

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Free Internet service at both UJFD stations

With COVID-19 cases coming back, there may be a need for people for free Internet connectivity. The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) is providing free internet at both Underhill and Jericho stations. Feel free to use this free service (thanks to some equipment provided by Cisco and Rhino Networks).

Please use the south parking lot of the Underhill Station (the right side from VT Rt. 15), and stay to the left of the Jericho station bay doors.

### Jericho Elementary weekly food pickup schedule change

Due to the high volume of Jericho Elementary School (JES) students being picked up on Wednesday afternoon, JES has changed its curbside food pickup time to Wednesdays, 12:30 – 2:00 PM.

### Fundraising to repair the riverside collapse at Old Red Mill

By Louise Miglionico

Jericho Historical Society is raising funds in hopes to repair the riverbank collapse at the site of the Old Red Mill.

The mill houses the Milling museum, the Snowflake Bentley

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### —Correction—

In the Mountain Gazette published on October 15, 2020, we inadvertently omitted the final two paragraphs of a document that was pertinent to the news story about repair of the stream bank at the Old Red Mill in Jericho. Here is that document in full.

#### AGREEMENT RE STREAMBANK STABILIZATION FUNDING

This Agreement is made on this \_\_\_ day of June, 2020 by and between the Town of Jericho, Vermont, a Vermont municipality having its municipal offices located at 67 Vermont RT 15, Jericho, Vermont, 05465 (hereinafter "Town") and The Jericho Historical Society, Inc., a Vermont non-profit corporation, having a principal place of business at 68 Vermont RT 15, Jericho, Vermont 05465 (hereinafter "Society") (collectively also referred to herein as the "Parties").

#### RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Society is the owner of a historical building in the Town of Jericho, Vermont that is named the Old Red Mill;

WHEREAS, the streambank adjacent to the Old Red Mill building is eroding and in need of stabilization;

WHEREAS, the Town has applied for grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") and the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") for the stabilization of the streambank (the "Project");

WHEREAS, the Town was recently awarded Two Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$222,534.75) from the USDA and NRCS for the Project;

WHEREAS, the Project requires a non-federal funding contribution of Seventy-Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$74,178.25);

WHEREAS, the Town and the Society now wish to set forth their respective contributions to the Project;

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereto covenant, agree and bind themselves as follows:

1. The Town has applied for and been awarded Two Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$222,534.75) from the USDA and NRCS for the Project.

2. The Project requires a non-federal funding contribution of twenty-five percent of the project construction costs.

3. The Town will contribute to the Project the funding it has applied for and obtained from USDA and NRCS; however, it will not contribute to the non-federal portion of the Project.

4. The Society will contribute to the non-federal contribution an amount up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000).

5. In the event that construction bids would require a non-federal funding contribution greater than Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) or an amount more than what the Jericho Historical Society can contribute, the Town will cancel the agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES hereto have executed this Agreement on the last day provided below.

Dated this 17 day of July, 2020.

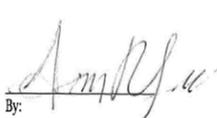
TOWN OF JERICHO, VERMONT



By: Bob Uerz  
Authorized Agent

Dated this 23 day of July, 2020.

TOWN OF JERICHO  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,



By: Amy Uerz

## Rob Mullen: painting and hiking for a cause

By Phyl Newbeck  
Special to  
the Mountain Gazette

While Rob Mullen was obtaining his degree in biology from UVM, his professors were impressed by his lab drawings and he decided to concentrate his interests in the field of art. The West Bolton native spent 16 years working as freelance advertising artist in New York City before returning home. "I didn't hate the city," he said, "but it was important to be able to get out so I did some wilderness canoe trips in Canada." Although painting wasn't the primary reason for the trips, Mullen did create artwork while paddling and when he returned to Vermont he decided to make a living as a wildlife artist, opening Paint 'n Paddle Studio. There was one downside to his return home. "The pay for a fine artist was an order of magnitude less than what I earned in advertising," he said, "so I couldn't afford to do those excursions anymore."

After spending several years making road trips to art shows across the country, Mullen found he missed his wilderness explorations. He had grown up canoeing so he searched for funding to help him embark on paddling trips, which combined wilderness exploration and painting. He's been taking those trips for the last 15 years, in preparation for an upcoming Smithsonian exhibition on boreal forests. This year, Mullen was all set for a canoe trip to the Northwest Territories when COVID-19 hit. "Canada closed the border," he said, "and I was stuck in Vermont. It's not a bad place to be stuck, but I still wanted to do something. I had hiked most of the Long Trail in patchwork but I decided to do the whole thing as a painting trip."

Mullen quickly realized that it was much easier to paint on a canoe trip than a hiking trip. "I'm 64," he said, "and the northern end of the trail is the roughest and the footing is terrible." Mullen's painting kit weighed eight pounds and early in the trip he gave some of his art supplies to his wife, Bonnie Rowell, who replenished his supplies while he was crossing VT Rt. 118. For a while he thought about hiking with just a sketchpad and camera but eventually he took back his palette, brushes, and boards.

One of the goals of the trip was to raise money for the Vermont Wildlife Coalition. Mullen is a board member and is pleased that he has been able to help transform that organization into one that has input into public policy. In addition, since the Long Trail was



Rob Mullen says, "This is the first painting at Shooting Star shelter in progress, which I sold the next morning to another through-hiker who was finishing his northbound journey."

PHOTO BY ROB MULLEN

the resource he used for his trek, funds from the trip will also go to the Green Mountain Club. "I know how much work goes into maintaining the trail," Mullen said. People who sponsored the hike will receive digital images of his work if they offered five cents a mile and actual paintings for a dollar a mile, with options in between. Early in the trip, Mullen painted an erratic boulder near his campsite. A geologist hiking the trail admired it and after having his picture taken with the painting in front of the rock, he asked to buy the painting. Since he was a fellow hiker, Mullen offered it to him at the discounted rate of \$250. "I was off to an auspicious start," he said.

Mullen would still rather canoe with his paints than hike but he's happy to have had his through-hiking experience on the Long Trail. He spent a month on the trail, although that included five of what hikers refer to as "zero days," without mileage. He was glad to have the company of another hiker from Hardwick for the last 48 miles. The hiker needed a ride from the end of the trail and Mullen's cell phone had died in the rain, so the duo happily joined forces.

Although the hike is over, the art stemming from it has only just begun. Mullen is hoping to turn many of the photographs he took along the way into additional paintings to commemorate his journey.

## Master Zachary Uerz earns black belt in Kempo Karate

Zachary Joined Villari's Self Defense Centers dojo, S. Burlington, in 2014 to expand his health, physical fitness, and feel like he was a part of something. He has worked hard for the last six years and has proven himself as a martial artist. With the expert guidance of Judan (10<sup>th</sup> degree) Laurie Shover and her instructors Zach has overcome obstacles, bettered himself, and impacted the lives of fellow students. A fellow student once said, "I get stuck in my head sometimes and think I am not good enough, and then I tell myself I need to be more like more like Zachary, I need to enjoy the training and let it happen. I need to not make excuses, and just show up."

We are immensely proud of Zachary, his hard work, and in these odd weird times he has not given up but has managed to work harder to achieve this goal!

Best of luck to you Zachary on your new adventures!

Sincerely, the Villari Family

Zachary Uerz: Reflections, October 11, 2020

Starting at MMU high school with Mr. Brian Chandler, I liked Kempo because I like the Power Rangers. After high school I went to the dojo. At the dojo I learned patterns, combinations, and animal spirits. I listen and follow directions of the Masters. I met Master Milizia (Chris) with downs syndrome and that was awesome! My favorite part of class is listening to instructions, and my body feels good and tired at the end and the meditation with Master Shover.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN THE DOJO: I have learned to be calm and meditate. Judan Shover teaches me how to breathe and relax. I have learned to work hard and practice at home. I have learned about the animal spirits and how to defend myself if



Congratulations to Master Zachary Uerz of Jericho, who earned his black belt in Kempo Karate on Sunday, October 18 after six years of dedication and hard work. Zach achieved this goal through twice-weekly classes and lessons, and passed a rigorous test to attain this distinction. He is pictured with his proud parents, Bob and Lori Uerz.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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museum and the craft shop allowing many local artists and craftspeople to sell. In October of 2019, the almost 200-year-old retaining wall was partially washed away due to an unusual amount of rain causing flooding. The mortar between the stones of the building is crumbling as well, while many hours and dollars have been put into the mill many more are needed. \$40,000 of needed \$75,000 has been raised thus far.

Please send donations to:  
Jericho Historical Society  
c/o Louise Miglionico  
68 VT Rt. 15  
Jericho, VT 05465

Brad Faucher has established a GoFundMe fundraiser for the same purpose. For more information or to contribute, go online to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/old-red-mill-jericho-vermont-restoration>

## Monthly Essex-Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf

Thanks to all those who have donated time, produce, money and non-perishable groceries to the food shelf during the recent harvest season. Client families especially appreciated the bounty of greens, apples, potatoes, carrots, squash, tomatoes, and blueberries. The Jericho Market has ordered meat for us, when the usual sources were insufficient. They also provide a food donation drop box for the Essex-Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf, as do Price Chopper and Hannaford in Essex. During the month of November, Hannaford will also give \$1 to the Food Shelf for every reusable bag purchased through their special program.

Next food distribution will take place Saturday, November 21 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15, Jericho, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. To help with traffic, local families are invited to come at 9:00 AM, and out of town families at 10:00 AM. Everyone stays in their vehicle. Newcomers are welcome to register on the spot.

To contact the food shelf: [ejufoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto:ejufoodshelf@gmail.com), or P.O. Box 65, Jericho, VT 05465.

## New economic recovery grant program

By John Mandeville  
Executive Director

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

The State of Vermont has just launched a new economic recovery grant program for Vermont small businesses, funded with \$76M from the Federal CARES Act. For detailed information please click on the link below:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/expanded-economic-recovery-grants?fbclid=IwAR040GSWHNkdx5LICV-Zw1HDBsMvHvSreXXnWKAMq7x9W72ZHEAWwkrM8cg>

## Bolton Crates of Cheer 2020

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Holiday Crates of Cheer 2020 — We are collecting cash donations this year (please note: we are not collecting non-perishable food items), and plan to distribute a targeted selection of food plus the usual good cheer! We will ensure that our delivery procedure is safe. Drop an envelope with a donation to the Crates of Cheer fund at the Town Office; cash or checks are welcome (checks made out to the Town of Bolton with “Crates of Cheer” in the memo). Also, please pass along the names and contact information for folks you think should receive some cheer this year to the Town Office (802-434-5075). We want to make sure that we can reach all the folks deserving of a “Cheery” pick-me-up.

## Bolton Community Network fun events coming up!

Some fun events are coming up this fall — think ahead to the time of Holiday Cheer!

- Bolton Virtual Trivia, a virtual Bolton-focused trivia event (Boltonpalooza?). Hopefully just before Thanksgiving! There will be questions about Bolton history, but some readers have other great items that could be trivia questions! Topics could include businesses in town, natural features, events (that may not count as history to some...?), town regulations, or whatever you can think of that is related to Bolton, and might be known by at least some other folks who participate. And we could include some visual clues as well!

- Bolton Holiday Crates of Cheer — Please send your ideas to [lesliepelch@gmail.com](mailto:lesliepelch@gmail.com). For several years, volunteers in town have contributed (food, cash, time, crafts, ...) to baskets that then became locally made crates of food and goodies that are delivered to our seniors, as a thank you to all they have contributed to the community, and to anyone who is having a hard time and could use some cheer. Donations in check (payable to the Town of Bolton) or cash form, with a note that indicates it is for the Crates of Cheer fund, can be dropped in the secure drop box, or mailed (please only mail checks, not cash). We are *not* collecting non-perishable food items this year. Would you like to nominate someone to receive a virtual Crate of Cheer? Anyone who is a senior (over 62) or is simply having a hard year is eligible. Please email [lesliepelch@gmail.com](mailto:lesliepelch@gmail.com) or give the Town Office a call with your nomination (name, phone number, address) 802-434-5075.

## Seeking recommendations for Cambridge Recreation Board

The Cambridge Recreation Board is seeking two new board members. Our small group of community members meets monthly to address the mission of the Cambridge Recreation Board. If you or someone you know is interested, please let us know.

The Mission of the Cambridge Recreation Board is: To organize, fund, facilitate, and evaluate recreational programs, facilities, and events for people of all ages and abilities to ensure a healthy, fun, and active lifestyle.

We try to support existing programs such as Cambridge Youth Soccer, utilize existing infrastructure such as Smugglers’ Notch Ski Resort, and bring our community members to other activities offered in our surrounding area such as shows at the Flynn Theater. We strive to provide a variety of options for persons of all ages. We’d love to add to our program offerings, so bring your ideas and enthusiasm to the table.

For more information contact Nanci Lepsic, 343-2372.

## Jericho Affordable Housing Committee seeks member

The Jericho Affordable Housing Committee has an opening for one more member on its seven-person board. The committee was formed late last year to have a fresh look at the issue. No experience is required, only the willingness to put in a few hours a month helping research and discuss this perennial topic of interest. Experience with real estate development, philanthropy, or charitable investment would be welcome.

The committee currently meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM. If you’d like to learn more about how to become a member, please contact Bob Robbins, [robbsins@together.net](mailto:robbsins@together.net), and look at our information online at <https://jerichovt.org/jericho-affordable-housing-committee>.

## Underhill Animal Rescue Fund

A beautiful, sweet rescued kitten from Jericho has found a wonderful home and received medical care that included neutering from Mount Mansfield Animal Hospital thanks to the newly created Underhill Rescue Fund. What a wonderful resource this is thanks to donations from our community.

If you are interested in donating to this fund, go online to [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and find the Underhill Animal Control Rescue fund that Jennifer Silpe has set up!

## Notes from Westford Town Office

The Town Office is open to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM; hours for the Zoning Administrator are by appointment only, Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Access to the Town Office is conditional upon the following: you have no fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other symptom of a respiratory illness; you have not had contact with a person who has tested COVID-19 positive; masks are required; appointments are required for zoning and are strongly encouraged for other matters; adhere to any signage present; access is limited to the front counter; zoning matters are limited to the lower level (please use entrance located in the back of the building).

The Town Office will be closed Thursday-Friday, November 26-27 for Thanksgiving.

Budget workshops: The Selectboard began working on the FY’22 budget in October. Upcoming budget workshops will be held on Thursdays, November 12 and 19 and December 3 and 17. If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2021.

Property taxes are due Monday, November 16. Payments will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a November 16 postmark (postal, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 17. Please note, if you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing. These envelopes do not bear a postmark and therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office, not by the date on the check.

Senior luncheons are still postponed indefinitely.

Winter Road Policy: Plowing: begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches; each plow route takes the road crew about four hours to complete. Sand is applied to all gravel roads; some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely. Westford does NOT repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow. No Plowing Across Town Roads: plowing snow from driveways across town roads is prohibited. Read the full Winter Road Policy online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>.

Each winter storm is different — roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slowly and know what your vehicle is capable of. Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snow banks. Walkers, bikers, and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.

Some VAST trails cross Westford roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails online at <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>.

Several hunting seasons occur during early winter. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads for hunting access. Pedestrians and pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing during hunting seasons to help ensure they are seen. You can find a list of VT hunting seasons at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>.

Interested in helping to set up and maintain Westford’s Town Ice Rink? Please contact the Recreation Department at 802-324-7132 or [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us).

## Westford Selectboard October 8, 22 meeting draft minutes

Draft minutes for the Thursday, October 8 meeting of the Westford Selectboard are available to view online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-08-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Draft minutes for the Thursday, October 22 meeting of the Westford Selectboard are available to view online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-22-Selectboard-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

## Please donate winter clothes for Westford’s Winter Wear Share

The Winter Wear Share is coming!

On Saturday, November 21 we will again be holding our annual distribution of free winter clothing to our neighbors. Everyone is welcome, no questions asked. Masks are required.

Please consider sharing your clean, gently used winter coats, sweaters, gloves, hats, and boots with your neighbors. All sizes welcome, kids on up. (No summer clothes, please!)

Donations may be dropped off at the Westford Library on Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please bring a non-perishable food item too, if you can!

Or, there will be a bin outside on the porch by the door of the Town Office on weekdays. Non-perishable food items may be brought into the Town Office during its regular business hours.

Or, contact Carol Winfield for pick-up: 878-4449 (leave message) or [carol@vtwildlife.com](mailto:carol@vtwildlife.com).

The Winter Wear Share date: November 21, 8:00 – 9:00 AM, Westford Common Hall, a.k.a. White Church.

(Please note: this event is at the same time as, but is separate from, the Food Shelf program.)

# Mount Mansfield Villages is here to help you stay safe in your home this winter.



Mount Mansfield Villages is a local non-profit that provides services that help its members to remain in their homes.

We provide services such as: rides to appointments, grocery deliveries, friendly phone calls, snow shoveling, and wood stacking/moving all provided by vetted and friendly volunteers who are their neighbors.

We have a reduced Annual Membership fee for 2021: \$120 for a single household and \$150 for a two-person household because we know how important our services are during the time of Covid.

Scheduling a service is easy either through our website or a phone call.

We serve residents age 50 and over in the towns of Cambridge, Underhill and Jericho. For services in other towns in Lamoille County please go to [www.LamoilleNeighbors.org](http://www.LamoilleNeighbors.org)

We would be happy to talk with you about becoming a member or send you a brochure. You can also go to our website for more information at [www.MountMansfieldVillages.org](http://www.MountMansfieldVillages.org)



Mount Mansfield Villages

web: [MountMansfieldVillages.org](http://MountMansfieldVillages.org) • email: [MountMansfieldVillages@gmail.com](mailto:MountMansfieldVillages@gmail.com)  
802-858-5381 • PO Box 31, Underhill Center, VT 05490

## COMING EVENTS

IN-PERSON, and VIRTUAL AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED  
**Thursday-Friday, November 5-6**  
**UVM Extension Master Gardener State Conference**  
**Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats, and Communities**, 12:00 – 2:00 PM, on Zoom. Have you ever asked yourself if something is compostable, or if you're composting correctly? Have asked yourself what Vermont's new composting law means in practical terms? Please join us online to hear Natasha Duarte (CAV) and Cat Buxton, Vermont soil and compost experts, speak about the new composting law and to learn how to promote the healthy soil so important to abundant growth in the garden and to healthy ecosystems. Speakers also include: Sylvia Davatz, expert seed saver and founder of Solstice Seeds; keynote speaker Dan Jaffe Wilder, Horticulturalist and Propagator for the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary; and Jamaica Kincaid, award-winning writer, novelist, and Harvard professor. Register online; the \$40 fee includes access to both days, and to a live recording of the conference. Partial scholarships are available. To learn more or to register please go to <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/state-conference>.

**Saturday, November 7**

**Tips & Tricks for Using Free Online Newspapers.** While several well-known online newspaper databases are available for a fee, there are many other places to find free access to large collections of these records. Marcie Crocker will mention several that may help you with your research, depending on the locality. She will also demonstrate the techniques necessary to get the best results in the least time by focusing on several of her personal favorites: NYS Historic Newspapers with over 10 million pages; Old Fulton New York Postcards with over 47 million pages in New York, other states, and Canada; the Library of Congress database; Chronicling America, with over 15 million pages; and the Vermont newspapers available free on <http://newspapers.com/> through the <http://vermont.gov/> web portal. Classes at the Vermont Genealogy Library this fall will be online presentations using Zoom. They take place on Saturday mornings from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, including Q&A. The class fee is \$10. To register, go online to [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**7<sup>th</sup> annual Trotting of the Turkeys**, 11:00 – 11:30 AM, Church Street, Burlington, starting on the upper block of Church Street. Grab a frozen turkey and trot it down Church Street! Each turkey will be donated to Feeding Chittenden on completion of your trot. Register at the \$250 team level, \$100 family level, or \$50 individual level to help Feeding Chittenden provide Thanksgiving turkeys to local families, and Burlington Sunrise Rotary address local food insecurity and literacy initiatives. Donations at any level are welcome. Register today online at <https://trottingturkeys.com>.

**Sunday, November 8**

**Varnum Library Holiday Portraits Fundraiser**, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Varnum Memorial Library, Jeffersonville. Holiday portraits by Visual Artisan Photography, by appointment, with 10-minute mini-sittings. All proceeds of the \$25 cost will go to the library.

**Choose a Charity benefit dinner**, 4:00 – 5:30 PM pickup, St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center. The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus host a pork loin takeout dinner: for \$12 you get pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, gravy, applesauce, and dessert. The Knights support different charities; for this dinner, choose one of three: Special Olympics, Veterans Place (home for homeless veterans in Northfield), or the Seminarian program (support for one of this year's Seminarians). Please reserve your tickets by calling the church office, 802-899-4632, or buying them after the Masses on the weekends. Thanks for your support!

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**Westford Common Use Policy**

Westford's Common Committee has updated the Common Use Policy slightly (see below).

Also, there have been several instances of vehicles driving and parking on the grass of the Common. Please do not do this. In addition to ripping up grass, it can damage the Common's drainage system. If you see someone driving or parking on the grass, please ask them to move and not do this again. This includes loading/unloading of stuff into the Gazebo.

**Westford Common Policy**

The Westford Common is a beautiful, historical area much used by townspeople and visitors. As such, it is important to protect and nurture this area so everyone can enjoy it.

The following are the rules of agreement for your use of the Common:

1. There is no exclusive use of the Common or the Gazebo. People scheduling an event must realize that they cannot ask others to leave the area. This is a public piece of property that is used by the general public.
2. No vehicles are allowed on the Common at any time, including loading/unloading, except for emergencies.
3. There is no parking on the VT Rt. 128 side of the Common.
4. Parking is only allowed along Common Road, but never on the grass.
5. All events must be over by dark, except for Westford town-sponsored activities.
6. Noise must be kept to a minimum. Please respect the neighboring residents.
7. All trash must be picked up and placed in trash barrels.
8. If there is any damage to any part of the Common or Gazebo, the user group is responsible for repairing the issue, with possible financial consequences.
9. Picnic tables, chairs and other items, if moved, must be returned to where they were originally.
10. Fires, heaters, or grills are strictly prohibited in or near the Gazebo.
11. Exercise care around any trees or plantings.
12. Adult supervision is required for all activities.
13. If you bring an animal to the Common, you are responsible for cleaning up after them.
14. Commercial activity requires Selectboard approval.
15. Large gatherings need to be scheduled with the Town Clerk's office to avoid conflict.
16. Political signs are not allowed on the common.
17. Signs for events, such as concerts, must be taken down within five days of the event.

**Thursday-Friday, November 12-13**

**Virtual Farm to Plate: 10th annual Network Gathering**, 12:00 – 5:00 PM Thursday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Friday, online. This year's Gathering will be virtual, and links to sessions will be sent to you prior to the Gathering via email. There is a flat fee of \$30 to register for the Gathering regardless of number of sessions/days attended. We're offering to cover the registration fee for farmers, food workers, or food business owners who need assistance with registration costs. Please go online to <https://forms.gle/4nnk2m7DDiaqi5uJ6> to apply for a scholarship to cover the registration fee. If you are applying for a scholarship, please do not register until you hear from our Farm to Plate staff. To view agenda details and for the registration link, please visit <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/get-connected/network-gathering>. If you are registering multiple people, a different email address MUST be used for each registrant and you will have the opportunity to select "Add Person" on the summary page. If you are having trouble with this online form, please contact the Registration Office at 802-865-5202 or [info@delaneymeetingevent.com](mailto:info@delaneymeetingevent.com). For other questions about the Gathering, please contact Farm to Plate Coordinator Lydia Pitkin, [Lydia@vsjf.org](mailto:Lydia@vsjf.org).

**Saturday, November 14**

**Digging Through Documents & DNA to Solve Family Mysteries.** Sometimes, gaining insight into how a new tool can help solve an existing problem is best demonstrated with actual examples. Case studies are particularly powerful vehicles for visualizing the simple power of complex methods. They are especially useful when showing how to employ the tools of genetic genealogy to push through brick walls. In this talk, Michael Dwyer will present several new cases studies of genealogy mysteries solved using DNA along with traditional research methods. Michael Dwyer is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists with forty years of experience in the field. Classes at the Vermont Genealogy Library this fall will be online presentations using Zoom. They take place on Saturday mornings from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, including Q&A. The class fee is \$10. To register, go online to [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**Bolton History Group virtual meeting**, 10:00 AM. Contact Bryan Farnsworth, [Bryan.Farnsworth00@gmail.com](mailto:Bryan.Farnsworth00@gmail.com) or [leslielpech@gmail.com](mailto:leslielpech@gmail.com) for the link or phone number to join. All are welcome! The group is exploring fun activities to explore and share Bolton history.

**Rock Painting in Westford**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford. Sponsored by Westford Recreation Department. For all ages; drop-off okay for ages 6 and up. Cost is \$10. All supplies are provided and participants bring home all of their creations. Limited to 12 participants (first come, first served); please sign up via email to Meghan, [valyoum@gmail.com](mailto:valyoum@gmail.com).

**Saturday, November 21**

**Winter Wear Share**, 8:00 – 9:00 AM, Westford Common Hall (White Church), Westford. Annual distribution of free winter clothing. Everyone welcome, no questions asked. Seeking donations of clean, gently used winter coats, sweaters, gloves, hats, and boots, of all sizes kids and up. Donations accepted at the Westford Library on Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and in a bin outside on the porch by the door of the Town Hall on weekdays. For information or to arrange a pickup, contact Carol Winfield, 878-4449 (leave message) or [carol@vtwildlife.com](mailto:carol@vtwildlife.com).

**Tuesday, November 24**

**Gingerbread House Making in Westford**, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford. Sponsored by Westford Recreation Department. For grades 2 and up; drop-off okay. Cost is \$25. All supplies are provided and participants bring home all of their creations. Limited to 12 participants (first come, first served); please sign up via email to Meghan, [valyoum@gmail.com](mailto:valyoum@gmail.com).

**Saturday, November 28**

**Cambridge Small Business Saturday Festival 2020**, through Friday, January 1, Cambridge. Eat, drink, and shop small! In Cambridge we're celebrating all holiday season long, beginning by launching a Cambridge Small Business Festival website complete with an events calendar, in-person shopping opportunities, and a virtual market. We want to make sure that whether or not you're comfortable leaving your house, you can shop small this season! The goal of this year's festival is to highlight as many Cambridge small businesses as possible. No participation fee, just submit a quick form with information about your business at one of these links: service businesses: <https://forms.gle/wx5kZVaRMNdvpvSG9>; In-Person Retail: <https://forms.gle/xvqiQpyERRCggLig9>; virtual artisan market: <https://forms.gle/zbV6J5nvYBDNYm8g7>. To read more about Small Business Saturday and how it started, go to the American Express website, <https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/shop-small/>.

**Saturday, December 12**

**Cookie Decorating in Westford**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford. Sponsored by Westford Recreation Department. For all ages; drop-off okay for ages 6 and up. Cost is \$20. All supplies are provided and participants bring home all of their creations. Limited to 12 participants (first come, first served); please sign up via email to Meghan, [valyoum@gmail.com](mailto:valyoum@gmail.com).

Zach continued from page 1

in danger. I have learned different exercises and moves, and my favorite are the kicks. I have learned to have goals and to work hard to get there like getting my black belt. It has been a dream for a long time, and I am so excited to know I can do it!

It HAS ENHANCED MY LIFE by making some new friends, being strong and focused on the animal spirits. I have learned about respect and honor and always trying my best. I get nervous around lots of people and now I am not so nervous and can smile more. Always work hard and never give up!

I WILL GIVE BACK TO SOCIETY by volunteering with Special Olympics to teach them about Kempo, hard work, and how fun it is to do. I will be calm and help people but not too much during the pandemic. I am worried about the germs and getting sick. I wear my mask all the time and wish I could hug my friends.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**Virtual services at MMUUF**

Join us for virtual Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!

October 25, 9:30 AM: "Engage or Shelter?" In this service, long-time member Dana Baron will explore the role of our spiritual community in addressing the social and political chaos that is unfolding around us. Many of our members and friends are taking action individually, but is there or should there be a role for our Fellowship as a whole? Should we engage in the struggle collectively? Or should our Fellowship provide shelter — spiritual, emotional, and even physical — from the storm?

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sunday Services — 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. Please email [info@mmuuf.org](mailto:info@mmuuf.org) for how to join us on Zoom. Learn more at [www.mmuuf.org](http://www.mmuuf.org) and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

**Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service**

With optimism for cooperative weather throughout the month of September, Jericho United Methodist Church is hosting its weekly worship service outdoors and in-person. All are welcome! Bring your mask and lawn chair and join us behind the church on September Sundays at 10:00 AM. We are located adjacent to Jericho Town Hall, with a shared driveway and parking. There will be music, prayer, and message from our new pastor, Rev. Sean Delmore. If weather challenges our gathering outdoors, we will revert to Zoom virtual worship, a decision made on Fridays. Feel free to email for updates or a Zoom invitation ~ Jen ([luitjens@yahoo.com](mailto:luitjens@yahoo.com))

**Weekly Peace Vigil welcomes Black Lives Matter too**

The Peace Vigil is back from 5:30 – 6:00 PM on Thursdays at Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Our church would like to extend a hearty welcome to the community to share signs and waves of positivity, peace, diversity, justice, and inclusion such as "Black Lives Matter" and "Love Your Neighbor."

Please bring a sign, wear a mask, and stand physically distanced on our front lawn as we share the message of the type of community and world we all hope to live in. I hope to see you there! Peace, Rev. Katelyn Macrae

**Bell Ringing at United Church of Underhill**

The United Church of Underhill has been ringing their church bell each morning to let everyone know that they are being thought of during these extraordinary times. We have changed the time to 10:00 AM because we have changed the Sunday worship time to 10:00 AM.

As you hear the ringing let it be a time to pause, reflect, and be thankful for all we have.

Worship continued on page 5

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## HEALTH NEWS

## Copley Hospital to offer same day COVID-19 testing

Copley Hospital is pleased to announce the acquisition of a Rheonix COVID PCR Testing Analyzer, making same day COVID testing results possible at Copley. The analyzer will significantly streamline the hospital's ability to treat and admit patients, reduce wait times, and eliminate uncertainty for those requiring medical care. On average, Copley collects 350-400 COVID samples a week, primarily through its physician referred drive-through testing clinic. "Until now, all those tests were being sent to UVMMC or to the Vermont Department of Health," said Copley CEO Joseph Woodin. With the increased amount of testing performed daily throughout the state, the once two to three day turnaround for results has often become five to seven days.

Copley Hospital's Ethics Committee has pushed the state to make COVID testing supplies available to all Vermont hospitals. This was done after the CRT-MV Team sent a similar petition to the Department of Health and a number of legislators. CRT-MV, which stands for the COVID Response Team in Morrisville, is made up of Copley Hospital, Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, Lamoille Home Health & Hospice, and Tamarack Family Medicine. According to Chief Medical Officer Donald Dupuis, MD, those efforts were not producing results fast enough. "Although we have faith in the state, we had the opportunity to provide the same testing standard of care for our patients that patients receive in regional medical centers, so we moved forward with the purchase." The cost of the analyzer was about \$50,000, not counting the supplies. "Providing the best care possible is a philosophy that we apply to everything we do at

## Stay strong and help children build resilience

Parents have been resilient in frequently asking me what it takes to ensure they do a good job parenting their children. My answer is an easy one to say — but requires more effort by parents to do — and that is to focus on building resilience in your children so they can turn what they feel are their weaknesses into strengths.

If you want to build resiliency in your child, I have some suggestions to get that to happen.

- Help your child build up their sense of feeling good about themselves, by helping them identify and celebrate their individual strengths. In addition, enable them to make their own decisions instead of making all the decisions for them. Doing this will also instill in your children a sense of confidence and help them to recognize their best qualities such as fairness, integrity, persistence, and kindness.

- Create a home environment where family members connect with each other, talk openly to resolve problems, and foster healthy family relationships to build a sense of safety and emotional security in your child. Getting your child to want to do something for the community enables them to feel that they are making a difference, which can also build resilience in them.

Copley," he said.

According to Dupuis, the Rheonix COVID-19™ MDx assay, which is processed on the Encompass MDx® analyzer, can indicate whether a patient is COVID-19 positive or negative within hours. This turnaround time will allow the hospital to proceed immediately with treatment, care, or other necessary services while eliminating the costs, inconvenience, and stress of waiting days for a test result. "It will also make Copley a safer place to receive care because we'll know — same day — who is, and is not, COVID positive. This is a substantial improvement in the care we can provide our patients, and a huge burden off of both patients and staff."

"Without same-day testing," Dr. Dupuis said, "we had to consider that every patient might be COVID positive, resulting in tremendous inconvenience, expense, waste of Personal Protection Equipment, and numerous other protocols for treatment, most of which would be unnecessary with access to rapid turn-around time, in-house PCR COVID testing. As a small Critical Access Hospital, this is a major acquisition for Copley and one that will benefit all of our local communities."

Copley and other regional hospitals saw a precipitous drop in both patient visits and revenue at the start of the pandemic, Woodin said. "People weren't coming to the ER or seeking care in general out of fear of COVID. When we did re-open our Surgical Center to elective surgeries and outpatient procedures, there continued to be apprehension. Today, it is about getting timely COVID test results." The analyzer has been in use for several weeks and just recently is being used for all samples collected at Copley.

Focus on helping develop your child's character by pointing out right from wrong and when a caring attitude for others is demonstrated.

- Teaching your child how to cope effectively with stress is another great way to promote resilience, especially if you focus on their coping strategies being positive and not negative ones.

- Finally, be there for your child and love them unconditionally, especially when they think they are not doing well whether in school, sports, or other daily life activities. Don't be dismissive of how they feel about themselves — but validate those feelings by saying, "If I felt that way about myself, I'd feel terrible too." It doesn't mean you agree with their self-perception, but it means you empathize. Once your child feels heard, they will be more open to alternative perspectives.

Hopefully tips like these will be resilient ones that you can use over and over again when it comes to instilling resiliency, inner strength, and confidence into your children.

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



Pictured with the Rheonix analyzer are (from left) Amy Shopland, Copley's Director of Laboratory Services; Donald Dupuis, MD, Chief Medical Officer and General Surgeon; Kathy Thompson, Laboratory Technologist; and Armando Ciampa, MD, Copley's Laboratory Medical Director.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Lions Club thanks blood donors

The Jericho-Underhill Lions club would like to thank all the donors who braved thunderstorms with gusty wind, torrential rains, and hail to donate blood last month. The Red Cross collected 66 pints of much needed blood!

As always, we are also very grateful to the Covenant Church in Essex for allowing us to use their facility for our blood drives. Be well, stay safe, and be kind to one another.

## Copley welcomes Dr. Ciara Hollister, Podiatrist



Copley Hospital is pleased to welcome Ciara Hollister, DPM to its medical staff. Dr. Hollister, a Podiatry specialist, joins the orthopedic team at Mansfield Orthopaedics, working closely with foot and ankle specialist Bryan Monier, MD. "The specialized care Dr. Hollister provides will complement our current foot and ankle program," states orthopedic surgeon and Chief of Orthopedics John Macy, MD. "With the addition of Dr. Hollister, we are able to enhance our foot care services to meet the needs of our communities. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Hollister as part of our team."

Dr. Hollister attended Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology/Biotechnology at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. She graduated with honors from Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago, IL and completed her podiatric medicine and surgery residency at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA. She brings more than eight years of podiatry experience to Copley, coming most recently from Central Vermont Medical Center.

Podiatrists specialize in caring for feet. They care for painful foot irritations, including corns, bunions, hammertoes, and nail disorders. Additionally, they treat conditions due to chronic diseases and injuries as well as complications from ongoing health issues.

Dr. Hollister offers a wide range of foot care services, from routine foot care to treatment of more serious conditions, including wound care and diabetic foot care. "I know how important it is for rural communities to have easy access to health care, especially for specialty care. Good foot health, regardless of age and level of activity, is important to every person's well-being. My philosophy is to provide the best care and treatment to get my patients back to doing activities they enjoy. I achieve this through a collaborative team approach, working closely with each patient, knowing their preferences and expectations, and their providers," said Dr. Hollister.

For years, Copley has been providing foot care through its Rehabilitation Services, performing approximately 1300 foot care procedures annually. Therapists Peter Kramer and Craig Luce perform procedures such as toenail care, removal of corns and calluses, and treating ingrown toenails. Services were expanded with the hiring of foot and ankle specialists Saul Trevino, MD (who has since retired) followed by Bryan Monier, MD to the Mansfield Orthopaedics practice. "Foot health is an essential service. Dr. Hollister is an experienced provider and brings a level of skill to Copley's foot care program that will benefit our patients. We're happy she chose to be part of our dedicated team and help our patient's better care for their feet," said Dr. Macy.

Dr. Hollister will see patients at Copley Hospital's Rehabilitation clinic located at 528 Washington Highway, beginning Monday, November 2. To schedule an appointment, call 802-888-8405; a physician referral is only necessary if your insurance requires one.

Please join Copley in welcoming Dr. Hollister to our community hospital.

## 4-H NEWS

## Become an Askable Adult

Youth in our communities need trustworthy and approachable adults now more than ever. Are you a parent, educator, or community member that works with or interacts with youth? Are you interested in learning how you can be more askable?

The UVM Extension 4-H program is hosting the *Askable Adult* training created by the Vermont Network. In this training you will hear perspectives from youth and how you can be more supportive and "askable." Participants will enhance skills that will enable them to have strong, trusting, and affirming relationships,

communicate more effectively, strengthen connections, and be a valuable resource for the young people in their lives.

You can sign up for a two-part Askable Adult training session offered Monday and Wednesday, November 16 and 18. Registration is free and will be capped at 35 participants.

For more information and to register, go online to <http://go.uvm.edu/askableadult>.

For more information about the Askable Adult Campaign, see <https://vtnetwork.org/askableadult/>.

[ FOOT CARE AT COPLEY ]

## Mansfield Orthopaedics welcomes Podiatrist, Ciara Hollister, DPM

**"Foot health is an essential service.** Dr. Hollister is an experienced provider and brings a level of skill to Copley's foot care program that will benefit our patients."

*Orthopedic Surgeon and Chief of Orthopedics*  
John Macy, MD

"Good foot health, regardless of age and level of activity, is important to every person's well-being. I feel my experience and knowledge will further enhance Copley's foot care program – better meeting the needs of the community."

Dr. Hollister offers a wide range of foot care services, from routine foot care to treatment of more serious conditions including wound care and diabetic foot care.

Call 802-888-8405 to schedule an appointment. Dr. Hollister will see patients at the Rehabilitation clinic at Copley Hospital.



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## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

## Selling and moving back to VT after 30 years

By Douglas Boardman  
*Special to the Mountain Gazette*

I graduated from Montpelier High School in June 1954 and enlisted in the Navy on July 6. My father had to sign for me since I would not turn 18 until July 12. I wanted to go to college, but my father couldn't or wouldn't help me financially, so I joined the Navy because of the G.I. Bill.

I was surprised that my father didn't want me to go into the service and didn't want to sign for me. He said I should go into farming and buy a farm. I just looked at him, shook my head, and said he had to be kidding. I didn't have enough money to start college and certainly didn't have enough money to buy a farm. I had been working on a neighboring farm since I was 12 years old and knew I definitely didn't want to work on a farm again. Back then, you were expected to leave home at 18 unless you worked on your family's farm.

As soon as I enlisted, my father renovated the upstairs at our house. First, he gave each of my two sisters and brother their own rooms. Then he installed heat registers so there was finally heat upstairs. Before that, you couldn't take a glass of water to the bedrooms because it might freeze. The old phrase, whereby after some years go by "you can't go home again" applied to me. In my case, I couldn't go home again because I didn't have a room anymore. My room and adjoining room were made into three rooms and all I had left was a rifle and a bicycle. My father kept my rifle for me, but my mother sold my bicycle for \$15 and sent me the money. I couldn't believe it. I had already sold my car to my best friend and so now I only had my rifle.

I felt like a guy without a home, but the Navy became my home! I only came back to Vermont for short vacations in a space of 31 years. When I came to Vermont on leave or on vacation I stayed at my in-laws' home. My parents retired and a couple years later moved to Blacksburg, VA where my brother was a

professor at Virginia Tech. They bought a lot across the street from him and lived there until they died. My brother got divorced and moved across town.

In 1985 we moved back to Vermont. We always figured Vermont was our home and never expected to be in New York for 28 years. My wife Sandy worked for IBM in Fishkill, NY, but finally interviewed for a position in Essex Junction and got approved for the transfer. She moved to Vermont and stayed at a motel in Burlington while I stayed in Poughkeepsie and sold our house and my business. It took three months to get everything settled and move up to Underhill Center. I debated moving back to the Montpelier area, but a big percentage of our older friends had died and many of our younger friends had moved.

I remember the song *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* and thought that Jericho would be a good place to live. As it turned out, we found a beautiful house in Underhill Center, which is about four miles from Jericho. I got my real estate and VT plumbing licenses in 1986 and began doing plumbing full-time. I started out slow which felt great, but every year it got busier. By 1989, I was working seven days a week.

That winter I was working on a boiler in North Hero and couldn't leave the guy without heat. Around 10:00 PM I thought I had everything set, so I pressured everything up and a small trickle happened. I had to drain the area again and solder a 1.25" copper adapter that had a pinhole in it. Anyway, I left there around midnight and I was exhausted. I wondered what was I doing so late at night? I had left a seven-day-a-week job and I had every ailment in the book, and now I was going right back to what I was getting away from! I called my son Randy, who had been working as a plumber at Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park for two years. He came back and became my partner and brought his fiancé with him. They got married the following year on our front steps, with Linda Almy presiding.

Next column: Eat a peck of dirt – no problem; eat a peck of poop – big problem



Colleen Safford



Suzanne Shibley

## Colleen Safford, Suzanne Shibley join VLI class of 2021

The Snelling Center for Government is pleased to announce that Colleen Safford of Jericho and Suzanne Shibley of Underhill have been accepted into the Vermont Leadership Institute (VLI) Class of 2021.

Safford is currently the Assistant Director, Data Analyst and Program Evaluator at the University of Vermont Office of Primary Care and AHEC in Burlington. Shibley is currently the Policy and Planning Manager for the Department of Children and Families – Family Services in Waterbury. They join 15 other leaders from across the state in an intensive program that attracts participants from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

First launched in 1995, the VLI seeks to immerse participants in some of the most important issues facing Vermont while giving them the information, tools, and inspiration to make greater contributions to their organizations, communities, and Vermont.

Having embarked on their leadership journey during Opening Retreat at the end of September, the class of 2021 will delve into a myriad of topics including personal leadership adaptation, complex systems thinking and innovation, public policy, and leadership paradigms that actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for all Vermonters. After building networks and relationships and gaining support and resources, they will join more than 600 VLI graduates who are making a difference in Vermont.

To learn more about the Vermont Leadership Institute and the Snelling Center's other professional development programs, please visit [www.snellingcenter.org](http://www.snellingcenter.org) or call 802-859-3090.

## Invasive plants and how to treat them

By Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

As our trees' leaves fall to the ground, it is a great time to take an inventory of where invasive exotic plants are in your woodlot, yard, parks, and local communities. Plants like buckthorn, honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, bittersweet, and others have been shown to have a unnatural advantage over our native plants, posing a major threat to Vermont's ecosystem health and biodiversity. One of the ways that these species outcompete our native plants is also a tool that we can use to identify where they are: by leafing-out early in the spring (before our native plants) and retaining foliage late into the fall (after most native plants have lost their leaves). At this time of year, look for the "green haze" in the understory or your forest, and you will be able to get a clearer sense of where, and to what extent, invasive plants are established.

To remove buckthorn (or other invasive exotic plants), you have a few options:

### Mechanical Treatment

Hand-pulling: Pull the plant out by the roots and hang it up to dry, remembering that any fragment of root left in the soil will re-sprout, and that seeds in the soil may continue to sprout and need to be pulled for a few years.

Cutting: Cutting usually just makes invasive plants "mad"

but can be effective if applied tenaciously and repeatedly over several years. Cut the plant several feet off the ground, flag it, and go back next year and keep cutting it, a little lower each year. Expect to do this for at least three to five years (sometimes considerably longer).

### Chemical Treatment

These invasive plants are so tenacious, and their threat to biodiversity and ecosystem health so profound, that most, if not all, conservation organizations in Vermont now use and recommend using herbicide, applied thoughtfully and minimally to individual target plants, to control them.

Cut-stump application: A much more effective and less labor-intensive strategy is to cut the invasive plant and topically apply herbicide to the surface of the stump. Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper uses a unique, cheap and effective tool called "Buckthorn Blaster" (a modified 4-ounce bingo dauber) for this purpose, and demonstrates how to do this safely and responsibly in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-p8qRWbs1I&t=26s>. While applying herbicide is scary and counter-intuitive to some, in many cases it is the most radical and effective method we have for controlling invasive plants. As strange as it may seem, herbicide application will be part of how we address the profound threat of these species across our landscape.

You can reach Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, at the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, 111 West St., Essex, VT 05452, 802-585-9099, or [Ethan.Tapper@vermont.gov](mailto:Ethan.Tapper@vermont.gov).

they won't allow us to have to any role in helping them be healthy, even as they face massive human-caused challenges like historic mismanagement, invasive exotic plants, pests and pathogens, and a changing climate.

During archery season this year, I shot a doe in a forest where a severe overpopulation of deer had browsed the understory until it was barren. While I knew that the only way to help this forest recover would be to lower the deer population, and I knew that the problem was largely human-created, killing that deer still didn't feel easy. Like a Taker I took appropriate action, but like a Leaver I did so not out of a sense of entitlement, but out of respect and love for the health of the forest and its biodiversity.

The same mindset can be applied to forest management — cutting trees. While I see forests as complex systems and value them intrinsically, I also believe that I can honor that understanding with thoughtful forest management that supports biodiversity and complexity at every level of the ecosystem, that helps makes forests more beautiful and functional. I love trees and salamanders and moss and I also love cutting wood — and I don't think these things are contradictory. In thinking about managing forests, I also consider the broader benefits to our communities and our world; generating (and using) local, renewable resources is a profound and radical action, one which benefits our local economies, supports our working landscape and helps us support justice, equity and sustainability in the resources we consume. Like killing that deer, cutting trees doesn't have to feel easy. But, for a number of reasons, we need to take the courageous step of doing what's right, even if it's hard.

I believe that this mindset is the future of forest management — cultivating a richer understanding of what forests are and how they function and also being willing to manage them actively in ways that support this understanding. Cutting trees, lowering deer overpopulations, killing invasive plants with herbicide — these are steps which are intimidating and challenging, but which are necessary to protect the health of our forests. I think that we can take lessons from the Takers and the Leavers and become something more complex.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at [ethan.tapper@vermont.gov](mailto:ethan.tapper@vermont.gov) or 802-585-9099.

Community columns continued on page 6

Worship continued from page 3

## Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

Hey all, the folks at the Second Congo Church in Jeff and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services Sunday at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. You can find those linked below.

So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space!

Peace

<https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>

<https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

## Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

## Online worship service at Good Shepherd

Please consider joining us for online worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church starting 9:00 AM every Sunday morning. You can connect with each podcast/video service from Sunday morning through Wednesday of every week.

Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is now available on Fridays. Thanks to Alan's leadership and Zoom-genius, you can now take part in Centering Prayer Practice from your own home every Friday at 8:30 AM. Everything you need to know is at [GoodShepherdJericho.org](http://GoodShepherdJericho.org). Click on *Menu* and then *Weekly Centering Prayer Meditation*. It is easy to join in. The Practice is geared for beginners through established meditators.

We are an open-minded Christian community where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a non-judgmental, all-embracing spiritual home. Join us at [goodshepherdjericho.org](http://goodshepherdjericho.org). No matter who you are, how you are physically or spiritually, or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in the name and love of Christ.

Please contact Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for more information or with any questions, at 802-503-9666 or [pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org](mailto:pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org).

## Takers and Leavers

By Ethan Tapper

As someone who loves forests, one of the hardest and strangest parts of my job is to figure out how to cut trees in a way that supports the healthy growth and development of these complex ecosystems. While some forest management is primarily focused on economic value — growing valuable "timber" — modern forest management often targets a wider range of objectives. These include growing valuable trees and generating income for landowners, but also creating value in other, more abstract ways; like improving wildlife habitat, increasing forest "resiliency" and making Vermont's relatively young, simple forests more diverse and complex.

As approaches to forest management evolve, so too do opinions about the role of humans with respect to our forests. These opinions vary widely, but often fall somewhere on a broad spectrum. While most people fall somewhere in the middle of this spectrum, the polarities are constantly embroiled in a struggle about how forests work, their fundamental value, and the role of humans in them.

Far on one end of the spectrum are the "Leavers," those who appreciate the beauty and complexity of forests intrinsically — who love them just as they are. The combination of loving our forests so much and an instinctive distrust for management means that Leavers don't believe that humans should have any role in our forests at all.

On the other end are the "Takers," those who have an appreciation for managing the forest, cutting wood and generating economic value. Takers believe that the main role of forests is to provide us with resources and benefits. In this mindset, no matter what we do to extract that value or those resources is acceptable — after all, forests belong to us and exist to serve our needs.

In my mind, both of these polarities are problematic. While I respect Takers for taking action, their view of forests is overly simplistic — by focusing purely on volumes and value, they neglect parts of forests that have value but no direct economic value (clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and storage) and they generally think in the short-term. While I respect Leavers for their amazing understanding and appreciation of the complexity and many values of forests,

Community columns continued from page 5

## Criminal justice reform in Vermont: real progress

By Bill Schubart

To build or not to build... (a new state prison) that is the question.

Under the leadership of Jim Baker, Interim Commissioner of Corrections (DOC), along with a plurality of Vermonters committed to a more humane and restorative criminal justice system, we're seeing significant progress toward reform of Vermont's criminal justice system.

Governmental change is, by its nature, bumpy and imperfect, a process of learning, making — and correcting — mistakes. Driven by committed leadership, it persists against resistance from those whose privilege may be threatened by change. Progress is strengthened by incremental improvements and the passage of time that lets citizen recognize that the changes made are creating better outcomes.

There are many gravitational influences in the planetary system of criminal justice reform here in Vermont: ACLU-VT, The Women's Justice and Freedom Initiative (WJFI), Community Justice Network of VT, Kathy Fox PHD, Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, VT Att. General, T.J. Donovan, Chittenden County States Attorney, Sarah George, Office of the VT Defender General, and more.

The newest player on the block is the Women's Justice and Freedom Initiative, (WJFI), founded and headed by Ashley Messier, formerly incarcerated at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF), and then a lead organizer for ACLU-VT's Smart Justice Campaign, as well as the VT organizer for The National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, and a newly appointed Commissioner on the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW). As head of WJFI, Messier is committed to transformation of the criminal legal system and fundamental change in how communities respond to harm, leading to the end of incarceration, initially for women and LGBTQ+ people.

The "criminal justice system" is a broad spillway into prison, starting with the legislature's often reactive creation of laws and statute, police, prosecutors, judges, and us... the jurors and voters whose values elect community leaders, lawmakers, and prosecutors. Corrections doesn't put people in prison — the spillway does. Corrections is responsible for ensuring prisoner safety and secure confinement, and, in their own words, "the placement of offenders in the least restrictive environment consistent with public safety and offense severity."

The value conflict between an Old Testament belief in punishment and the emerging belief in restorative justice roils the politics of reform. The law and order crowd wants offenders isolated from society and punished for their misdeeds. The prevailing restorative justice movement wants to segregate only as a last resort in order to protect society and develop a well-resourced path for prisoners to return to family, community, and the economy.

Under Commissioner Baker's leadership Vermont's prison population has dropped from some 1750 to about 1400 prisoners, some driven by the exigencies of COVID and the need to protect prisoners, some by release of those incarcerated for technical violations, and still others through a system of vetted community release.

Of the 1400 prisoners in the system, 200 (down from 268) are housed in Mississippi at Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility, a Core Civic for-profit prison. Of those, 85% acquired COVID-19 and are in treatment there. Most have recovered and none currently need symptomatic treatment.

Corrections officials recently visited Tallahatchie to check on the care of Vermont prisoners and, with the addition of direct remote-camera access, felt better about their ability to monitor the care of the prisoners. But the Commissioner still believes that the \$6M cost would be better spent on mental health, trauma-informed counseling, and substance-abuse treatment for his wards.

Recently, the expiring Core Civic contract was extended for a year, as no other DOC-approved options existed with the onset of COVID-19. The extension also gives Corrections and the legislature a window to assess and possibly re-engineer facilities to house all or more Vermont prisoners in-state and better accommodate disability and healthcare needs, with or without a pandemic.

Meanwhile, the Dept. of Buildings and General Services (BGS) has issued a request-for-proposal to assess the feasibility of building a new prison. This apparently comes from the executive and/or legislative branch, as no such plans are in the works at Corrections, according to Interim Commissioner Baker, nor has he yet asked for a proposal to build a new prison in Vermont.

Rep. Alice Emmons (D) Windsor, Chair of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, is keeping an open mind about whether or not to build a new prison. Her expressed concerns are the age and deferred maintenance costs of Corrections' current facilities, the lack of land around them for workforce training, exercise, gardening, and other rehabilitative

activities, their inaccessibility for the increasing population of aged and disabled prisoners, and the lack of adequate hygiene facilities during a pandemic.

The cost to modernize any of the current facilities might well exceed the cost to build a new one designed for today's lower prison population and rehabilitative programming. Vermont's current facilities were built when the prevailing public view was "lock 'em up." Rep. Emmons feels strongly that policy changes alone are inadequate without facilities designed to enable their deployment.

WJFI's Messier is currently targeting the closure of the CRCF women's facility and Commissioner Baker is on record agreeing with her. WJFI also opposes new prison construction, believing strongly that prisons offer no benefit to either society or the offender, and that funds proposed for prison construction should instead be invested upstream in communities, ensuring access to housing, mental and physical health services, education, nutrition, and living wage employment.

Messier goes on to say, "In 2020, there's solid evidence that incarceration doesn't enhance community "safety." In fact, trauma inflicted during incarceration adds to the trauma already carried by those in the system. When some 90% of the women in CRCF are victims of abuse, trauma, trafficking, and substance-use disorder, a better solution would be to address the root causes of their behaviors, not locking them in cages and hoping for successful outcomes. We should be investing in our communities to respond to harm with structures and services that meet the needs of those neighbors, friends, and families who live here."

As former Corrections Commissioner John Gorczyk often noted, criminal behavior originates in communities where support services are inadequate. If we reinvest our criminal justice expenditures upstream in the wellbeing of our citizens, we will not have to spend \$50,000 a year incarcerating a Vermonter.

There's a pervasive new criminal justice vision in Vermont and nationally. And, while there are disagreements on policy and pace as we try to envisage this new system, we're buoyed by our common cause and the significant progress made under a new generation of leadership.

But it's not enough to leave reform to criminal justice professionals. We must look to the causes of crime in our own communities, flaws in the criminal justice feeder system, and then continue working together to diminish the need for spending \$180M a year keeping Vermonters behind bars instead of investing that money in community-support systems that reduce criminal behavior.

## Responsible logging practices

By Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

One of the strange things about forest management is that we use logging — and logging equipment — as tools to manage the forest. Managing forests for their health, resilience, wildlife habitat, and more is complicated enough, but forest management also requires foresters to manage machines in the woods, which if improperly managed can undermine the important work that we're trying to do. Forestry trails ("skid trails" or "skid roads") are the way that logging equipment (in this case a "skidder" and a "forwarder") accesses and pulls trees out of the woods. Like the roads and highways that we all drive cars on, they require special measures to make sure that they're stable. Negative impacts from skid trails that we want to avoid are:

1. Root damage. While some superficial soil disturbance is fine (and we are actually trying to create some "scarification" to encourage certain species of trees like red oak and white pine), we want to avoid creating deep ruts that would damage the roots of existing trees. The type of skidder we are using in the woods is called a "cable skidder," which means that it is one of the lightest pieces of logging equipment available and has a powerful winch that allows it to drag trees to main trails, rather than driving up to every tree, thus lowering our "footprint" in the woods;

2. Soil compaction. Logging equipment, even lighter equipment, is heavy and can compact soils, altering soil "structure." Thus, soil compaction can damage tree roots and negatively affect future generations of trees. By using existing/historic trails (where soils have already been compacted) and keeping logging equipment on main trails as much as possible,

we will dramatically lower the impacts of soil compaction at the Andrews Community Forest (ACF);

3. Erosion. We want forest management roads and trails which are stable and which we can use again and again as we responsibly manage the ACF into the future. Water can "channelize" in ruts and on the surface of improperly stabilized forestry roads and trails, gully and "washing it out." This means that we lose the use of trails, either needing to pay a bunch of money to repair them or needing to establish new ones the next time we want to manage the ACF (causing more soil impacts in the process);

4. Siltation. In addition to ruining our infrastructure, erosion from logging trails can wash soil particles into streams and waterways. Siltation degrades aquatic habitat for a variety of organisms and can lead to downstream pollution, as soil particles are bonded with nutrients like phosphorus that pollute our streams and lakes.

Managing logging equipment requires thoughtfulness and planning — even more so when soils are not frozen. While it might be easier to do this work in the winter when soils are frozen, we're doing this work in the fall intentionally so that we can cause some scarification, and take advantage of a great acorn and pine cone year and bury acorns. I made a video about this and posted to my YouTube Channel, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERIPKcmdD4>.

When soils are wet, the logger will take time off to let them dry, unless there are opportunities to spread work around areas where soils are drier. Luckily, soils in the ACF are generally well-drained, with the exception of the main trail between the landing and the woods. When this latter trail is too wet but soils in the

woods are dry, the logger can sometimes do other work without using the main trail, getting roads/trails "cut-in" and cutting trees so that they are ready to go once the main trail dries out. We call this "cutting and bunching." That said, because the main trail at the ACF is stable, with good drainage and a solid gravel base, and isn't running through the woods, we can use it when it's a little bit wetter without risk of causing soil compaction, tree root damage, or erosion. The machine that we're using on this main trail is called a "forwarder" and carries, rather than drags trees (like a skidder), which will lower impacts to this trail. A lot of mud on this trail is not ideal, but a little mud is OK, providing that no erosion, siltation, or long-term damage to the trail is occurring. That said, when the main trail, or any other trail, is excessively wet it's my job to make sure that the logger stays off of it until it's dry enough to use again.

The Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for maintaining water quality on logging jobs in Vermont are a set of standards and common-sense approaches designed to keep logging trails and roads stable and avoid polluting our waterways. We will be adhering to the AMPs throughout this project (and any logging project should do the same).

You can read the AMP manual online at [https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest\\_and\\_Forestry/Forest\\_Management/Library/FullDocument-7.29.pdf](https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/Forest_Management/Library/FullDocument-7.29.pdf).

You can reach Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, at the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, 111 West St., Essex, VT 05452, 802-585-9099, or [Ethan.Tapper@vermont.gov](mailto:Ethan.Tapper@vermont.gov).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wood4Good Updates: November 14 Community Splitting Day

To the Editor,

It's been an exciting few weeks for the Wood4Good crew; we've been donated a firewood conveyor (North Star Leasing), a log splitter, and the legal services to form our official non-profit by Langrock, Sperry, and Wool LLP in Burlington. We also have will be having volunteer days donated by the several local businesses including North Star, and the Rotary club in the first couple of weeks of November.

We would like to have a community splitting day on Saturday, November 14 (the boys will not be there). We are getting the use of two splitters donated by Got That Rentals and would like to ask the community to come out and help.

We will have four splitters that can be used, and figure we will split from 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM and have lunch around 12:30 PM, which I will figure out.

We need pods of about 3-4 people per splitter (so we can socially distance); that will look like this:

- one person to feed the splitter, the really hard work (must be experienced)
- one person to feed the log rounds to the person splitting
- one person to run the splitter controls (can be a kid doing that, at least 10 years old)
- one person to throw the logs onto the pallets (can be kids doing this)

We need to be safe and keep socially distant. We can have as few as two people running a splitter and would like to run the splitters for the full time that we are out there.

Who is up for some good wholesome work and giving back! Its good exercise and it feels great.

Please let me know how many will be in your group, and how long you can be there for.

Thanks! p.s. Please support the local business that are supporting our non-profit!

**Eric Axelrod, Jericho, [Woodforgoodvt@gmail.com](mailto:Woodforgoodvt@gmail.com)**

### Jericho Farmer's Market: thank you for your support!

To the Editor,

On behalf of The JFM Board of Directors, I would like to thank the (literally) hundreds of you local folks who attended our Jericho Farmers' Market this season.

It was a lot of extra work on the part of our board, numerous volunteers, and our brilliant Market Manager Elizabeth King to comply with the numerous extra COVID-19 protocols required by the VT Dept. of Agriculture to even open our season.

We set the stage, but loyal community members like you made it all worth the effort!

Many folks expressed their appreciation for the continuation of our market despite these difficult times and I have to say, that we are super glad that we could make the market a safe and enjoyable experience. It's what we had all hoped for.

Thanks for your support!

John Koier, President, JFM Board of Directors

Letters to the editor continued on page 8

### Thanks to all who contributed to Westford's Daffodil Project

To the Editor,

Thanks to those who contributed to the daffodil planting at the White Church and the Common! There were folks who contributed the bulbs this summer, those who helped sort and prepare, and those who helped plant. Thanks all! And everyone can look forward to years of beauty.

Lori Johnson, Westford

### Reapportionment of Chittenden Senate district begins

To the Editor,

Hurrah for this change away from the ALL Urban 6Pak of Chittenden County Senators who don't even know where Hinesburg, Richmond, Huntington, Underhill and Bolton, Jericho Center, Underhill Center, and/or where the Westford post office, is. What is Jonesville?? They have no fear of our scattered votes as they cling to and all represent only the city/urban, life, levels of wealth, and municipal needs.

I suggest that since the urban areas have lots of population: Burlington, South Burlington, and Winooski could be the three Senators.

After that we spray the remaining three Senators around the periphery to cover all these surrounding towns which currently are unrecognized and ignored. Do it by conjoined towns, and making even the populations per Senator.

Finally fair representation — with Senators we actually see once in a while!!

Anything is better than what we have suffered for DECADES!

Doug Richmond, Underhill

## LIBRARIES

## DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

While DRML is still closed to the public, we are offering curbside pickup as well as appointments for browsing and use of library computers. Please call us at 899-4962 to arrange for pickup or for an appointment.

DRML's book drop is available 24/7, so drop off items any time. It is emptied every morning. Also, please know that anything returned to us is quarantined for up to seven days after it is returned. It will still appear on your account while it is quarantined and because our notices are computer generated, you will still get reminders sent to you. Check your account eight days after you return items and they should be off your account. If it is still there and you know you returned it please call us! (899-4962) We do not charge fines for overdue and we are quarantining to help keep everyone safe. We do offer curbside pick up and we do have appointments on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Check our website [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org) for more information or give us a call!

Join Ms Abbey for small group indoor story times on Tuesdays, 10:30 or 11:30 AM, beginning Tuesday, November 3. Pre-registration is required; please call 899-4962. Spots are very limited and will fill up fast! All attendees must wear a mask and stay in marked spaces to maintain social distance.

Curbside pickup hours are: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; and Saturday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

Appointments for browsing: Thursday, 12:00 – 6:45 PM; Friday, 10:45 AM – 4:45 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Appointments for computer use: Thursday, 12:15 – 7:00 PM; Friday, 10:15 AM – 5:00 PM; Saturday, 10:15 AM – 1:15 PM.

All our online services are up and running on our webpage, [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org). As we find new and exciting things we will post them on the webpage and on our Facebook page.

Our WiFi will remain active and is accessible from the parking lot or other areas adjacent to the building. WiFi is available 24/7. A password is not needed to connect. Please be aware that our WiFi does not offer a secure connection.

For a full list of online resources, including digital e-book and audio book services, classes including language courses, and compilations of filmed programs, please visit <https://www.drml.org/how-to-use-a-closed-library/>.

Contact information: email [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org); website [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org); phone 802-899-4962.

## JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Jericho Town Library would like to welcome our new library director, Gretchen Wright. On Monday, October 26 Gretchen replaced Lisa Buckton, who is now an assistant library director on the west coast. We thank our interim librarian, Loona Brogan, who filled in for Lisa until a new library director was hired. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these times of transition.

Books may be dropped in the drop box and curbside service is on-going.

Library hours are Monday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Tuesday/Thursday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Friday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates.

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

## VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

We are open for appointment browsing! Our new hours will be Monday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Wednesday, 1:30 – 6:00 PM; Thursday, 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. We are ironing out protocol, but will require that everyone wear masks — no exceptions.

Appointments are on every hour, on the hour for 30 minutes. You can use your time to browse or use one of our three available computers. Each person in your party requires an individual slot (children included), with only three people permitted at a time. During the break, staff will clean all surfaces and touch points. When entering the library, please complete a COVID health checklist, sign the log, and always wear a mask. Patrons are not permitted into the library without masks. Call 644-2117 or email [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

We are open for curbside pickup Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. To request an item, please search our catalog at <https://staff.kohavt.org/> and send your request to [varnumrequests@gmail.com](mailto:varnumrequests@gmail.com). Inter-library loan services are available.

We have lots of free books available; please stop by during curbside service and see what we have for you to take home.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; [thevarnum@gmail.com](mailto:thevarnum@gmail.com); [www.varnumlibrary.org](http://www.varnumlibrary.org).

## WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library will be closed Thursday-Friday, November 26-27 for Thanksgiving.

Starting in November, the library will be open on Fridays for browsing from 1:00 – 7:00 PM. The first hour of the day is for senior and immuno-compromised patrons. All areas of the library are open for browsing. Children under 12 must be accompanied. Keep visits to 30 minutes or less; masking and social distancing required.

Library hours, in Phase 5 or our reopening plan: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Curbside hours have been extended to Wednesdays, 3:00 – 6:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Orders may be placed online, or by email of phone.

The Library is a Winter Wear Share drop off location. Saturdays through November 14, there will be a drop-off bin outside the library from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please drop off your clean, gently worn winter gear. Distribution will be Saturday, November 21 at the Westford Common Hall.

Outside Early Literacy Storytime on the Common, Thursdays, 11:30 AM. Bring a blanket and masks and talk to your kids about social distancing ahead of time; snacks or a lunch are good ideas as well. We will sing songs, read stories, move, and have fun! If weather is bad, Storytime will be sent out digitally. Curbside crafts can be picked up as well. November 5: Dinosaurs. November 12: Airplanes. November 19: Turkeys. No Storytime November 26 (Thanksgiving).

All Zoom links will be on PPF and Facebook, or contact Bree to email them to you.

Supporting Education: Using the Library as a Resource for Homeschooling and Enrichment, Wednesday, November 11 (via Zoom). New to homeschooling? Distance learning leaving your

student bored or in need of more? The library can help with a bunch of resources! We will cover a variety of ways we can help you find information, support your learning plans, and show you new ways to access information, beginning with basic online resources and then on to databases and more. Presenter will be sharing their screen to show how it's done. Bring your needs and questions.

The VT Department of Libraries, along with several state agencies and groups, has put together an online resource page: [https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/children\\_and\\_teens/homeschooling\\_resources](https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/children_and_teens/homeschooling_resources).

CookBook Club on Friday, November 13, 7:00 PM (via Zoom): Favorite Side Dishes for Thanksgiving. Join people who love to talk about food for this virtual recipe swap. The great thing is you don't even have to cook! Try to have a link handy to your favorite recipe so we can swap them.

Adult Book Group on Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 – 8:00 PM (via Zoom) will discuss *Girl at War* by Sara Novic. Zagreb 1991: Ana Juric is 10 years old, living with her family in an apartment in Croatia's capital. That year, civil war erupts across Yugoslavia, and when the war arrives at her doorstep, Ana must find her way in a dangerous world. New York, 2001: now a college student in Manhattan, Ana has tried to move on from her past but cannot escape her memories of war and secrets she keeps even from those closest to her. Haunted by the events that forever changed her family, Ana returns to Croatia after a decade away, hoping to make peace with the place she once called home. Extra copies are available at the library and on Libby.

Library cards can be renewed or created via email or the phone. Free Downloadable Ebooks and Audiobooks: Libby/Overdrive, free with your library card. Don't know your number, card expired, don't have a card? No problem! Can all be done over email. Here are two helpful links:

- <https://help.libbyapp.com/6144.htm>
- <https://help.overdrive.com/en-us/categories/getting-started.htm>

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

## RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

Book groups are meeting remotely and books are available at the library; please contact the book group coordinator to find out the plan for each meeting.

Mystery Book Discussion Group — Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Group coordinator Maureen Parent, 434-2055 or [mparent@gmavt.net](mailto:mparent@gmavt.net). November 19: *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Discussion Group — Tuesdays, 6:00 PM. Group coordinator Gwen Landis, 434-5012 or [gwennie1972@yahoo.com](mailto:gwennie1972@yahoo.com). November 10: *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman; December 8: *Emma* by Jane Austen.

Online Resources — Visit the Richmond Free Library Youth Services page to connect with TumbleBooks for a fun, gently animated picture book storytime and Storyline Online to hear great children's authors and other celebrities reading aloud from fabulous picture books. Here you will find links to other great youth sites as well including resources for elementary-aged and older youth.

Remember to browse our catalog at [rfl.kohavt.org](http://rfl.kohavt.org)! We have more than books to lend — request audiobooks on CD, Playaways, Magazines, and Movies! Log in to your account with your library card barcode and your last name as the password to reserve items, or call or email the Library. Not sure what to read next? Let us help!

Library patrons may access to the physical collection. This includes books, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs. We cannot allow visitors beyond the outer foyer but you will find that this space has been adapted to serve as a safe and convenient place to pick up your item requests. Book bins in the foyer have been labeled alphabetically. Requested items will be bagged, labeled and placed in the bins according to patron's last name. The door will be left open so visitors need not touch anything except their own bag. Please be mindful of others and wait your turn to enter the space if there is already someone there.

There are three ways to request materials:

- Place a hold on whatever you like through your library account at [rfl.kohavt.org](http://rfl.kohavt.org). You will need your library barcode number to log in to your account. Your password is your own last name (capital first letter). Please note that the maximum number of holds allowed per account is five.
- Call us at 434-3036. Leave a message if it is after hours.
- Email us at [rfl@gmavt.net](mailto:rfl@gmavt.net).

Pick up times are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 – 4:00 PM; Saturday, 12:00 – 2:00 PM. All items can be returned to the outdoor book return bin anytime.

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

## DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLISTON

We don't want technology to be a barrier for anyone. If you would like to join us but need some assistance connecting via Zoom, we are here to help. Please email us at [programs@damlvt.org](mailto:programs@damlvt.org) or call us at 878-4918, and we will be happy to help walk you through it.

## FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

New curbside pickup hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM. The Fairfax Community Library is located at 75 Hunt St., Fairfax.

In light of COVID-19, all programs will be virtual. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for any updates.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration required; contact 849-2420 or [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com). Please sign up at least one week before the program date!

## Youth Events

No-sew Turkey Plushies: Thursday-Friday, November 5-6, 4:00 PM. Learn how to make a cute little turkey plush out of a pair of socks! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 4:00 PM. The video will remain available afterwards, so don't worry if you miss it! Ages 6+ Please register!

Turkey Traps: Thursday-Friday, November 12-13, 4:00 PM. Craft a trap to catch a Thanksgiving turkey! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and



*It's October and the Master Gardeners are planting daffodil bulbs at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Garden. Daffodil bulbs planted in October/November will flower in the spring. Daffodils are an easy-to-grow, cheerful sign of spring that people love, but the deer don't. Daffodil bulbs are easy to plant with children. Here's how: 1. Dig a hole with your hand trowel, so that it is big enough for your bulb to fit in. Check that your hole is deep enough by making sure that it is two to three times the height of the bulb. 2. Put the bulb in the hole with the thin end looking up at you and the sky. You might be able to see some dried roots on the other end of the bulb. Spread out the bulbs at least twice the bulb's own width apart before you dig the next hole. 3. Carefully put the soil back in the hole to cover up the bulb and press the soil down gently with the back of the trowel or a rake. Try not to stand on the soil where you have planted the bulbs, as it might cause damage. 4. Keep looking in the spring for the shoots poking through the soil. Every year the appearance of flowering bulbs represents the hope of spring!*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 4:00 PM. The video will remain available afterwards, so don't worry if you miss it! Ages 6+ Please register!

## Adult Events

Virtual Book Club: Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 PM on Zoom. We will discuss the book, *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty. Copies of the book will be available for checkout starting in November. For a copy of the book and the Zoom link, please contact the library at 849-2420 or [fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com).

DIY Puzzle Jewelry: Thursday-Friday, November 19-20, 7:00 PM. Make your own custom jewelry from old puzzle pieces! Materials provided. Younger participants are welcome as well! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and join the Zoom meeting on Friday at 7:00 PM. Please register for the Zoom link!

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

The library website <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org> has a new digital resource! In the "Write. Right. Rite." series linked on our website homepage, you can find an exciting program led by writer Jason Reynolds, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature for 2020-2021. The program is all about young people learning to express themselves creatively through writing and storytelling. Check out the videos and writing prompts in this fun series sponsored by the Library of Congress.

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

## BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

We are not be hosting in-person gatherings for now; this could change. We will keep you informed of any additional program offerings or program changes on Facebook and our program calendar at <https://brownelllibrary.org/events/calendar>.

The library offers curbside service, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Place books, DVDs, etc. on hold at <https://brownell.kohavt.org/> by calling us at 802-878-6955, or emailing [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org). Holds and email requests received by 5:00 PM will be available for same-day pick-up. Phone-in requests received by 5:30 PM will also be available for same-day pick-up. We will call you when your request is ready.

Our book drop is open for returns. Because we are still encouraged to stay safe and stay home, all materials will be checked out to you for three weeks.

Downloadable audio books and ebooks are available through Libby or Overdrive: <https://gmlc.overdrive.com/>. For Village residents, we can even offer a temporary virtual card that will provide access to these online services. For a virtual card, contact the library by phone or email.

You can catch our digital programming on our website program calendar: just select the event for details and the meeting link to log on: <https://brownelllibrary.org/events/calendar>.

If you need help using any of these services, email us at [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org). We will also be checking voicemail periodically, and you can leave us a message at 878-6955.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org).

## ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

The Essex Free Library is currently closed to the public, but offers curbside pickup, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more curbside details, please visit <https://www.essexvt.org/753/Curbside-Services>.

We are accepting book returns in the book drop only. While the building is closed, our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRmOhjQ\\_O1GTNOzZ1\\_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1))

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. 802-879-0313; [essexfreelibrary.com](http://essexfreelibrary.com).

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**LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**


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## Reapportionment of Chittenden Senate District begins

By Michael Sirotkin, State Senator, Chittenden District

Earlier this summer I posted on the upcoming break up of the Chittenden Senate District, which after this year's census will split up our excessively large six-member senate district into smaller multiple districts of one, two, or three senators. I was proud to sponsor this new law (along with the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate) which ultimately passed unanimously and was signed by the Governor.

What the bill essentially says is that no Senate District in Vermont can have more than three senators. Currently, Chittenden County has six senators and therefore the county will now need to be broken into two or more smaller Senate districts.

The future districts will have from 20,000-60,000 constituents each, as opposed to the current six-member district which has over 120,000.

By downsizing the districts our voters will have a better chance to know their candidates and elected senators. Instead of having an average of 12 or more candidates to choose from, the number might be more like two to six candidates. Moreover, less populous towns and parts of the county will have a greater opportunity to send one of their own to the Senate.

The exact population size and geographic boundaries of the new multiple Chittenden districts will be decided over the next two years.

The process recently started with the appointment of a seven-member Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board (VLAB), which will make recommendations to the full legislature by next summer. Six members of VLAB were chosen by Vermont's three major parties, and the chair of the Board, former Representative Tom Little, was appointed by the Governor.

Once the VLAB makes its recommendations, likely by next summer, the full legislature will have to adopt or amend those recommendations in time for the 2022 elections.

What the VLAB and ultimately the Legislature will be looking to balance in drawing the new districts' geographic boundaries (i.e., which Chittenden County towns will be in any given district) includes the following as required by the Constitution and law:

“In establishing senatorial districts, which shall afford equality

of representation, the General Assembly shall seek to maintain geographical compactness and contiguity and to adhere to boundaries of counties and other existing political subdivisions.” — Chapter II, §18, VT Constitution.

“The... senatorial districts shall be formed consistent with the following policies insofar as practicable... (2) recognition and maintenance of patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties and common interests;” — 17 V.S.A. § 1903

This latter criterion is another requirement with the goal of effective representation. While the constitutional directives related to compactness, contiguity, and the preservation of existing political subdivisions would seem to already accomplish this purpose, those criteria essentially focus on geographical conditions alone. This statutory criteria however explicitly require that districts be drawn which take into account socioeconomic and cultural patterns.

## 2019-2020 legislative update: migratory birds and more

By George Till and Trevor Squirrel  
State Representatives, Chittenden-3

Migratory birds: Vermont is an important stop for birds that migrate along the Atlantic Flyway. The Department of Fish and Wildlife reports that Vermont has approximately 260 species of birds. Of those, Vermont hosts 125 forest species, making it one of the most forest-species-rich states in the nation. However, Vermont has experienced a 14% decline in its forest bird populations over a 25-year period.

According to a 2015 report by the Gund Institute, at 39%, Vermont leads the nation in number of residents who participate in bird watching, which is nearly double the national average of 20%. Vermont is second only to Alaska in the percentage of residents who participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. According to a 2011 report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 2011 wildlife watchers spent \$289M on wildlife-watching activities in Vermont. The report found that 292,000 people participated in bird watching and 56% of them took trips away from home to participate in bird watching. Migratory birds are important to Vermont's citizens and economy and should be protected from incidental take in Vermont law. H.683 was needed because the federal government rolled back protections that had been in place for 40 years.

Free classes and training for Vermonters: Vermonters whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19 can access more than 100 free classes and training opportunities this fall through the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS), thanks to a \$2.3M allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the Vermont Legislature.

Funding provides tuition, supplies, and support services to Vermonters who have been laid off, furloughed, had hours cut, or been employed in an industry that has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible Vermonters can enroll in a wide variety of classes and training at the Community College of Vermont, Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College. Classes and training are available in high-demand fields such as early childhood education, healthcare, business, and manufacturing.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Vermonters to gain new skills and explore new career options during a time of unprecedented challenge and uncertainty,” said VSCS Chancellor Sophie Zdatny. “The Vermont State Colleges System has a proud history of helping students realize greater job security and economic stability, and this program complements our efforts to create a stronger, more resilient Vermont.”

For more information and to register for classes, visit [www.vsc.edu/VtWorkers](http://www.vsc.edu/VtWorkers).

Funding for this workforce training initiative is provided to the Vermont State Colleges in coordination with the Vermont Department of Labor.

Renter Rebate Program: In the 2019-2020 Legislative session, we made major changes to the Renter Rebate Program in H.934. The Vermont Renter Rebate Program was established in 1970, along with a similar program for homeowners that is now commonly referred to as the

As a result, the newly drawn Senate districts ultimately should be communities bound by shared values and interests, which thus can be given effective voice in Montpelier.

It is important to note that the public will have ample opportunity to weigh in on what these new senate districts will ultimately look like. If you would like to learn more about the work and the timetable of the Board and the Legislature, please go to the VLAB web site at <https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/>.

Bottom line for me in supporting these smaller districts was that it will bring senators closer to their constituents and make them more accountable. I encourage towns, school districts, etc., and all voters to learn more. This major division of Chittenden County into multiple smaller senate districts will significantly impact our towns' senate representation for decades to come.

Super Circuit Breaker. The programs are meant to limit the tax liability for both municipal and education taxes relative to income. The current Renter Rebate Program is very labor intensive for the Department of Taxes to administer and they report that the Renter Rebate claims consistently require a significantly disproportionate amount of staff time when compared to the level of benefits paid out. Two-thirds of the claims require follow up by department staff. It is complicated, difficult, and burdensome for applicants, requiring three separate forms, and landlords must also submit a form. The applicant must submit a form including income information for all household members, even if they are unrelated. Possibly as a result of the burdensome process, only 33% of those eligible even apply for the program.

The changes we passed will dramatically simplify the application and approval process. The program will no longer require the landlord to file a form before the rebate can be issued. It no longer requires reporting total household income, so that now unrelated individuals sharing a rented residence can independently apply and receive proportional rebates. These changes will shift benefits to lower income Vermonters and families and will dramatically reduce utilization of Tax Department resources.

New coronavirus agriculture assistance programs: \$240,000 in additional relief funding was made available through two new coronavirus Agriculture Assistance Programs that launched Friday, October 16.

The Farmers Market Relief program will provide up to \$2000 to markets that suffered economic harm as a result of the global pandemic. Markets must have earned less than \$10,000 in gross revenue in 2019. Markets that earned more can apply for relief through the Agriculture & Working Lands Relief program at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/vermont-covid-19-agriculture-assistance-program/agriculture-and-working-lands>.

The Farm to School Relief program will reimburse schools and licensed early childcare providers for equipment or supply purchases that were necessitated by the pandemic and that support the goals of farm to school. Those goals include local food procurement, school gardens, and agriculture and nutrition education. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$10,000.

The joint application will allow organizations to apply for funding from the Agency of Education's COVID Relief program as well, which covers equipment and/or supplies for school meal programs.

In addition to these two new programs, both the Agriculture & Working Lands and the Dairy Relief programs are reopening this week. The deadline for these programs has been extended to Sunday, November 15 and eligibility has been expanded for Agriculture & Working Lands. Eligibility changes include:

- sole proprietors are now eligible to apply;
- businesses with a net profit between March 2020 and August 2020 can now apply.

Apply For Farmers Market Relief: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/vermont-covid-19-agriculture-assistance-program/farmers-market-relief>

Apply For Farm to School Relief: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/VermontAgencyOfEducation/>

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## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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### Rotary “Service Above Self” recognition

Know an Essential Worker Superstar? The Rotary Club of Essex wants to hear from you!

Nominees must be an “Essential Worker” residing or working in our local community (Jericho/Essex/Essex Junction/Westford/Underhill). This person should exemplify Rotary International's motto of “Service Above Self” and must demonstrate exemplary humanitarian service, in any form at any level, with an emphasis on personal service and helping citizens in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rotary Club of Essex began selecting two winners each week October 16. They will be recognized in our community with \$100 of gift cards to a local business, and public recognition on a Rotary banner at the Five Corners in Essex Junction.

Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis through Friday, November 13.

Find the nomination form online at <https://rotaryclubofessex.org/event/essential-worker-superstar%E2%80%99-nomination-form/>. Please submit the nomination form to [essexrotary.serviceaboveself@gmail.com](mailto:essexrotary.serviceaboveself@gmail.com).

If you have a problem with accessing these links, and want to nominate someone, please call Jim Olsen, 518-852-1219.

Letters continued from page 6

## Jeffersonville Village beautification project gratitude

To the Editor,

I just wanted to thank the following people who helped make the flowers and cornstalks possible this year. Without their help this project could not function:

- Jay Tisbert — flower designs;
- Valley Dream Farm — flower growers;
- Colby Jennison and Kaley White — weed whacking around pots, signs, and fire hydrants in Jeff village;
- Jochen Obert — placing hooks and hanging baskets on the poles;
- Suzanne Masson — my “right hand” woman! Helped with planting and removing plants, cornstalk project;
- Peter Ingvaldstad — my “right hand” man! Rallying the troops, transporting pots and baskets to/from villages, cornstalk project;
- Tom LaChance, Zeke Zucker, and Ethan White — transporting pots/baskets to/from villages;
- Patty Bulk — pot and basket clean up;
- Shari Gilbert Longe — planting and pot clean up. My “go to” person for any and all questions regarding plant/product needs; and
- Jennifer Sweet — donates compost for the project.

So if you appreciate this project, when you see these people out and about, thank them for their ongoing help.

Karen Obert, Jeffersonville

## Trapping season — for your awareness

To the Editor,

Trapping season in Vermont starts on the fourth Saturday of October each year and runs five long, cold months through March 31, where bobcats, foxes, otters, and others will be trapped and killed in steel-jawed leghold, drowning, and body-gripping kill traps. Due to the indiscriminate nature of traps, non-targeted animals including dogs, cats, and also protected and endangered species like bald eagles, find themselves trapped, often with fatal injuries.

Click here for Vermont trapping facts: <https://www.protectourwildlifevt.org/trapping> and also view video here (it is not graphic) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxWWS40umLA&t=4s>.

Shanie Bartlett, Underhill

## Thank You Representatives Squirrel and Till

To the Editor,

Thank you Representatives Squirrel and Till for your work on H.683, which takes an important step to protect migratory birds from the impacts of environmental degradation. Alteration of the Earth's environments has started the sixth major extinction of species in the history of life. Rockström and colleagues (2009; citation below) point out that the massive extinction rate today is 100-1000 times greater than the natural background extinction rate, and it is largely caused by humans. Changes in land use are the primary cause, with the speed of climate change becoming an increasingly important factor. This loss of species biodiversity has profound consequences for the benefits that we gain from the services that ecosystems provide. Without greater environmental protections of biodiversity, we risk creating a situation that reduces our options for the long-term productivity of our society.

(Rockström, J. and co-authors. 2009. A safe operating space for humanity. *Nature*, Vol.461/24, September, pages 472-475)

Bob Genter, Underhill

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## Legislative funding provides free classes and training

By Thomas Stevens, State Representative  
Washington-Chittenden

Vermonters whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19 can access more than 100 free classes and training opportunities this fall through the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS), thanks to a \$2.3 million allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the Vermont Legislature.

Funding provides tuition, supplies, and support services to Vermonters who have been laid off, furloughed, had hours cut, or been employed in an industry that has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible Vermonters can enroll in a wide variety of classes and training at the Community College of Vermont, Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College. Classes and training are available in high-demand fields such as early childhood education, healthcare, business, and manufacturing.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Vermonters to gain new skills and explore new career options during a time of unprecedented challenge and uncertainty,” said VSCS Chancellor Sophie Zdatny. “The Vermont State Colleges System has a proud history of helping students realize greater job security and economic stability, and this program complements our efforts to create a stronger, more resilient Vermont.”

For more information and to register for classes, go online to [www.vsc.edu/VtWorkers](http://www.vsc.edu/VtWorkers).

Funding for this workforce training initiative is provided to the Vermont State Colleges in coordination with the Vermont Department of Labor.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

## Cub Scout registration continues for Pack 620

Interested in joining Cub Scouts? With COVID-19 safety impacting so many things in life we want you to know scouting is still active this year and it's a great time to join, with so many things that can be learned and experienced while still adhering to the evolving precautions.

Pack 620's Annual Registration period continues... Scouting is open to both boys and girls, grades K-5! Scouting is a great chance to build a stronger family, create memories, build citizenship, learn new skills, and create friendships that will last a lifetime.

Please email Andy at [beatnickvt@yahoo.com](mailto:beatnickvt@yahoo.com) or [cubpack620vt@gmail.com](mailto:cubpack620vt@gmail.com) for more information!

You may also review the BSA Scouting Introduction online at <https://ppcbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/membershipCubScoutAdventuresBookletC.pdf> and <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/>.

Masks will be required by anyone attending scouting events, and other COVID-19 precautions will be taken as well.

## Cambridge Small Business Saturday Festival 2020

COVID-19 has changed almost everything about our day-to-day life, but one thing it can't change is that small businesses make our communities amazing!

Small Business Saturday is on November 28 this year, but in Cambridge we're celebrating all holiday season long. We will be launching a Cambridge Small Business Festival website, complete with an events calendar, in-person shopping opportunities, and a virtual market. We want to make sure that whether or not you're comfortable leaving your house, you can shop small this season!

Small businesses have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, which is why we need to support our neighbors even more this year. The goal of this year's festival is to highlight as many Cambridge small businesses as possible. With no participation fee, all you have to do to join is submit a quick form (links below) with information about your business. From there, here's what we will do:

- on our webpage, create a beautiful listing of your business that links customers to your website and/or social media;
- provide sanitizer and masks for every open business;
- provide signage to promote the event and COVID-19 conscious shopping;
- market our event and businesses digitally and physically through news outlets, social media, and signage;
- highlight your small business and tell your story on our social media pages;
- maintain an up-to-date calendar with events, virtual workshops, specials/deals, and ways to get involved;
- encourage customers to shop local all holiday season!

What you need to do:

- fill out the participation form (links below);
- send images/required descriptions to [fdelia1348@gmail.com](mailto:fdelia1348@gmail.com);
- ensure you have a way to process customer payments/shipments;
- promote on your own channels;
- optional: donate an item to our Small Business Gift Bag;
- get your customers excited to celebrate with you and prepare for an amazing holiday season!

The website will launch on Saturday, November 28 and run through Friday, January 1. In-person businesses will be featured with hours of operation; artisans will have three listings in our virtual market that link to their website/social media; and service businesses will be featured for the first time! Every week we will be updating the events calendar with new events, virtual workshops, specials/promotions, restaurant specials, and more!

More than ever, we need to celebrate small business and the business owners that make up our community. Mark your calendars, tell a friend, and eat, drink, and shop small!

To read more about Small Business Saturday and how it started, go to the American Express website (<https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/shop-small>).

LINKS:

Service Businesses: <https://forms.gle/wx5kZVaRMNdvpvSG9>  
 In-Person Retail: <https://forms.gle/xvqiQpyERRCggLig9>  
 Virtual Artisan Market: <https://forms.gle/zbV6J5nvYBDNYm8g7>

## Free grant money to help with your utility bills

A State of Vermont grant program can help if you've fallen behind on your utility bills due to the pandemic. So far, about 5000 Vermonters have received this free help in paying past due electricity, telephone, water, and natural gas balances. Don't miss out! The deadline to apply is Monday, November 30, and the program is first come, first served — so if the money runs out it will close even sooner.

This grant program is for both business and residential customers. You can learn the details to see if you qualify for the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program online at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov>.

The Vermont Department of Public Service runs the program that began October 22. Previous grant recipients are eligible to automatically receive a funding supplement without filing another application. Plus, the program cap will be extended to include additional balances that are over 60 days late and were incurred after March 1, 2020.

If you qualify, the money does not have to be repaid. Again — the deadline is November 30 or when the money runs out, whichever comes first. Apply now!

## United Way volunteer opportunities

United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering in this new time, so the opportunities are still limited, but we are starting to see more. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to see these and other opportunities. Interested in volunteering from home? Click on *Virtual Volunteering* to see how you can help remotely!

A FRIENDLY VISIT – Age Well is looking for volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Volunteers help older Vermonters by providing transportation, friendly visits, grocery shopping, budget assistance, and more. Volunteers feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact that their volunteering has on the people they help. Contact our Volunteer Department, 662-5249 or [volunteerservices@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteerservices@agewellvt.org) for information or to enroll.

HELPING YOUR NEIGHBORS – Remember the days when you could call up your neighbor to borrow a cup of sugar, and expect nothing in return? Cathedral Square is looking for those neighbors willing to help older adults with hanging pictures, bringing small load of items to CSWD, changing batteries in smoke detectors, and more. And in exchange, you'll gain that feeling of joy and happiness that volunteering provides! Contact Beth Alpert, [alpert@cathedralsquare.org](mailto:alpert@cathedralsquare.org), to learn more about how you can help.

FRANKLIN COUNTY BLOOD DRIVES – American Red Cross. Are you available to support us at upcoming blood drives in Franklin County? Join us to provide excellent and enthusiastic customer service to enhance the blood donor experience. Engage with blood donors to promote blood donation and set the stage for long-term commitment to regular blood donations. Apply at <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>.

MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS NEEDED IN SWANTON – Age Well needs volunteers to deliver nutritious meals to homebound elders in Swanton. Drivers pick up food at a central location and deliver to residential locations on their route. Time commitment varies from one day per week to one day per month, from approximately 10:30 – 11:45 AM. Background, license, and insurance check. Contact our Volunteer Department, 662-5249 or [volunteerservices@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteerservices@agewellvt.org) to learn more.

CAREER MENTORS – Vermont Works for Women provides career services free of charge to women seeking employment advice. The goal of our career services is to empower women to find and keep jobs that meet their needs. We match volunteer career mentors with women clients based on what type of advice they are seeking or based on the client's industry-specific interests. As a volunteer mentor, you will have the opportunity to assist clients with any employment skill(s) of your choice. There is no need to be an expert in any subject. We are looking for women or gender non-conforming individuals to serve as career mentors. Five or more years of workforce experience is preferred. This opportunity can be virtual. To learn more, contact [info@vtworksforwomen.org](mailto:info@vtworksforwomen.org).

VOLUNTEER COOKS – Burlington Dismas House is seeking volunteers to cook at their location on Buell Street in Burlington. Seeking Fill-In Cooks for Monday-Friday evenings, three Volunteer Cooks for Thanksgiving, and three Volunteer Cooks for Christmas Day. The holiday opportunities will fill up fast so reach out now if interested. Contact Kimberly Parsons, 802-658-0381 or [kim@dismasoftvt.org](mailto:kim@dismasoftvt.org).

DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS? Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStores in Williston and Milton are both looking for student support this fall and winter. Shifts are flexible (come during the week, after school, or on weekends) and no experience necessary. Tasks include: sorting clothing, unloading incoming donations at the back door, sorting and moving items onto the sales floor, pricing items, testing electronics and small appliances, and keeping the store tidy and organized. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Contact Allison DeVoe, [adevoe@vermonthabitat.org](mailto:adevoe@vermonthabitat.org).

MENTORING IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER! – FriendCHIPS Youth Mentoring is a community-based mentoring program that empowers students in grades 3-12 in Essex Westford School District to make healthy life choices that enable them to maximize their potential. Adults volunteer to spend one hour per week with a student school, participating in activities together such as games, arts and crafts, sports, cooking, and conversation. FriendCHIPS is continuing to foster connection between mentors and mentees by providing virtual and in-person services during these challenging times. To learn more contact Justin Hoy, [justin@essexchips.org](mailto:justin@essexchips.org).

## When to set up bird feeders for the winter

From VT Fish and wildlife regarding feeders:

While we generally recommend people only put bird feeders out from December 1-March 31, variable winter weather can sometimes dictate that bird feeders should be removed even during this period. A good rule of thumb is that if it's generally "wintery" out for an extended period of time, with consistent snow on the ground and temperatures at or below freezing, you can keep your birdfeeder out.

Suet feeders and thistle/nyjer seeds would fall under the same set of guidelines.

Here is the entire link to the section on bird feeders: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/watch-wildlife/bird-watching/backyard-birdfeeders>.

## Choose a charity to benefit from November 8 St. Thomas Dinner

The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus are cooking a pork loin take out dinner on Sunday, November 8 with pick-up from 4:00 – 5:30 PM at St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center. The dinner will be \$12 and consist of pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, gravy, applesauce, and dessert.

The Knights support different charities, and for this dinner, you may choose one of three charities for your dinner's proceeds: Special Olympics, Veterans Place (home for homeless veterans in Northfield), or the Seminarian program (support for one of this year's Seminararians). Because of the great response to the ham dinner, we ask that you reserve your tickets by calling the church office, 802-899-4632, or buying them after the Masses on the weekends. Thanks for your support!

## Agricultural Literacy Week is November 16-19

Tune in for this week-long (virtual) celebration to inform, educate and create community around the topic of resiliency in all of its forms. Each night, Monday-Thursday, November 16-19, will feature a webinar bringing together the voices of our community: farmworker rights group Migrant Justice, Missisquoi Abenaki chef Jesse Lawyer, students of gender studies and agriculture at Bennington College, and organic farmers building soil health and feeding their communities. All events are free and open to the public.

Agricultural Literacy Week is a project of NOFA-VT, the Vermont Department of Libraries, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. Contact Livy Bulger, [livy@nofavt.org](mailto:livy@nofavt.org) or 802-434-7153 with questions.

Registration is now open! Learn more and sign up online at <https://nofavt.org/events/annual-nofa-vt-events/agricultural-literacy-week-2020>.

## What is a ShelterBox?

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Area Rotary

Imagine that you are sitting at home when suddenly an earthquake starts. You and your family escape the house safely but within minutes, yours and 21,000 other homes are reduced to rubble. You have nothing, and nowhere to go. Now, relive the story, but make it a tsunami, or a massive fire, or an explosion that suddenly reduces part of a major city to rubble. What will you do?

Would you support an organization that stockpiles an instant temporary solution, and provides a way to quickly mobilize aid? That is the concept behind ShelterBox.

The aid they supply comes in the form of ShelterBoxes and ShelterKits. Sturdy green ShelterBoxes contain family-sized tents specially designed to withstand the elements and provide people with temporary shelter until they are able to start the process of rebuilding a home. ShelterKits contain all of the essential tools people need to start repairing and rebuilding homes straight away. Both are warehoused in strategic places around the world, with transportation systems implemented to deliver them on a moment's notice.

The global support from the Rotary International network is the cornerstone upon which ShelterBox is built. Our own Cambridge Area Rotary has sponsored ShelterBoxes for several years now, and you can help us to continue this support. As you know, we are currently hosting the Rail Trail Ramble fundraiser. You can quickly contribute to this and our many other efforts by visiting [www.railtrailramble2020.com/teammark](http://www.railtrailramble2020.com/teammark) and choosing a local team to sponsor.

Thank you for your continued support of the Cambridge Area Rotary.

## Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District news

By Elly Ventura,

LRSWMD Outreach and Education Coordinator

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY: It is right around the corner – one of our favorite times of the year here at the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD)! Sunday, November 15 is America Recycles Day, a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling. Lexi Chambers, our newest ECO AmeriCorps member, is working on programming to celebrate with schools right now. If your classroom would be interested in participating in her virtual program this year, contact [americorps@lrswmd.org](mailto:americorps@lrswmd.org) to receive details.

PLU BINGO: It's coming to an end... our produce sticker bingo game will end in December. Get your last few cards at any LRSWMD location and turn it in by December 31 for a chance to win the final PLU Bingo prize ever. Don't be discouraged though, a new promotion will start next year!

SEED FUND: Time is running out on this one-time funding opportunity. With the weather turning, you may be seeking alternatives for pile turning or food scrap collection. If you are a community non-profit in a member town you are eligible for this program. The 2020 Food Scrap Diversion Seed Funds can be used towards programs that support food waste reduction, food rescue for people or animals, composting food scraps, or energy recovery. Examples include placing kitchen collectors in town buildings, hosting a speaker series on water quality and soil health, setting up a composting system at a community garden, or arranging a school field trip to visit an active composting site. Creative and original applications are welcomed. Application deadline is Tuesday, December 1. Find details online at <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/2015-03-22-04-24-34/communities>.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK: We'd love to hear your opinion by having you complete the Customer Feedback survey, online at <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/about>. Your input helps us improve our service and programming for the future.

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District & Lamoille Soil: Serving the towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morrisville, Stowe, Waterville, Wolcott, & Worcester; 29 Sunset Dr., Morrisville; 802-888-7317 or [www.lrswmd.org](http://www.lrswmd.org).

## Where does the firefighting water come from?

By Randy Clark  
Honorary Chief, UJFD

Of course, the fire trucks all have water tanks on board, and we bring a good amount of water with us to a fire, but what if the fire is big enough that we need more?

In some parts of the towns of Underhill and Jericho there are pressurized hydrants (yellow and red, depending on the water system) but in a major portion of the town there are no pressurized hydrants, so now what?

One of the ways to get water to the fire is with a “Tanker Task Force” where we have several mutual aid area fire departments respond with fire tankers, and haul water from pressurized hydrants to the rural parts of town.

On Saturday, October 17 starting at about 7:30 AM, the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) participated in a Mutual Aid Tanker Evolution Drill with fire departments from Essex, Colchester, Richmond, VT Air Guard, Westford, Fairfax, and Cambridge, training on our Tanker Task Force operation. We simulated a fire at the Jericho Highway Garage, and hauled water 3.2 miles from Mount Mansfield High Union School. There were mutual aid trucks coming from Cambridge, Fairfax, Westford, Essex, Richmond, and VT Air Guard along with the two tankers from Underhill-Jericho.

Our goal was to be able to supply a steady flow of 500GPM at the Highway Garage for two hours.

All the trucks were traveling without lights and sirens and obeying all highway laws.

## VT Genealogy Library online classes

The VT Genealogy Library has moved to Essex, but because of the pandemic is only open physically to members. However, there are online classes people might be interested in. Here is the information on two online classes that will be offered to anyone interested in genealogy.

Classes at the Vermont Genealogy Library this fall will be online presentations using Zoom. They take place on Saturday mornings from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, including Q&A. The class fee is \$10. To register, go online to [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

Tips & Tricks for Using Free Online Newspapers: Saturday, November 7. While several well-known online newspaper databases are available for a fee, there are many other places to find free access to large collections of these records. Marcie Crocker will mention several that may help you with your research, depending on the locality. She will also demonstrate the techniques necessary to get the best results in the least time by focusing on several of her personal favorites: NYS Historic Newspapers with over 10 million pages; Old Fulton New York Postcards with over 47 million pages in New York, other states, and Canada; the Library of Congress database; Chronicling America, with over 15 million pages; and the Vermont newspapers available free on <http://newspapers.com/> through the <http://vermont.gov/> web portal.

Digging Through Documents & DNA to Solve Family Mysteries, Saturday, November 14. Sometimes, gaining insight into how a new tool can help solve an existing problem is best demonstrated with actual examples. Case studies are particularly powerful vehicles for visualizing the simple power of complex methods. They are especially useful when showing how to employ the tools of genetic genealogy to push through brick walls. In this talk, Michael Dwyer will present several new cases studies of genealogy mysteries solved using DNA along with traditional research methods. Michael Dwyer is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists with forty years of experience in the field.

## Thanks for supporting the CAR Rail Trail Ramble

Thanks to the 105 plus donors and to those who got out and did a Ramble on the Rail Trail! This was first virtual fundraiser the Cambridge Area Rotary did and by all accounts, it was great success. Due to the donors' generosity — \$6000 was raised — the monies will be turned around put back into the local and global communities!

As for Rambles, we had folks run, walk, and bike! One family completed 120 miles; another group from CES got out for energizing walks. Thanks again one and all; your support is greatly appreciated!

Organizations and events the fundraising will support include: Local Cambridge Area Rotary Support, Cambridge Food Shelf (monies for food and operations), Cambridge Food Shelf Rehab (new carpet and painting), Cambridge Cares, Cambridge Elementary Winter Wellness Days, Cambridge and Waterville Elementary Literacy Programs, Cambridge Elementary Rotaract Program, Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) funds for future development, LVRT Cambridge Trail Head, Wheel Chair Ramp Building throughout Lamoille County, Cambridge Village Playground Rehab, Cambridge Community Center (general capital improvements), Cambridge Community Center Skating Rink, Bryan Memorial Art Gallery, Jenna's Promise, Lamoille Restorative Center, Varnum Memorial Library in Jeffersonville, deck building at the Varnum, Teens Teaching Technology, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Central VT Council on Aging, Polar Plunge in coordination with the Morrisville Rotary Club, Cambridge-Jeffersonville Winterfest, Cambridge-Jeffersonville Independence Day Parade/Town Fair, United Way Firewood Project, Laraway Dad's group, and Adaptive Sports.

Rotary International Projects: Fire fighting uniforms and equipment for fire departments in remote towns in Africa, End Polio Now (program for polio eradication), Shelter Box (provides temporary shelters and supplies during natural disasters), Water Purification Programs.

## Help VT CAP and Wreaths Across America

As the gorgeous fall foliage continues to scatter about our yards, we must admit that winter is coming.

With the winter comes the tradition of Wreaths Across America. This is a time where we locally remember and honor the veterans in our Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery in Colchester, by laying Remembrance wreaths on the grave of each fallen hero while saying their name out loud.

The Vermont Civil Air Patrol is seeking sponsorships (donations) of wreaths by Saturday, November 19 and will do the wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, December 19 at 12:00 PM.

If you would like to sponsor one or more wreaths please go online to <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/17235/Overview/?relatedId=0&modSw=donate>. You can order them as a sponsorship only (\$15/wreath) or you may purchase Patriot Pairs where you donate a wreath and receive one at a gift recipient's (or your) home.

This is a meaningful way to “Honor, Remember, and Teach” as well as support your local Civil Air Patrol Wing. Did you know your local CAP squadron includes members as young as 12 years old in the Cadet program? The future is bright!

Donations by check are also possible. Please email [westfordweinbergs@gmail.com](mailto:westfordweinbergs@gmail.com) if you would like assistance sponsoring wreaths by check, or if you have further questions.

## Suffrage Centennial gets jump start from state grant

It is with immense gratitude that the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance (VSCA) announces that H.969, the Budget Act for fiscal year 2021, includes \$20,000 to support the Alliance's parade, festival, and original play that were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. The VSCA wants to recognize Governor Phil Scott, Representatives Kimberly Jessup and Kitty Toll, and Senators Jane Kitchel and Tim Ashe for their unflinching support for VSCA's effort to share with all Vermonters the largely untold 72-year history of the women's suffrage movement.

“It was our good fortune that revenues for fiscal year 2020 were much higher than forecasted, making this funding possible,” said VSCA director Sue Racanelli. “While we have received support from several individuals, foundations, and businesses, this funding is an essential resource for carrying out our plans for 2021. We are especially thankful in light of the unprecedented budgetary pressures caused by COVID-19.”

Assuming the pandemic-related restrictions on public gatherings have eased, the parade and festival will take place in Montpelier and the original play, *The Suffragist Reenactment Society*, will be performed in ten separate venues throughout Vermont. All events will be free of charge. VSCA believes these events are central to supporting our communities in coming back together. “It will be wonderful to gather and celebrate, once again, and help further our collective healing process as we commemorate the 101st anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment,” added VSCA director Racanelli.

In 2018, in anticipation of the 100-year anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2020, the League of Women Voters of Vermont issued an invitation to come together to organize activities involving Vermonters of all ages and walks of life in commemoration of this historic milestone. The outcome was the formation of the VSCA, a volunteer coalition whose membership includes representatives of 40 organizations and several individuals. In addition to commemorating the Centennial, VSCA's mission includes addressing the history of racism in the suffrage movement and engaging Vermonters in the ongoing quest for equal voting rights. For additional information visit [www.vtsuffrage2020.org](http://www.vtsuffrage2020.org). VSCA is a project of the League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund.

## Majority of Vermonters oppose TCI tax/GWSA lawsuits

Provided by the Ethan Allen Institute

According to a poll of 600 Vermonters, majorities oppose key components of environmental legislation, the recently passed Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), and the pending Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI).

While a plurality shows support for TCI as a concept (48% strongly or somewhat support Vermont joining TCI compared to 39% who strongly or somewhat oppose it), that support drops off precipitously in reference to key details that make up the policy's substance.

For example, asked, “If joining TCI meant paying an additional tax or fee on gasoline and diesel vehicle fuels of up to 17 cents per gallon in the first year, and increasing annually, would you support or oppose Vermont joining TCI?” support dropped to 38% while opposition rose to 54%, with 42% strongly opposed.

However, Vermonters' most serious reservations about TCI have to do with the program's expected lack of effectiveness. The TCI report admits that if no additional action is taken, regional greenhouse gas emissions are expected to decrease by 19% over the next decade. If TCI were implemented at a cost to drivers of 5 cents or 17 cents per gallon of motor fuel, that number would improve only by 1% to 6% respectively. Presented with this cost/benefit ratio, 61% of Vermonters opposed joining TCI, 45% strongly so.

Vermonters had similar reactions to the Global Warming Solutions Act with 41% expressing support for Governor Scott's veto of the bill and 35% opposing his veto, while fully one quarter of the population had no opinion.

However, asked, “The Global Warming Solutions Act allows ‘any person’ to sue the state of Vermont if specific greenhouse gas emission reduction goals are not met, which could cost Vermont taxpayers multiple millions of dollars in legal fees. Do you support or oppose the lawsuit provision in the Global Warming Solutions Act?” 69% of respondents opposed the provision, 52% strongly so while less than 10% strongly supported it.

Rob Roper, president of the Ethan Allen Institute, which commissioned the poll, said, “These results aren't a surprise. Vermonters care about the climate, but don't want to waste money on programs that are expensive and intrusive but will have little to no substantive impact on the problem they are supposedly intended to help solve.”

The poll of 600 Vermonters was conducted by Advantage Inc. by landline and text-to-online outreach October 17-18, 2020, and has a margin of error of +/- 4.

## Vermont Emerald Ash Borer update

There is an important update about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for Vermont.

There have been new detections of EAB in Vermont, including one in Richmond, the first confirmed detection in Chittenden County, and another in Shaftsbury, expanding the infested area in Bennington County.

The mapped area in Vermont to which “Slow-the-Spread” recommendations apply now extends to include the towns listed below as being in a Confirmed Infested Area or High Risk Area.

Confirmed Infested Areas are within five miles of a known infestation. While symptoms may not be obvious, EAB is likely to be present in much of this area. High Risk Areas extend five miles from the outer edge of a Confirmed Infested Area. EAB is likely expanding into and present in some of this area.

New Towns in the Confirmed Infested Area: Arlington, Bolton, Essex, Glastenbury, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Shaftsbury, Shelburne, South Burlington, Sunderland, and Williston.

New Towns in the High Risk Area: Charlotte, Manchester, Sandgate, St. George, Stowe, and Underhill.

Forest landowners, homeowners, logging contractors, municipalities, and utilities in the infested area should evaluate the options available to them to protect their ash trees and immediately implement Vermont's “Slow the Spread” recommendations.

EAB non-flight Season Started October 1, the start of the least risky time to move ash materials from the infested area according to the “Slow the Spread” recommendations. Follow “Slow the Spread” recommendations to help protect uninfested forests and to give time to landowners, communities, and businesses to plan and budget for the arrival of EAB.

Visit <https://www.vtinvasives.org> to learn more about EAB and what you can do to “Slow the Spread.”

Questions about managing ash in your woodlot or around your home, or Use Value Appraisal guidance? Check out the resources available at <https://www.vtinvasives.org>.

## Burlington Garden Club receives regional awards

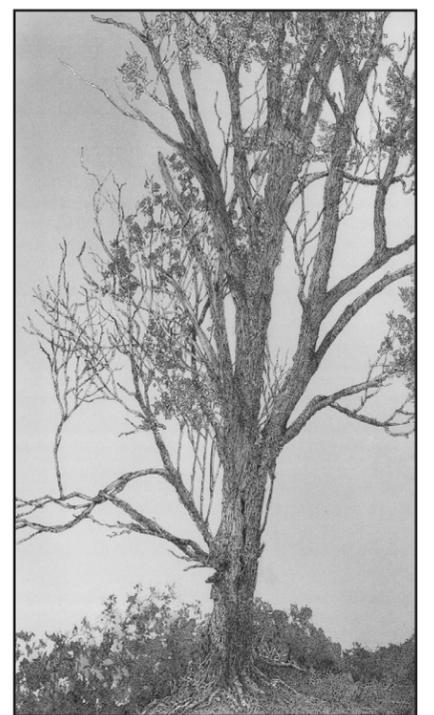
The Burlington Garden Club is the proud winner of two recent New England Garden Club Awards. The New England Regional Garden Clubs consists of garden clubs in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

The Nancy H. Atwell Award: Established in 1997 by Nancy H. Atwell of Maine for the most outstanding State Garden Club for “Publicity Demonstrating National Garden Clubs, Inc. or New England Garden Club Objectives.” The Burlington Garden Club is the recipient of this prominent award through the Club's work in celebrating National Garden Week under the leadership of Nancy Bell, Chairperson.

The Pamela C. Hebert Garden of Youth Award: A certificate and \$25 awarded to a State Garden Club project. Each State Club submits one club project for the regional award from 2018-2020. This award is designed for club members to work with children — our future garden club members and stewards of the land. This involves a youth educational project combined into one making the project an educational experience or venture for the youth. This is a continuation of National Garden Club's Unified Project 2005-2007 “Sprouts.” The greatest gift we can give to our children is our time, so together we can continue to encourage our children to stop-look-and-learn. This award is for 2019 and the work of the youth project under the leadership of Joelyn Niggel, chairperson, working with cub scouts and children learning the value and benefits of seed planting.

These awards represent the best in Burlington Garden Club members' community work, from civic beautification to youth gardening.

*Emile A Guppe Gallery, Jericho, will host an exhibition of Harald Aksdal's latest new works in watercolor and ink from Sunday, November 8 - Sunday, December 20. This might be the last show of new works by Harald. Meet the artist at work on Sundays, November 8 and 22 and December 6 and 13, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Above is Harald's painting Old Maple. Harald says, “The cornerstone of my art comes, not surprisingly,*



*from my background as an architect, where attention to detail and a love of working with pencils as well as pen and ink are critical. I use these materials in combination with watercolor to express my deep affinity for our rural and natural world, especially trees, barns, and cows. Although my art begins with an on-location sketch of an actual person, place, or creature, I complete the piece in my studio, where I try to move beyond my architect's critical eye to incorporate touches of the abstract in a way that is meant to convey my admiration and respect for the subject.” And one last closing Aksdal thought: “Each blade of grass is an individual and is to be treated with respect, as any individual deserves.” The gallery's website is [www.emilegruppogallery.com](http://www.emilegruppogallery.com); hours are Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, or by appointment (802-899-3211). Please wear masks and observe social distancing. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED*

**MMUHS theatre department streams *War of the Worlds***

The Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department students rehearsed virtually, and occasionally in person, to film this fall's theatre production *The War of the Worlds*, with a streaming debut on October 30 — the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the original radio broadcast. The students were so excited to be able to perform again, after a very disappointing cancellation of last year's musical performance due to the pandemic.

On October 30, 1938, a Sunday evening, families across the country were tuned into the radio. Many turned in on time to hear the weekly radio play performed by Orson Welles and his cast of radio players in *The Mercury Theatre on the Air*, on the Columbia Broadcasting System. But thousands of people tuned in late and missed the beginning of the program, which announced that this was a play called *The War of The Worlds*.

Those latecomers only heard news bulletins interrupting "regular programming," telling of Martians landing in New Jersey. Thousands of people were in fear for their lives. The next day, the newspaper headlines told how thousands of people had been fooled by the broadcast.

The MMU production incorporated the reactions of those radio listeners, who tell of the terrible fear they experienced that night. Many believed would be their last night on earth! A cast of 25 students rehearsed virtually, beginning in early September. The Radio Listeners recorded themselves at home, while the Radio Players filmed (one at a time, due to COVID-19 restrictions) on set on the stage at MMU. A big technical team worked on the show with new kinds of technical endeavors. A team of six editors put the whole show together that was streamed (on demand via Broadway on Demand) starting on October 30.

For streaming details and how to get tickets, go online to <http://mmu.mmuusd.org/quicklinks/theatredepartment>.



**OFFICIAL WARNING**

**JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT  
BUDGET HEARING**

**November 19, 2020**

**7:00 p.m.**

**THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT OF JERICHO AND UNDERHILL, VERMONT ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AND WARNED TO MEET VIRTUALLY BY JOINING THIS ZOOM MEETING.**

**PLEASE GO TO THIS LINK;**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5446063269?pwd=V09BQW1MSVc-1czNlVhNz0St5RTVzZz09>**

Meeting ID: 544 606 3269

Passcode: iMX9e0

**FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE FY2022 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT.**

**PROPOSED BUDGET:     \$60,345.00**

**OBITUARY**

**Robert J. Proulx Jr.**, 66, of Cambridge, VT died unexpectedly Thursday morning, October 22, 2020 at his home due to a pulmonary embolism. Bob was born in Tewksbury, MA on July 28, 1954, the son of Robert J. Proulx Sr. and Barbara Marie (Gregoire) Proulx. He was raised in Dracut, MA and graduated from Dracut High School in 1973. On March 8, 1975 he married Denise Pudsey in Chelmsford, MA. His first job was working for Prince Macaroni; he later worked for Raytheon in Andover, MA for over ten years, then for the Lowell (MA) Fire Department for over four years before moving to Jeffersonville, VT, where he worked for S.D. Ireland and many other trucking companies before retiring in 2016. Tired of retirement, he decided to start his own company R n D Enterprises, where he enjoyed tile work, cement work, and welding. He was very involved in his congregation at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Cambridge. He enjoyed being a part of LDC, working as a volunteer helping build congregations in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont. He enjoyed doing models, fishing, kayaking, and spending time with his family and his loving kitten Dusty. He is survived by his loving wife Denise Proulx of Cambridge and their children Robert J. Proulx III and his wife Irene of Dracut, MA, Dustin Paul Proulx and his wife Diana of Hinesburg, VT, and Carrie Elizabeth Stone and her husband Abel of Bakersfield, VT. He is also survived by grandchildren Noah and Zachary Proulx, Damon, Deona, and Danica Proulx, and Jabyn, Gavyn, Jude, and Emery Stone. Robert also is survived by his father Robert J. Proulx Sr. of Dracut, MA, his sister Joan Crooker and her husband Roger "Butch" Crooker Jr. of Temple, NH, his brothers Kenneth Proulx and his wife Robin of Townsend, MA, Michael Proulx of Tynsboro, MA, and by Denise's mother Lillian Pudsey of Brookline, NH; Denise's brothers and sisters Linda Polk and her husband Tony of Nashua, NH, twins Ron Pudsey of Thompson, CT and Rachel Lessard and her husband Gary of Hudson, NH, Billy Pudsey of Brookline, NH, Gene Pudsey of Jaffrey, NH, and by many, many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother Barbara Proulx, his twin grandchildren Merryk and Jewel, his father-in-law Eugene Pudsey, and his sister-in-law Sharon Batista and his brother-in-law Ernest Pudsey. A graveside service will be private at the Jeffersonville Cemetery at the convenience of the family. For those who wish, online condolences may be made to [www.minorsh.com](http://www.minorsh.com).

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**Fall excursion ideas from the VT Arts Council**

There's still plenty of art and culture to discover across Vermont this fall with room for spatial distancing, indoors and out. Vermont autumns are a magical time to discover something new, as nothing gold can stay. Get out there and fortify your soul for the months ahead with art with our recommended COVID-safe excursions around Vermont. What makes them COVID-safe? Clear COVID precautions are posted for all visitors — you know the drill: masks, sanitizer, and social distancing. We've also got "Picnic Pairings" for premium picnic spots. Chittenden County: <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/explore-vermont-arts/arts-excursions/chittenden>; Lamoille County: <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/explore-vermont-arts/arts-excursions/lamoille-county>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Poetry Out Loud is back! For 2020-2021, all Poetry Out Loud programming will be held virtually. We are offering a variety of resources to help teachers and students succeed this year, such as toolkits and visiting artist workshops. Learn more about Poetry Out Loud and register your school, online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/programs/poetry-out-loud>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



**Wreaths for sale from Poker Hill School**

- 25" decorated (bows, berries, pinecones) \$25;
- 25" plain \$20;
- centerpiece (16" with bows and candle) \$30.

If you'd like to order a wreath or centerpiece, please email [stephaniebrogle@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniebrogle@yahoo.com). Payment due before pickup, unless previous arrangements are made. All proceeds benefit Poker Hill School. Wreaths will arrive the week before Thanksgiving, and will need to be picked up at the school, on Poker Hill Rd., Underhill. Thank you for your support.

**7th annual Trotting of the Turkeys**

Join Feeding Chittenden and Burlington Sunrise Rotary for the seventh annual Trotting of the Turkeys, a safe, outdoor event to raise money for local families in need over the holiday season. This short parade down Church Street in Burlington will take place on Saturday, November 7, 11:00 – 11:30 AM. It starts on the upper block of Church Street.

Grab a frozen turkey and trot it down Church Street! Each turkey will be donated to Feeding Chittenden on completion of your trot.

Register at the \$250 team level, \$100 family level, or \$50 individual level to help Feeding Chittenden provide Thanksgiving turkeys to local families, and Burlington Sunrise Rotary address local food insecurity and literacy initiatives. Donations at any level are welcome.

Register today online at <https://trottingturkeys.com>.

**MMUUSD has changed food service pickup times**

MMUUSD Communications Coordinator & Technology Integration Specialist Renee Langevin reports new food pickup times — but not days, it is still on Wednesdays — please take note!

- MMU, BRMS: staying the same, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM;
- JES: 12:30 – 2:00 PM;
- RES, CHMS, SMS: 12:45 – 2:30 PM;
- BPMS: 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact David Horner, [david.horner@mmuusd.org](mailto:david.horner@mmuusd.org) or 802-434-1010.

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**Underhill - \$399,000**  
Two bedrooms, one bath furnished Log home overlooking breathtaking mountain views. Bright sunny living room & eat-in kitchen with a central fireplace featuring a slate surround. Enjoy the seasons from your front porch or hiking around 11 acres of paradise. 2 car detached garage, a wonderful place to call home!

**Fairfax - \$389,000**  
To be built! Colonial on wooded .90 level lot on over 6+ acres of common land. Primary suite w/ large walk-in closet & bath. 2 additional bedrooms and full bath up. Open kitchen and dining area. Living room and den with a view. 2 car garage & full front porch. A Vermonter's dream!

**Fairfax - \$174,500**  
Priced to Sell! Two bedroom, 1.5 bathroom townhome at Mill Hill in Fairfax Village. Close to schools & stores. Open Floor plan with large eat-in kitchen, oak cabinets and lots of counterspace. Ample closet space, washer & dryer hookups, partially finished lower level. Attached garage, front porch & back deck.

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