-861-7823 or *trezanra@unitedwaynwvt.org*.

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around Vermont in a big community facilitated discussion of this novel by Malinda Lo. The book is suited for teens and adults and focuses on a Chinese American older teencoming of age in 1950s San Francisco. Copies of the book are available to take home (to keep or to borrow) now. There will be a free swing dancing lesson on Friday, April 5 and community art with Radiate Art Space later in April. Join us as we explore themes of Chinese American immigrant experience, McCarthyism, and queerness in mid-century America.

Saturday, February 24, 11:00 AM: The Great Puzzle Challenge. Make a team of up to three to four people and compete to see who can assemble their fun 500-piece jigsaw puzzle fastest! Register in advance, 802-434-3036 or *library@richmondvt.gov*.

in advance, 802-434-3036 or *library@richmondvt.gov*. Monday-Tuesday, February 26-27, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: MMCTV Video Workshop for Middle School Students. We are once again partnering with local community media center MMCTV to offer the ninth annual video workshop for middle school students during the February school vacation. This year the theme will be *It Happened at the Library*. We will imagine plausible and fanciful scenes set in the library and produce short videos using a variety of filming techniques. Students ages 10-14 are invited to register for this fun, free workshop offering handson filming and editing experience. Time will be split between the library and the television studio. Space is limited so call or email the library to register, 802-434-3036 or *library@richmondvt.gov*.

Saturday, February 10, 12:00 PM: Cookbook Club. Meets monthly on second Saturdays. The group will discuss and eat recipes from Ethiopia, by Yohanis Gebreyesus. Space is limited and registration is required; contact Suzanne, skrohn@ richmondvt.gov, for information. Tuesday mornings, February 6-April 9: AARP Volunteer Tax Preparers. Volunteers working with AARP are meeting with seniors to prepare tax returns in the library community room. Call the library (802-434-3036) to schedule an appointment. Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge to discuss Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid. Contact Gwen Landis (802-434-5012; gwennie1972@yahoo.com) for information on joining this group. Thursday, February 15, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge to discuss Man in the Queue (Alan Grant, #1) by Josephine Tey. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions. Wednesday, February 21, 4:00 PM: Climate Action Book Discussion: The Heat Will Kill You First. Richmond Free Library and Richmond Climate Action Committee invite you to read and discuss The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet by Jeff Goodell. This book focuses on the global impacts of heat and offers advice on how we as individuals and communities can adapt. Books are available now.

the Lund Center. Kids infant-five years and their grownups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 10:30 AM: Baby Laptime. This short, active story time is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We'll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. This program is designed for infants and early toddlers.

Third Saturday (January 20, February 17) of every month, September-May, 10:30 AM: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime). Join native Spanish speakers Chichi and Eva in the Community Room for 30 minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language.

Snowshoes to Lend — Patrons with valid library cards from Richmond or Huntington may now borrow snowshoes at the Richmond Free Library for a week at a time. Adult and youth sizes as well as poles are available. Snowshoes were purchased by the Richmond Recreation Committee (comprising members from Huntington, Bolton, and Richmond) through a grant from Rise VT. Call or email the Library for more details (802-434-3036 or *library@richmondvt.gov*), or stop by to borrow some, and get out and enjoy the winter trails with your family.

Trustees Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (February 12, March 11) via Zoom until further notice. All meetings are open to the public.

What can you borrow from the Library? Borrow books (fiction, non-fiction, memoir), magazines, DVDs, Plavaways, early

Desk 802-878-6955, Youth Desk 802-878-6956, Reference Desk 802-878-6957, or *frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org*.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

All ages

DIY Puzzle Swap: Puzzles must have all pieces and container must be taped closed. Check out the bench in the lobby for current selections!

Children's area

Tuesday, January 23, 3:30 - 4:30 PM: Afterschool Rock Painting with Laurel Clark. For children and families. We encourage you to bring rocks, but there will be some available. Paint provided; you bring the creativity!

Exploration Station - Ongoing. See the blue table for this week's challenge.

Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen. Rock'n'read with Miss Noreen!

Wednesdays, 11:0 AM: Storytime with Ms. Emily. Stories and songs for young patrons.

Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Come and check out our great collection of LEGOs! No pre-registration necessary. Best for ages 9 and up, or 6 and up with an adult helper.

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Pokemon Club. Open to grades 4-8. Pokemon decks available for kids to play the card games, as well as some themed crafts available. Participants are invited to bring their own handheld videogame devices or tablets to play their own Pokemon games or Pokemon Go. Fridays: Grab'n'Go Craft Kits. while supplies last. Storywalk® along the back garden fence. *Adult area*

Weekly/Monthly Children's Programs

Weekly programs at the RFL run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and

readers, board books, graphic novels (for all ages, audiobooks on CD, Spanish language books for kids, chapter books, comic books, Vox books (picture books that talk!), STEAM kits, storytime bags, a sewing machine, a blood pressure monitor, lawn games, snowshoes and poles, a firewood moisture meter, and an appliance voltage meter.

Library hours: open for in-person browsing and pick-up at the circulation desk on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or *rfl@gmavt.net*.

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Through Saturday, February 3: Community Cookbook Challenge. Share a favorite family recipe and a short, three- to five-sentence story which includes the preparation or sharing of that food, or the importance of that food to your family and/or culture. The best story wins a set of cookie cutters and cookie decorations. Submit stories at *https://forms.gle/Qx78GLoRm69nvtYB6* or in the events calendar. Submissions will be included in a community cookbook to be shared in the library. This challenge is inspired by this year's Vermont Read, Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo. You can pick up a copy of this book in the library. All ages.

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

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main

Tuesday, January 23, 2:00 - 3:00 PM: Rock Painting with Laurel Clark. For adults. Enjoy a "crafternoon!" We encourage you to bring rocks, but there will be some available. Paint provided; you bring the creativity! Limited space available.

Saturday, January 27, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Zentangle with Julia Davenport. For adults. Enjoy this beautiful art form that welcomes slowing down and tapping into your creativity. No prior art experience needed.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 AM: Tech Time. Drop in with your device and your questions. We'll do our best to answer them! No appointment needed.

Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Drop-In Needlecraft Group. Enjoy chatting with other crafters as you work on your project.

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Rummikub for Adults.

Museum Passes are available for year 'round fun!

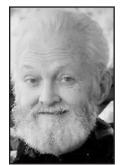
Seeking donations of travel guides (Frommer's, Fodor's, Moon, Lonely Planet, Rick Steves', Rough Guides) from 2020 or later — any country or region accepted. Must be in excellent condition, unmarked, and with any maps included. Thanks!

Digital resources: https://essexfreelibrary.org/ DigitalResources

Social media: check us out on Facebook & Instagram for updates on events!

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313; @essexfreelibrary; website https://www.essexfreelibrary. org/.

OBITUARIES



Charles A. Choate IV, 76, passed away at his home on Friday, January 5, 2024. He was welcomed into the world on August 11, 1947 in St. Johnsbury, VT, by his parents Mary Jane (Hartley) and Charles A. Choate III. Charles graduate from St. Johnsbury Academy, class of 1965. He then attended Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT, graduating with his associate degree. After college he went to work for IBM, retiring in 2006 after 39 years of employment

there. He married Lyndelle Morriseau on April 10, 1997. Charles was a collector of cars, and he enjoyed spending his free time tinkering with and restoring them. He also liked to keep busy around his property, and reading. He has been predeceased by his wife Lyndelle, on September 26, 2012; his parents Charles and Mary Jane Choate; and his two brothers, James and John Choate. Charles will be remembered by his nephew Matt Choate of West Danville, VT; his nephew Alex Choate and his partner Stephanie Johnson of Barnet, VT; his great-niece Kara Goodin and husband Chris of Whitefield, NH; and his other great-niece Alicia Choate of Greensboro, NC. There will be a committal in the spring. To offer the family an online condolences, please visit *www.rickerfh.com._*Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family.



Gordon Pyle, 79, of Jericho, VT passed away suddenly at home on Wednesday, December 27, 2023. He was born on September 16, 1944 in Washington D.C. to his late parents Ann and James Pyle. Gordon spent his early years in Washington D.C., Colorado, Florida, and New York before arriving in Vermont, his home for over 45 years. It was there that he met his wife, Debbie, whom he married in Shelburne, VT on February 17, 1979. A graduate

of Goddard College, Gordon spent his career helping people improve their lives. He devoted himself to work at Weeks School in Vergennes, VT and, later, at the State Hospital in Waterbury, VT as a Licensed Nurses Assistant. Gordon enjoyed traveling to his favorite vacation areas: the Adirondacks (NY) and Acadia National Park (ME). During these trips, he created endless memories. At Acadia, he enjoyed hiking around Long Pond, up Day Mountain, or having popovers at Jordan Pond; in the Adirondacks, adventures in Keene Valley or on Mount Marcy. An innate storyteller, he carried the memories from his trips and adventures into epic tales enthusiastically shared with his family and friends. Those that knew him best would eagerly encourage his stories, whereas those who might be the story's subject silently squirmed in anticipation. The experience, invariably commenced with a single finger in the air calling for attention, never disappointed. He is survived by his wife Debbie; daughter Abby and her husband Scott Yanco; son Matt Pyle and wife Robin; and grandchildren Alison and Emily Pyle and Lucy and Oliver Yanco. He is also survived by his siblings David Pyle, Diana Rowan, and Ann Brickley. He is predeceased by his brother John Pyle. A private family memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Cochran's Ski Area https://cochranskiarea.com/donatenow/. Cochrans has inspired a love of skiing in Gordon's four grandchildren as a place that fosters confidence and love for the outdoors and community.

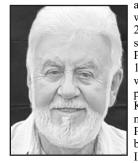


Andrew John Bibb, PE, 66, of Jericho, VT passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, December 30, 2023, surrounded by his family. Andy was born May 19, 1957 to Albert E. Bibb, Jr. and Joann (Ott) Bibb in Troy, NY. He grew up in Clifton Park, NY and graduated from Shenendehowa High School. He graduated from Norwich University (Northfield, VT) in 1979 with a BS in Civil Engineering. He met his wife, Mary (Van Orden) Bibb at Norwich, when they sat next

to each other in band. They married on December 23, 1979, and celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary one week before Andy passed. Andy obtained his Masters in Structural Engineering in

1980 from MIT (Cambridge, MA). He worked as a structural engineer in Alaska, Boston, MA, and Burlington, VT before opening his own engineering firm in 1992, first as Bibb Structural, then Hawkworth, Bibb, Inc., and finally as HBI-VT. In addition to his professional work, Andy coached girls' softball, was both a Cub Scout leader and the Cubmaster with the Jericho Cub Scout pack, and then was the treasurer for the Jericho-Underhill Boy Scout troop for many years. Although Andy grew up in the Dutch Reformed Church, he greatly supported Mary raising their family in the Catholic Church and was head of the maintenance commission at St. Thomas Catholic Church (Underhill Center, VT), in addition to volunteering his engineering expertise for decades. Andy was a devoted and selfless husband to Mary and father to his six children. He attended hundreds, if not thousands, of his kids' sporting events, making virtually every high school and collegiate cross-country and skiing race, lacrosse game, crew invitational, and track and field meet. If he could be there, he was there, and his pride and support were unconditional. He made countless road trips to see his family wherever they were in the U.S., as well as long international trips even though he disliked air travel. He had a gift for play with his children and grandchildren, and a wonderfully dry sense of humor. He passed on his passion and talent for carpentry and gardening to some of his kids, and his love of classic rock and Spielberg and Lucas movies to all. Andy was predeceased by his brother David in 1988, and his mother in 2023. He is survived by his father Al and his sister Lynn; his wife Mary and their six children: Alissa (Andrew Dana), Derik (Randa), Stefan (Dana), Connor (Yuki), Trevor (Jess), and Tiana (Austin Callahan); and five grandchildren: Amelia, Luca, Phoebe, Leona, and Lily.A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church in Underhill Center, VT. In lieu of flowers, Andy wanted donations to go to the St. Thomas Rectory Renovation Fund, https://stthomasvt.com/donate.

Phillip Maurice Pelkey of Jericho, VT, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor, passed



away after a courageous 3^{1/2} year battle with cancer on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at the age of 83. Phillip was the son of the late Milford and Melvina Pelkey of St. Albans, VT, born on April 17, 1940. Phillip is survived by his wife Kathryn; sons Michael, Scott and partner Tina Smart, and granddaughter Kayla; and by great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and a brother Richard Pelkey. He was also preceeded in death by his daughter Patricia and his sisters Irene, Thelma, and Shirley. Phillip had

many talents and hobbies. He had a passion for hunting, fishing, canoeing, and just being in the woods. In later years he took up metal detecting and watching NASCAR races. He loved country music and sang and played the guitar. He also made his unique birdhouses and sold them for many years at the farmers' market, Harvest Market, and the Old Red Mill in Jericho. He touched the hearts of many and was deeply cared for and loved. He will be greatly missed. He is now in the hands of God in Peace. Visiting hours were held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at A W Rich Funeral Home — Essex Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday January 4, 2024 at St. Pius X Church, with Reverend Charles Ranges S.S.E. officiating. Inurnment will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions in Phillip's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 55 Day Lane, Williston, Vt 05495. Please visit https:// www.awrichfuneralhomes.com/ to share your memories and condolences

Ethelda Beth (Towle) Chamberlain, 96, of Hooksett, N.H., formerly of Hyde Park, VT, Essex Junction, VT, and Jericho,

ark, V1, Essex Junction, V1, and Jenendo,
died peacefully on Wednesday,
December 27, 2023 at the Community
Hospice House in Merrimack, NH,
just four days following her 96th
birthday. Ethelda was born December
23, 1927 in Hyde Park, the youngest
of seven children born to the late
George A. Towle and Mattie (Flanders)
Towle. She graduated from Lamoille
Central Academy in Hyde Park as
valedictorian in the Class of 1945.
Ethelda continued her education at the
University of Vermont in Burlington,

VT. On October 4, 1947, in Morrisville, VT, she married

Reginald B. Chamberlain, who was employed for more than 40 years as a plumbing and heating technician in Essex Junction and Jericho. In her earlier years, Ethelda was employed as a clerk for several businesses in the greater Burlington area including First National stores, Abernethy's Department Store, and Grand Union. Later, she worked for the Essex Junction Recreation Department and as a library assistant at Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho. Ethelda was an active member of the Jericho Center Congregational Church and after moving to Hooksett in 1999, she was a member of the choir and Women's Union at Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester. She enjoyed reading and discovering new destinations for her next travel adventure. She traveled through much of Europe in spring 1981 with her son and daughter, and always spoke fondly of that trip and a later journey to California and Hawaii with her son and his family. She also greatly loved spending time with her family, especially enjoying picnics and reunions. Survivors include two children, Douglas R. Chamberlain and his wife Linda of Hooksett, NH, and Brenda Verdolino and her husband David of Concord, MA; four grandchildren: Samuel Chamberlain and his wife Suzanne Lassise of Brooklyn, NY; Sarah Stockton and her husband Zachary of Austin, TX; Emma Reishus of Chicago, IL; and Anna Reishus of Iowa City, IA; and a great-grandson, George Stockton of Austin, TX. Ethelda was predeceased by her husband Reginald Chamberlain on November 8, 2001; and by all her siblings: Everett, Elwin, Elroy, Edna, and Erma Towle and Elna (Towle) Silloway Brooks. A memorial service celebrating Ethelda's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester, NH. Interment will be at the family plot in the Wheeler Cemetery in Morristown, VT at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Ethelda's memory may be made to Brookside Congregational Church, 2013 Elm St., Manchester, NH 03104, or to Community Hospice House, 210 Naticook Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054. Arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcome at northernvermontfuneralservice.com.

Nancy W. (Whitcomb) Kinney, died on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the age of 93. She was born in Burlington, VT on July 2, 1930. Nancy was the daughter of the late Harold and Jean (Lamb) Whitcomb. She grew up on the Whitcomb Farm



in Essex. In 1951 she married the love of her life, William "Bill" Kinney. They spent the first two years of their married life in the state of Georgia while Bill was a paratrooper with the 508th Airborne Regimental combat team. Upon returning to Vermont, they moved to Fletcher, VT. In 1954 they had twin sons, and in 1957, a daughter. Nancy started playing the piano by ear at three years old. Music was always a part of her and her family's life. She played the piano right up to her final days. Her

other passions were cooking, entertaining, flower gardening, and traveling. Her legacy of cooking lives on today. To this day, many of her recipes are favorites of her grand and greatgrandchildren. They often refer to Grandma Nancy's pancakes and chicken pot pies. Nancy's first job after attending business school in Burlington was in the billing department at Mary Fletcher Hospital. In the 1960s, she and Bill ran the Eastern States Exchange store in Cambridge Junction, VT, selling feed, fertilizer, seed, and farm supplies. This would later be called the Agway building. Together, they owned and operated the Highlander Motel for 10 years. Nancy was a long-time member of the Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville, VT and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was a loving mother and cherished her time with her grand and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband William Kinney; sons John Kinney and Robert Kinney; brothers Harold Whitcomb, George Whitcomb, and John Whitcomb. Nancy is survived by her daughter Susan Wyckoff and favorite son-in-law Larry Wyckoff; Robert's life partner David Marceau; four grandchildren: Ben Wyckoff and partner Katie Farnham, Dan Wyckoff, Laura Kinney and partner Trevor Lumbra, Kristy Marsh and husband Cody Marsh; by five great-grandchildren: Madison and Liam Wyckoff, Zophia and Bjorn Wyckoff, and William Marsh; and by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 2:00 PM in the family lot in Jeffersonville Village Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Nancy's memory may be made to a charity of one's choice. Please visit https://www.awrichfuneralhomes.com/ to share your memories and condolences.

RIDE TOGETHER – Green Mountain Transit has initiated a new travel training program and is looking for volunteers to serve as Travel Advisors. Ride Together is dedicated to providing community members with short-term instruction on how to ride GMT's public transit system. Volunteers can provide either classroom or field instruction, either one-on-one or to groups, remotely or in person. Schedules and training are flexible, and volunteers receive a free bus pass to use on any GMT bus when fares resume in March. Contact Irene Choi, 802-540-6873, ext. 550, or *ridetogether@ridegmt.com*.

MARATHON – RunVermont is gearing up for its Saturday, April 13 Half Marathon Unplugged event and is in need of volunteers, age 16 and older, to serve in a variety of capacities. For information, go to *https://runsignup.ccom/unplugged/ volunteer*.

Funding for organizations, programs supporting VT women and girls

Funding is now available from the Vermont Women's Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation for nonprofits that support economic security and provide career opportunities and programs that drive change for Vermont women and girls.

The competitive grant program will award grants of up to \$15,000 for proposals that:

• make pathways to economic well-being more visible, accessible, and affordable for all women and girls;

• invest in the economic security and career prospects of women, especially those earning less than a living wage;

• advance strategies that address systemic barriers to economic well-being and thriving in Vermont; and/or

• enhance the capacity of the organization to achieve its mission and stated values.

In 2023, the Vermont Women's Fund distributed \$412,135 to 36 Vermont organizations. Those grantees reflect the fund's mission to advance gender equity and justice. To view the list of 2023 grant recipients, visit vermontwomensfund.org/news/vwf-announces-2023-grants.

The Vermont Women's Fund, a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, was established in 1994 as an enduring resource for our state's women and girls. The fund remains the largest philanthropic resource dedicated exclusively to this mission. A council of people from around Vermont advises the fund and participates in its grantmaking, fundraising, and leadership work.

Nonprofits may apply online at any time. Applications will be accepted through Tuesday, March 19 at 5:00 PM. Visit *vermontwomensfund.org/grants* to learn more about the Vermont Women's Fund, its mission, and grantmaking.

Vermont National Guard delegation to visit Austria

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Gregory Knight, adjutant general, Vermont National Guard, and a delegation of Soldiers and Airmen including the $40^{\rm th}$ Army Band will travel to Austria as

part of the State Partnership Program. The visit will include unit exchanges between members of the Vermont National Guard and the Austrian military, as well as performances by the 40th Army Band and senior leader engagements.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of building these relationships. As state partners we have a lot of opportunities to work together in strategic areas, but it all starts here with the personal connections we make at the peer level," said Knight.

Vermont and the Republic of Austria have been officially paired through National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program since 2022 This is Gen. Knight's first official visit to Austria since the signing of a letter of intent in 2022.

"Performing music in Austria, a country that has such a rich musical history, is the icing on my military career, so far," said Staff Sgt. Yolande Allen-Moormann, supply sergeant, flautist, and vocalist with the 40th Army Band. "When I joined the Vermont National Guard 10 years ago, I never could have dreamed that I would get to perform in Austria. I am incredibly grateful to get to travel to another country to share my love of music."

Members of the 40th Army Band will be attending and performing a myriad of events with their Austrian counterparts, among them a women's jazz event and Austrian military's Officers' Ball.

National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program started in 1993. Vermont also shares a partnership with North Macedonia since 1993 and the Senegal since 2008.

For more information contact Public Affairs Officer Capt. Mike Arcovitch, 802-338-3434, or *mikel.r:arcovtich.mil@army. mil.*

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2024

6558 VT RTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

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

We store deliver copies of the paper in Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Fairfax, Essex and Essex Junction.

Total regular circulation 3500

OPEN RATE

\$8.25 COLUMN INCH Column width 1 7/16" Listings below are measured width x height

> Business card - \$33.00 31/4" x 2"

1/16 page - \$49.50 3 1/4" x 3"

1/12 page - \$66.00 31/4" x 4"

1/8 page 3 1/4" x 6" or 5" x4 - \$99.00

> 1/4 page - \$170.00 3 1/4" x 12" 5" x 8" 6 1/2" x 6"

1/2 page - \$290.00 10 1/4" x 8" or 5" x 15 1/2"

> Full page - \$390.00 10 1/4 " x 15 1/2"

Business directory ads: \$18 each, must buy 5 consequtive issues (\$90.00 pre-paid) No changes. Size 3 1/4" x 1 1/2"

Classified ads: \$6.50 for 25 words, 10 cents for each additional word

Prepaid contracts available - Save up to 20%. Purchase six ads of any size and run within 12 monthe. Call Brenda Boutin, advertising manager at 802-453-6354 for details

Subscriptions \$35.00 per year - 24 issues

Inserts 1-4 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" Cost \$45.00 prepaid per 1000 Must purchase full circulation

> Publicatin: First and Third Thursday/Month Deadlines: Thursday before publication Copy - 12:00 Noon Advertising 5:00 PM

The Mountain Gazette, 6558 VT RTE 116, Starksboro, VT 05487 Phone: 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

The Sixty Four Project, a dynamic art installation and exhibit celebrating women's beauty, diversity, and strength while promoting realistic body imagery, is on display Thursday-Saturday, January 18-20 at Hilton Burlington Lake Champlain, Lake Champlain Room, 60 Battery St., Burlington (enter via the parking garage, as the hotel lobby is under renovation), in conjunction with the Vermont Burlesque Festival. Conceived and engineered by Fairfax resident Mark Hitchcox, the project features photographs and testimonials of 64 women, including breast cancer survivors. The group reflects a diverse range of ages, ethnicities, and body types. The centerpiece of the exhibit is an installation of rotating cubes, each featuring a photograph of a volunteer model's breast. As the cubes randomly turn, different right and left breasts are displayed, highlighting the beautiful diversity of women's bodies. "Scars don't define me, my age doesn't define me, how my body looks doesn't define me, I'm still an attractive person worthy of love and affection," said Moxie Blue, a breast cancer thriver, burlesque performer, and producer from Seattle, WA. "We need to help the younger generations know that all bodies are unique and beautiful," said participant Jamie, age 45. Mark's grandmother, mother, and sister were all treated for breast cancer. His goal with this exhibit is to honor them by raising funds for breast cancer research while promoting breast cancer awareness. Admission to the exhibit and the opening reception is free. Proceeds from donations and a basket raffle will go to the University of Vermont Cancer Center. The opening reception with light snacks and cash bar, sponsored in part with gratitude by the Grace Family of Fairfax, is from 5:00 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 18, with a short presentation at 6:00 PM. Specific dates and times: Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:00 – 8:00 PM; Friday and Saturday, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

Artist Development Grants: application deadline January 30, 2024, 1:00 PM; apply at https://www.vermontartscouncil. org/grants/find-a-grant/artists/artist-development/. Grants support artists at all stages of their careers, and can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills or that increase the viability of an artist's business. Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity. For Artist Development Grants, you may apply for any amount up to \$2000. We strongly encourage applicants to apply for the *least* amount of funding necessary for their request. Money is limited, and we want to be able to support as many artists as possible. While we will do all that we can to fully fund as many projects as possible, some proposals may be partially funded. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal, state, and private funding and are subject to change. Eligible expenses for such activities include, but are not limited to: advanced study of technique or practice with a mentor; attending a professional conference to build business or artistic skills or knowledge; contracting professional services including photographic documentation of work, contract preparation or business incorporation, creation of accounting systems, developing e-commerce on a website, creation of marketing materials, etc.; marketing, planning, purchasing some materials, or renting studio space (outside of your home) to create new exhibitions or performances; travel within the United States.

The Underhill Arts Council is committed to inspiring the community by highlighting local art and craft. Our goal is to bring forward all forms of creative expression. All ages are welcome! Have something you'd like to share? Please contact John Connell, *jc6greenmont@gmail.com*, or Mary Hill, *maryhillstudios@gmail.com*.

Also, the Underhill Arts Council is looking for help painting and decorating the large hearts that are hung around town. This is a fun project. No special artistic talent is required. If you have a desire to help or have questions, please contact the council via *jc6greenmont@gmail.com* or 802-881-5974.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Monthly Essex Art League meeting on the first Thursdays — Artists and art lovers are welcome to join Essex Art League (EAL) and participate in our year-round, weekly en Plein Air gatherings. We meet each Thursday to paint in a different and beautiful location in the area. Joining EAL also avails you of opportunities for field trips to shows and galleries as well as participating in workshops. The Essex Art League has been open to artists and art lovers from throughout Vermont for 50+ years. We meet the first Thursday of each month from September-June.

The Jericho Energy Task Force (JETF) will present the movie *Nuclear Now* at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Road, Jericho on Thursday, January 25, at 7:00 PM. Produced by famed director Oliver Stone, the movie explores the possibility of meeting the existential challenge of climate change through nuclear power. Stone conducted interviews with people involved in the nuclear industry in the United States, France, and Russia. He argues that fear of nuclear energy was sown, in part, by coal and oil interests. Please note that the JETF is presenting this film to show a variety of viewpoints and does not take a position on the viability of nuclear energy. Light refreshments will be served but this is a waste-free event so please bring your own plates and mugs. For more information contact *lblamb@hotmail.com*.

Weekly Literature Group Meeting on Tuesdays Via Zoom: Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads a weekly virtual book group, the Burlington Literature Group, and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group originally met in person, but since Covid has changed to online Zoom sessions every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages, and discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at https://nereadersandwriters.com/ or by emailing info@ nereadersandwriters.com. Our current author Roberto Bolaño, born in Santiago, Chile in 1953. He grew up in Chile and Mexico City, where he was a founder of the Infrarealist poetry movement. His first full-length novel, The Savage Detectives, received the Herralde Prize and the Rómulo Gallegos Prize when it appeared in 1998. Bolaño died in Blanes, Spain at the age of 50. We will read the novel Distant Star: January 23: beginning through Chapter 5; January 30: chapter 6 to end. Other authors in our schedule include Toni Morrison, László Krasznahorkai, Patrick Modiano, Iris Murdoch, David Foster Wallace, Colum McCann, Saul Bellow and Thomas Pynchon.

SongFarmers, a community music jam - a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (January 17, February 21), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments: guitars, banjos, mandolins, fiddles, ukuleles, bass, keyboard. No electronics except keyboard and bass. It's a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. If you plan to lead, please choose a song that you can play at a steady rhythm and bring a chord chart for your song. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just come and enjoy the gathering, are welcome too. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Weekly Community Choir — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong*! We are a volunteerrun community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on the second and fourth Thursdays (during the winter) of the month (January 25; February 8, 22), 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the



The Westford Music Series will feature Paul Asbell in January at the Westford Common Hall. Paul will be playing his acoustic guitar and laying down intricate, pianistic patterns, as the consummate professional in blues, early jazz, and "old-timey" music genre which has placed him among the nation's most revered guitarist at the top level in his field. "Few pickers work from as broad a stylistic palette as Paul Asbell," according to Guitar Player Magazine. From his early years playing blues on Chicago's South Side to his present multi-faceted career based out of northern Vermont, Paul has earned an underground reputation as a true "musicians' musician." He has played and recorded with Muddy Waters, Paul Butterfield, Otis Rush, Earl Hooker, andother celebrities. He was known in Vermont as leader of the widely popular Kilimanjaro band before breaking out as an acclaimed solo performer. To hear Paul is to become a fan. Sunday, January 21, 4:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside, Westford. Free will donation. As always, a pie raffle surprise adds to the fun. Call 802-363-0930 for more information. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Whether you sing in the shower, sing Karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable here. Our aim is to sing for the joy of singing (no performances except for one short one for family and friends at the end of the season). Come as often as you are able. Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group? Questions about the group? Questions about the group? 2436 or *lar:2436@gmail.com*, or Doug Varney, *802-343-4513* or *vthockeyman@gmail.com*, or just show up!

The Westford Music Series concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. The lineup for the 2023-2024 season continues on January 21, *FREVO*; February 25: *Will Patton Ensemble*; March 24, *Dale and Darcy Trio*; April 7: *Heliand*; May 5, *Howling Waters*.

Bryan Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; open Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM or Monday-Tuesday by appointment. For more information contact Stephen Gothard, 802-644-5100 or *info@bryangallery.org*.





VT Chess State Championships for grades K-12, March 23

The 37th Annual Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championships will be held on Saturday, March 23 at Craftsbury Academy, 1422 N. Craftsbury Rd., Craftsbury Common, VT 05827.

This is the selection tournament for Vermont's nominees to the national Denker, Haring, Barber and Rockefeller Invitationals. This tournament is open to Vermont students in grades K-12. Participants must be VT residents or be enrolled in a VT public or private school. VT resident home school students are eligible.

Chessboards, pieces, and clocks will be provided. No prior tournament experience is necessary. High School and 8th Grade sections will be USCF rated. K-7th Grade sections will be unrated. Individual and team prizes will be awarded.

All players must pre-register for the event; no walk-ins will be allowed. Registration closes on Sunday, March 17. Registration may close prior to March 17 due to space limitations. If



registration is still open, the entry fee after March 1 will increase to \$25. Online registration only — no entries will be accepted via mail or email.

Complete rules and registration information can be found at *https://vermontchess.org/*.

Poker Hill School Book Club February 8

Did you know Poker Hill School (PHS) has a book club?! We read books (or listen to podcasts) related to caregiving for young children and get together to talk about it and how it might impact us and the kiddos we're responsible for.

For our next book club book we'll be reading a classic: <u>Children: The Challenge</u> by Ruddolf Dreikurs and Vicki Soltz.

Watch over us from the heavens above, on paradise lost below. To be good, does anyone even aim for that anymore? Perhaps a return to innocence is the prayer we all need.

This book may have been published nearly six decades ago, but it apparently still holds true for modern parenting/child rearing. Let's read it and find out! Podcast interview option will be announced soon (need to do some digging as podcasts weren't a thing back then).

PHS is extending the invitation to interested community members! If you're interested in the book and want to talk about it with others, please join us! Parents, teachers, grandparents, caregivers of all kinds are welcome.

We'll meet Thursday, February 8, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Poker Hill School, Poker Hill Rd., Underhill to discuss. Please join! You can direct any questions to Emily Piazza at *piazza.emily@gmail. com*.

Mountain Gazette 2024 deadlines and publication dates

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 12:00 PM; the advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication, at 5:00 PM.

(Note exceptions, below, due to Monday holidays before publication dates.)

DEADLINE DATES:	PUBLICATION DATES:
THURSDAY	THURSDAY
	January 4 - early deadline (New Year)
December 26 - note Tuesday deadline	
January 9 – note Tuesday deadline	January 18 - early deadline (MLK Day)
January 25	February 1
February 8	*February 15
February 29	*March 7
March 14	March 21
March 28	April 4
April 11	April 18
April 25	May 2
May 9	*May 16
May 30	*June 6
June 13	June 20
June 27	July 4
July 11	July 18
July 25	August 1
August 8	*August 15
August 27 - note Tuesday deadline	*September 5 - early deadline (Labor Day)
September 12	September 19
September 26	October 3
October 8 - note Tuesday deadline	*October 17
·	 early deadline (Indigenous People Day)
October 31	*November 7
November 14	November 21
November 28	December 5
December 12	December 19

Please note: there are 3 weeks, not 2, between the *indicated publication dates. Note early deadlines: Tuesday, December 26, due to New Year's Day on Monday, January 2;Tuesday, January 9, due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15;Tuesday, August 27, due to Labor Day on Monday, September 2; and Tuesday, October 8, due to Indigenous Peoples Day on Monday, October 14.

mtngazette@gmavt.net * www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com For information: Brenda Boutin * 802-453-6354

We have room for your ad. Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354 for more information or email **mtngazette@gmavt.net**.

SPORTS NEWS



Ice fishing safety for inconsistent ice conditions From VT Fish and Wildlife Department

Friday, January 5

Ice conditions across Vermont are inconsistent due to warm and variable weather, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is urging anglers to put safety first if they venture out ice fishing.

"Check the ice as you go, avoid areas where currents can create weaker ice, and if you are not sure the ice is safe find a different waterbody," cautioned fisheries biologist Shawn Good. "With good judgment ice fishing is a safe and fun way to get outside in winter. But that means making cautious, smart decisions and changing plans if conditions are not what you hoped for."

Ice conditions are currently variable across Vermont. At higher elevations and in the Northeast Kingdom many lakes and ponds have frozen over completely and have fishable ice. But in southern Vermont and the Champlain Valley, many lakes and ponds are not yet safe for ice fishing.

"Three to four inches of clear black ice is the minimum for safe ice fishing," said Good. "For the kind of gray or opaque ice we get after repeated freezing, thawing, and re-freezing we recommend anglers look for at least six inches of ice where they plan to fish."

Even on a single waterbody it is important to know that ice thickness is not always uniform. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice.

The department says anglers should always carry a spud bar to test the ice as they go and should have a set of personal ice picks for self-rescue. Anglers should avoid fishing alone and should let someone know where they will be fishing and when they plan on returning home.

But despite poor or non-existent early season ice conditions in some areas of Vermont, eager anglers can still find safe ice fishing opportunities this month.

"While we wait for colder weather to freeze up waterbodies statewide, I recommend anglers focus on planning and getting their gear in top shape—or that they hit the road and explore the higher elevation waters or northern waters where there is already good ice," said Good. "Fishing somewhere other than your home waters can be part of the adventure and allure of ice fishing, and is a great way to explore Vermont."

To learn more about ice fishing safety, tips for beginners, and places to fish visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Ice Fishing Basics (https://vtfishandwildlife.com/vermonts-ice-fishingopportunities/ice-fishing-basics) and Ice Fishing Opportunities (https://vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/ vermonts-ice-fishing-opportunities) webpages.

SENIOR NEWS

Bolton Age Well Grab'n'Go meals

Bolton will now have Age Well Grab'n'Go meals delivered to the Bolton Fire Station on the second Wednesday of each month — February 14, March 13 — pick up times between 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Age Well provides services to individuals 60+ and their spouse or caregivers, and a disabled person(s) living with the senior, regardless of financial status.

To order a meal, please contact Robin Pecor-Brunell, 802-434-3042 or *rpecor@hotmail.com*, by the Friday before the meal is to be delivered.

Online health aid presentations

High Blood Pressure Management, Thursdays through February 8, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, online. Presented by My Healthy Vermont and North Country Hospital. Learn the basics of controlling your high blood pressure through eating healthier, becoming more active, and more. Register online at https://www myhealthyvt.org/workshop_dates/online-or-in-person-highblood-pressure-3/ Vision and Aging Well Videos, online at https://www.nei. nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/outreach-resources/vision-andaging-resources/vision-and-aging-videos. The National Eye Institute's videos explain dilated eye exams and age-related eye conditions and promote eye health. Remember to wear sunglasses to avoid cataract-producing damage caused by the sun! MyMobility Plan, online (as a PDF) at https://www.cdc. gov/transportationsafety/pdf/older_adult_drivers/CDC-MyMobilityTool.pdf. The MyMobility planning guide from the CDC is a tool to help us plan for mobility changes as we age and take action now. Plan today; stay independent tomorrow. Caring Conversations, online, with more information https://www.mcgill.ca/dementia/support-groups/caringat conversations. The McGill Dementia Education Program provides virtual support to care partners - with social worker Lucy Barylak and educator Joanne Besner. Season 2, Ep.1, Hygiene and Dementia: what care partners can do when the person they support refuses daily hygiene care; Season 2, Ep.2, Dementia and Sexually Inappropriate Behaviors: how care partners can manage inappropriate behaviors Stay Safe During a Winter Storm, information from the CDC presented online at https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/ duringstorm/indoorsafety.html. Winter storms can be dangerous, with cold temperatures, power failures, loss of communication services, and icy roads. The CDC offers suggestions for staying safe indoors and outdoors on this webpage.

Fitness classes at Jericho Community Center

Join your friends and neighbors for an hour of movement, fun and laughter as you discover your best body and calm mind. Whether you are an elite athlete or just beginning, we are all the same when it comes to having fun and learning to find our best personal fitness practices.

Trish Densham, long time fitness professional, certified personal trainer and advocate of all things in motion, is offering the *Your Best Body Movement Class*, at the Jericho Community Center on Browns Trace in Jericho Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. The classes began Tuesday, January 9. A six-class punch pass is \$48, or a 12-class punch pass for \$80; drop-in classes are \$10 each. Punch passes are good through Tuesday, April 30.

This class melds core concentrations for stability and safe movement with muscular strength and endurance gains that ease joint pain and enhance all your indoor and outdoor fun and games.

To cap off the session, we will introduce and practice Pilates and Yoga techniques that stretch your muscles and soothe your mind.

To sign up or to find out more, contact Trish at *tdmover@* gmail.com or 802-999-1265.

Pickleball at Cambridge Community Center

By Russ Weis, Cambridge Community Center We appreciate your patience as we have worked to get back to normal operations at the Cambridge Community Center.

Here are our updated pickleball offerings. All are \$5 per session, or free with membership.

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 8:15 – 9:00 AM: Learn to play Pickleball.

First Sunday of the month, 12:00 – 2:00 PM: beginner pickleball session.

Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 - 11:00 AM: pickup. Two courts dedicated to beginner players, and two (hopefully three soon) for intermediate to advanced. This session will have instructor around to help answer questions and guide beginners.

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM and Fridays, 9:00 - 11:00 AM: pickup pickleball. (No instruction, set up for players comfortable with the rules and game play.)

For beginner classes we have some paddles available. Remember — clean indoor shoes required.

Browns River Little League 2024 registration open

Registration is now open for the 2024 Browns River Little League season for both boys and girls in Jericho and Underhill, aged 4-12, including both Baseball and Softball!

Register online only, at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com. Registration is open through Wednesday, January 31 for 9- to 12-year-old Baseball and Softball minor and major league players, and through Thursday, February 15 for 4- to 8-year-old farm league baseball players (this includes both girls and boys). Early registration is important for league planning so don't delay.

We also need lots of help from you all to make this season a success! If you're interested in being part of our great youth sports program, please reach out to *brownsriverll@gmail.com*, or send league president Casey Knudsen an email at *caseyknudsen@ gmail.com*.

GOTRVT announces coach recruitment for spring 2024

Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT), a nonprofit organization (*https://www.gotrvt.org/*) that uses a research and physical activity-based curriculum to inspire girls in grades 3-8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident, is excited to announce that coach registration for GOTRVT's 25th anniversary spring season is now open statewide. Utilizing a fully updated and refreshed curriculum, GOTRVT coaches will empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, and stand up for themselves and others.

The ten-week season begins March 18, with teams meeting twice a week for 90 minutes. The 20-lesson curriculum covers self-talk, friendship, managing emotion positiv and more, all created to nourish participants' social, emotional, and physical well-being. The program culminates with teams participating in one of two non-competitive, celebratory 5K - one on June 1 at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex events -Junction, and the other on June 8 at the Manchester Recreation Fields bringing together family, friends, and community members to celebrate the participants' growth throughout the season. All coaches will be trained in-person and will receive the materials and resources necessary to facilitate lessons for the season. Coaches do not need to be runners but are required to be a minimum of 18 years old. Students in high school may register to be a Junior Coach. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check and online training modules prior to in-person training. Coach trainings are offered at three locations statewide: Saturday, February 3 in Brattleboro; Sunday, February 4 in Castleton; and Saturday, February 10 in Essex. GOTRVT needs over 500 volunteer coaches to host teams in 2024. GOTRVT Vermont has inspired and impacted the lives of c.38,000 girls in Vermont over 24 years. This season, GOTRVT celebrates its 25th anniversary and will be offered at over 110 locations across Vermont starting the week of March 18. To learn more or to register to be a coach mentor, visit https:// www.gotrvt.org/.

Young skiers in Vermont get a break

Numerous ski resorts across the state offer complimentary skiing experiences for children. Dive into the (partial) list below to discover where kids can hit the slopes for free or at significantly discounted rates. For the full list, see *https://skivermont.com/kid-deals*.

It's all about fostering the next generation of skiing enthusiasts: Bolton Valley (*https://skivermont.com/bolton-valley*) Children 5 and under: free day ticket, but requires an RFID card like everyone else to pass through automatic gates (\$5 for the initial card). General information about lift tickets and prices at *https:// www.boltonvalley.com/winter/tickets-passes/lift-tickets/*.

Burke Mountain Resort (*https://skivermont.com/burke-mountain-resort*) Kids 5 and under ski free; all midweek skiers (Monday-Friday during non-holiday periods; cannot be combined with any other ticket deal or promotion) ski for \$45. For more details, see *https://www.skiburke.com/skiing-and-riding/tickets-and-passes/day-tickets/*.

Cochran's Ski Area (https://skivermont.com/cochrans-skiarea) Kids 5 and under ski free with an adult; youths 6-17 also recieve deals on tickets. For more details on all ticket times and categories, see https://cochranskiarea.com/tickets-passes/ tickets/.

Jay Peak (https://skivermont.com/jay-peak) A toddler pass is FREE when purchased at the same time as an Adult pass in the same category. One free Toddler pass per Adult pass purchase. Smugglers' Notch Resort (https://skivermont.com/smugglers-

Smugglers' Notch Resort (*https://skivermont.com/smugglers-notch-resort*) Kids 5 and under ski free. Youth 6-18 get lift ticket deals throughout the season, as well as deals on season passes (youth 6-18 and young adult 19-26). For more details, see *https://www.smuggs.com/pages/winter/skiride/lift-ticket-rates.php*.

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Toward food resiliency: review of 2023 and plans for 2024

By Transition Town Jericho (TTJ)

While national and international news is distressing, Jericho residents have the opportunity to work together to become as self-sufficient as possible. Rather than worry about *what if...* we could concentrate on what we CAN do.

Food and clean water are what all of us need every day. Transition Town Jericho meetings and projects have included relevant aspects of providing these important daily needs. *Plans for 2024*

To begin the 2024 new year, we will show a movie entitled *First We Eat*, a documentary by filmmaker Suzanne Crocker about eating only locally-grown foods around Dawson City, Yukon, in Canada's North, for one year. It will be shown early this year.

Prior to watching the movie, there will be opportunities to discuss our local food system through seminars, panel discussions, and a community dinner. Watch for details of these events in the *Mountain Gazette* and the TTJ blog.

Summary of 2023 projects:

Early in 2023, TTJ initiated discussions concerning the possibility of a food hub in Jericho. First we invited Jon Ramsey, executive director of the Center for Agricultural Economy (CAE) in Hardwick, to explain the services and structure of the Food Hub there. At the Jericho Town Meeting last year, TTJ proposed the development of a Jericho Food Hub and the Select Board decided that a Food Hub Task Force should be formed to study the idea.

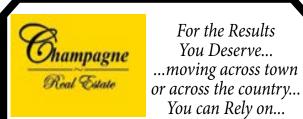
One important aspect of becoming self-sufficient is learning to grow, harvest, and preserve food. To that end, TTJ presented workshops, seminars, and programs on the following topics:

• Seed starting: Laura Oliver, Bolton resident, illustrated methods to start your own seeds.

• Composting methods: Natasha Duarte of the Composting Association of Vermont (CAV) gave an informative presentation about composting methods at the Jericho Town Library.

• Kids Garden Contest: sponsored by TTJ and Jericho Selectboard, *Eat Your Weeds*, an engaging presentation by Jericho resident Chris Sims illustrating how many common weeds can be used as medicines and food... quite tasty when prepared by Chris, who has a lifetime of experience with foraging.

• Tree Celebration: organized by the Jericho Town Librarian Catherine Bass and Sabina Ernst, the celebration included



JANICE BATTALINE • Seniors Real Estate Specialist • Certified Residential Specialist



janbatt7859@gmail.com **802-448-0540** *Your community Realtor since 1983* Don Tobi, toward replacing trees along roadsides. • Composting at Home: the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful: Jericho resident Reed Sims, a retired soil scientist and member of the Composting Association of Vermont, presented a discussion covering the joy, the science, the soil and garden benefits, and the **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pave Westford roads?

To the Editor,

I, for one, like Westford's roads dirt, and I hope they stay that way. With all of the development happening in Chittenden County (necessary though it may be to expand housing and create more jobs), it comforts me to know that pretty much every road in Westford is still dirt.

extremely proud of the flowers and vegetables they were able to

children's art and poetry and a self-guided educational tour of trees on the Jericho Center Green. Sabina described the

establishment of three circular fences around older maple trees

that will promote a native plant understory. Tom Baribault and

Ann Gnagey (Edible Landscape Project) focused on educating

the public about tree health in general and rehabilitation of trees

on the Jericho Center Green in particular. They removed grass

around tree trunks, replacing it with compost, wildflowers, and

woodchips to protect fragile "feeder" roots near the surface of

the ground. They will also work with the Town Tree Warden,

grow, in a project sponsored by Transition Town Jericho.

Our dirt roads are also a lot cheaper than paved roads, which, would probably have to be repaved or touched up at least every five years, causing cumbersome detours and driving delays. Furthermore, the dirt makes driving more interesting and exciting, and prevents excessive speeding and reckless driving (can you dodge all 100 potholes on Cambridge Road? Can you make the turn at the bottom of a freshly graded Osgood Hill?).

make the turn at the bottom of a freshly graded Osgood Hill?). The dirt also makes us better drivers. Who would we be to stop future Westfordites from learning how to make it up a steep icy hill in February, or through the Woods Hollow mudpit in April?

Lastly, our high concentration of dirt roads makes for awesome gravel biking and has made Westford a little bit of a gravel biking destination, which helps support the local store.

So, for my own sake as a gravel biker, and also for the sake of the town, I hope the roads stay dirt forever.

Charlie Cobb Westford



Volunteers work the soil to prepare garden beds for the Edible Landscape Project, sponsored by Transition Town Jericho. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

integration of composting into the family routine.

• Eating local foods: Bill McKibben spoke about his experience eating only local foods from within 100 miles for roughly a year. Though he embarked on this journey nearly two decades ago, it is perhaps even more relevant today.

Ongoing projects:

• Edible Landscape Project: Begun in 2019, this is an experiment to understand the challenges of rehabilitating a neglected field overun with invasive grasses. Garden spaces have been made, many species of wildflowers have been planted as well as tree seedlings and berries. Species include blueberry, elderbery, black walnut seedlings, and two blight-resistant chestnuts trees.

• Kid's Garden Project: In order to encourage families to try gardening at home, TTJ and the Jericho Selectboard have been supplying interested families with raised beds in which they grow vegetables and flowers.

If you would like to join our efforts toward food selfsufficientcy, please come to our meetings or contact us with questions.

TTJ Blog: TTJ blog: www.transitiontownjericho.net TTJ email: TTJericho.VT@gmail.com

We have room for your ad. Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354 for more information or email *mtngazette* (*agmavt.net*





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