

Total Solar Eclipse

Eclipse guidance: Jericho

By John Abbott, Jericho Town Administrator

March 26

This is a first effort to share concerns about traffic and safety impacts in the Town of Jericho. These impacts MAY result from the once-in-a-lifetime, solar eclipse event on Monday April 8, 2024. The information below provides guidance in preparation.

Note: Jericho Town Hall will be closed on April 8 as will all schools in Chittenden County.

A large number of vehicles and people will be traveling around Vermont and New England the weekend before, and the day of, the eclipse. The most significant impacts are likely to be experienced immediately after the eclipse. Jericho has beautiful mountains and open space, but a road network limited by geography.

Please review these personal and traffic safety tips when viewing or driving:

Eye safety: to view the eclipse safely, you'll need either special eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer that meets the ISO standards. Ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun; they transmit far more sunlight than is safe for our eyes. A free pair of eclipse glasses can be picked up at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, the Jericho Town Library and the Town Clerk's Office, while supplies last.

Important to remember:

- always supervise children using eclipse glasses.
- if you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on and put your eclipse glasses over them.
- after you are finished looking at the sun, turn away before removing your filter — do not remove it while looking at the sun.
- do not look at the eclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.
- for more information on eye protection, please visit <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety>.

Eclipse traffic: We do not know the exact impacts to local, regional or statewide transportation networks. If you do not wish to be impacted by delays or traffic jams on April 8:

- shop for food and other necessities prior to the weekend of April 6-7;
- fill your car with gas prior to the weekend of April 6-7;
- make plans with childcare providers, as you may be late due to traffic, or may not be able to get there before they close.
- avoid travel on April 8 until well after the eclipse and when traffic apps such as Google Maps Traffic or Waze show there are no longer increased traffic impacts.

If you must travel on April 8:

- ensure you have a full tank of gas;
- expect extended delays;
- plan your route using a traffic app;
- pack warm clothes, water, and snacks in case you are stuck in traffic;
- be patient and breathe — a major issue in other communities that have experienced these events is road rage due to congested traffic;
- please do not overwhelm public safety with phone calls regarding non-crash related traffic issues — they will be aware — only contact them for emergency situations.

For more information, please visit <https://www.vermont.gov/eclipse#gsc.tab=0>.

Eclipse viewing at MMUHS on April 8

Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) on Browns Trace in Jericho will be hosting eclipse viewing on Monday, April 8! The playing fields offer a great spot to put out a blanket or chairs to watch the event. There is plenty of parking, too!

There will be multiple telescopes set up with solar filters and members of the MMU Astronomy Club and MMU teachers will be on site to answer questions and offer telescope views. There will also be food available for purchase from a local food truck or two. Things to consider:

- Parking will be in the main MMU lot, and folks can set up chairs and such on the soccer or football fields.
- Bring your own eclipse glasses! It is dangerous to look at the sun without them! Note that all MMUUSD students will receive a pair of glasses from their schools/teachers prior to the event.
- If you have a telescope of your own or photography equipment you want to use, please do so! There are lots of places to set up equipment.
- The eclipse starts at 2:15 PM. Totality begins at 3:26 PM and will last for about 3 minutes. The eclipse ends at 4:35 PM. The parking lot will be open starting at 1:00 PM.
- Keep thinking thoughts of clear skies! This will be an exciting celestial event!

Westford Music Series to celebrate eclipse



On Sunday, April 7 at the Westford Common Hall (aka the white church) from 4:00 – 5:00 PM, the Westford Music Series presents *Heliand* — offering a fresh new program, *Zodiac Dust*, for the celebration of the April 8 eclipse. Oboist Katie Opera and bassoonist Rachael Elliott are joined by NY percussion virtuoso Thomas Kozumplik for a springtime series of music by J.S. Bach, Debussy, Kozumplik, Padma Newsome, Isadora Zebeljan, and others. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy an intimate and expressive chamber music experience while anticipating the eclipse with a gorgeous engaging repertoire of classical music from the baroque through 20th century contemporary genre. Pie raffle for extra fun. Free will donation. For more information, contact Marjorie Hamrell, 802-879-4028.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

View the eclipse at the Davis Farm in Jericho

The Davis Farm would like to invite the community to a wide-open viewing of the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, starting at 1:00 PM. The Farm is located at 70 Cilley Hill Rd., Jericho.

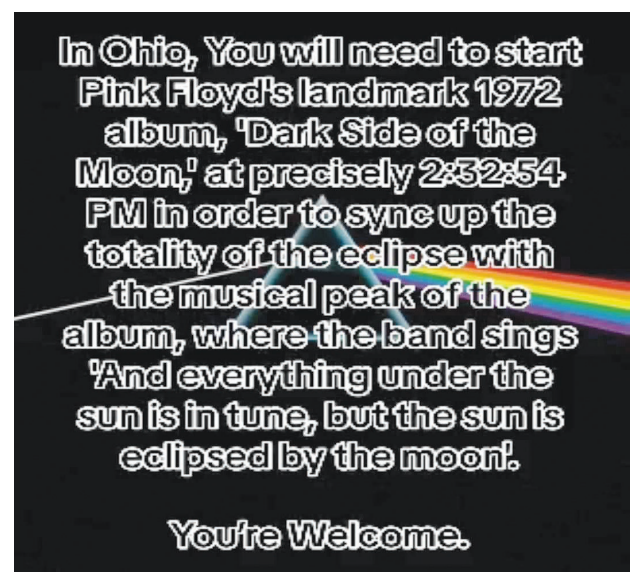
Bring a lawn chair or blanket, your own beverage, and your favorite yard game. All friends and family are welcome for a fun day of games and community!

We will provide viewing glasses, and donations will be gladly accepted! We hope to see you all there!

JUPD not hosting an eclipse event

From the Jericho Underhill Park District

Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) notes that there is no eclipse event scheduled at Mills Riverside Park, and that there is no camping allowed there and parking is limited. Please contact jupdistrict@gmail.com with any questions.



Here in our part of Vermont, the total solar eclipse will last from 3:26-3:29 PM. I looked this up: in Ohio, they are starting the Pink Floyd album at 2:32:54, that is 2hr:32m:54s PM, which is 45m:36s before their start of totality at 3:08 PM (give me 30s of slack since I used 3:08:30 for my figuring). So, in Vermont we have to start the album 45m:36s before our start of totality at 3:26 PM (again, I used 3:26:30). If I have this right (and I advise readers to check my figuring, I'm doing this in late evening) we have to start Pink Floyd's 1972 album *Dark Side of the Moon* at 2:40:54 PM to achieve the same effect. — Editor

PHOTO FROM A FACEBOOK MEME

Be prepared for the eclipse on Monday, April 8

Summary compiled from multiple sources.

On Monday, April 8, 2024, parts of northern Vermont will experience a total solar eclipse for the first time in 92 years. In Burlington, partial eclipse will begin at 2:14 PM and the total solar eclipse will last from 3:26 – 3:29 PM. The partial eclipse will end at 4:37 PM.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to sign up for VT Alert (<https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>) to receive important updates and information regarding the event.

Although it is hard to imagine, the State of Vermont's Department of Emergency Management notes that between 50,000 to 200,000 people could visit Vermont during this event. This does not account for those of us already living here. Eclipse goers are anticipated to begin to line up along major traffic corridors and side roads starting mid-day.

Statewide emergency preparedness calls... reminded (us) that when 65,000 people showed up to the "final" Phish concert in Coventry in 2004 — there were 30 miles of traffic jams.

Please take all this into account when planning for eclipse day.

Chittenden County, Lamoille Union school plans for eclipse day April 8

All Chittenden County schools will be closed on Monday, April 8. This includes the Westford School, Essex High School, CTE Essex, Smilie Elementary School, Jericho Elementary School, Underhill Central School, Underhill ID Preschool, Brewster Pierce Memorial School, Richmond Elementary School, Browns River Middle School, and Mount Mansfield Union High School.

In the Lamoille North Supervisory Union, all schools will have early dismissal on Monday, April 8: Cambridge Elementary will dismiss students at 11:30 AM; Lamoille Union High and middle Schools will dismiss students at 12:35 PM; Waterville Elementary will dismiss students at 11:30 AM.

The University of Vermont and Champlain College are not holding classes on April 8.

Share eclipse videos/photos with MMCTV

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

As you plan for the April 8 eclipse, please plan on sharing your eclipse experience with Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV)!

After the event, please send in your videos or photos to mmctv@mtmansfieldctv.org, making sure to include your first and last name so we can credit you! We are compiling this into a short video that we will share and archive.

We welcome footage not only of the celestial bodies themselves but also of the unique sights and sounds of the event, including people, animals, and landscapes/settings.



Eclipse continued from page 1



Total Solar Eclipse
Monday, April 8, 2024

Are you ready for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse? The Westford Public Library is here to help! We are so excited to be part of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). This means we have had training, equipment and solar glasses for FREE thanks to the generous sponsors below.

Eclipse Timing for Westford:
Partial Eclipse begins: 2:14
Totality begins: 3:26:20
Totality ends: 3:29:42 (that's an incredible 3 minutes 22 seconds of totality!)
Partial Eclipse ends: 4:37

Please note that these exact times are for Westford — depending on your exact location, precise timing will vary, so use your eye protection or pinhole projector and be safe!
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Get ready for the eclipse with Essex Free Library

Save the dates and come to the Essex Free Library (1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313) for eclipse information and events!

Eclipse glasses — stop by the front desk for yours! Available while supplies last. Patrons may ask for up to three pairs. Reservations not accepted.

Monday, April 8, 2:00 – 4:30 PM: Viewing Party in the Back Garden. 250 pairs of eclipse glasses will be available. Cloudy day? No worries! We'll be live-streaming NASA's website throughout the library. There will also be an eclipse-themed Storywalk*!

All about the eclipse — information, glasses, viewing party

By Bree Drapa Librarian
Westford Public Library

Are you ready for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024? The Westford Public Library is here to help! We are so excited to be part of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). This means we have had training, equipment and solar glasses for FREE.

All about Eclipses! Saturday, April 6, 2:00 – 3:30 PM: Solar eclipse ambassador and avid space enthusiast Molly Drapa will explain all about eclipses — what they are, why they occur, and teach you all about this upcoming, one-in-a-lifetime event. Great for all levels of learners, older kids to experts.

Eclipse timing for Westford: partial eclipse begins: 2:14 PM; totality begins: 3:26:20 PM; totality ends: 3:29:42 PM (that's an incredible 3 minutes 22 seconds of totality!); partial eclipse ends: 4:37 PM.

Experience the eclipse together at an Eclipse Viewing Party on the Common on Monday, April 8, 2:00 – 4:30 PM. There will be Eclipse Crafts in the Gazebo with Westford PTO, with cool sun viewing equipment Sunoculars and a SunSpotter. It is cool to view something like this as a community!

How and when do I get eclipse glasses? Come to the Library by Monday, April 8 — while supplies last — we have 500 pairs! Anyone who attended our space programming will have a reserved pair. All students at Westford School and the Barn School will receive their own pair. Pick up glasses at the library with a valid Westford Public Library card (max two per household). NASA recommends one pair of glasses per three people — you do not need glasses at all during totality!

Need a library card? Contact the Library! 802-878-5639

Eclipse day at DRML

Monday, April 8, 1:00 – 4:00 PM: Solar Eclipse [all ages]. Join Ms. Abbey and our friend Scott Turnbull from the Vermont Astronomical Society on the back lawn to view the total solar eclipse! We will have a limited number of eclipse glasses available.

Eclipse glasses and other celestial matters at the Varnum

By Aurora River, Director

Varnum Memorial Library, Jeffersonville
Have you heard there's something going on with the sun on Monday, April 8? Here at the Varnum, we've got you covered!

Stop by for a pair of the special glasses (we ask that you limit to two pair per family so there are enough for all) and to check out some educational models from a generous grant from the ECHO Leahy Center. If you've been in lately, you've seen our 40" sun hanging in high anticipation for this event, and there's more!

Reserve a spot at the Krusch Preserve

The Peter A Krusch Nature Preserve in Jeffersonville is having a solar eclipse viewing on Monday, April 8 from 1:30 – 4:30 PM at the Labyrinth. Please register now and we can give you free eclipse viewing glasses at the Labyrinth.

Unfortunately this has to be a limited gathering as the Krusch Preserve parking lot has only 17-19 car spaces. Please park at the Krusch Preserve Parking lot at 316 North Cambridge Road and walk in to the Labyrinth. Feel free to bring a folding chair!

To register please email events@kruschnaturepreserve.org.

To Eclipse (in Vermont) or not to Eclipse...

By Bernie Paquette

...that is the question.

For years a portion of Vermont's population has escaped winter by seeking solace and perhaps Solstice by traveling to Florida. I say escaped winter, not to say Florida does not recognize the term winter, but hey, what is winter without snow?

Vermont falls below all but two states in yearly absorbable sunlight for generating energy and apparently for holding onto its population count from January through April.

The latter will change on April 8 of this year. News reports project tens of thousands of folks will visit Vermont for the April 8 eclipse.

Note the full eclipse will last about 3 minutes and 26 seconds.

And what of all those special eye protection glasses — perhaps the shortest-lived single-use product since plastic utensils and cell phones. Well, you say, couldn't they be used in Vermont after April 8, on days of full sunshine?

News flash, Vermont on average has only 58 days of full sunshine each year.

The glasses might be useful on the slopes with the sun shining on the crystals of snow — but you would need to be in Vermont in the winter, or remember to bring the glasses with you to Florida. One caveat. If you are looking up at the Florida sun in whatever season they call winter, you risk getting your foot chomped on by an unseen alligator. Frostbite in Vermont or alligator foot removal — your choice.

The bottom line: we keep trying to get more people to come to Vermont, preferably folks young enough to shovel snow. We promote the snow and slopes but quietly dismiss the fact that summer and sun arrive in Vermont about as quickly as they depart, sometimes in the same month.

We have our promotion focus in all the wrong places. Tens of thousands of folks are coming to Vermont to witness, on a single day, for a few minutes, the sky going DARK. No sun. They are even willing to accept the risk that the eclipse will be partially or fully clouded over.

Florida is well entrenched as the Sunshine State. It's time for Vermont to pull some of Florida's population to Vermont for a few months out of the year — it's only fair. Vermont should promote what it has besides snow, particularly since we may need to revise our definition of winter soon enough.

Vermont does have about 200 days of cloudy skies each year.

Let's do the math. A few thousand people coming to Vermont for under four minutes of no sun, times 200 days of cloudy skies. Well let's just say, we could get a lot more use out of those special glasses that let you see the sun when it is hidden from view.

P.S. As an avid inverter, on April 8 I will be looking down not up, to see what the insects think of all this fuss. My guess is they will all be packing their bags to head to Florida.

I am the Bug-eyed Bernie
Sitting in a Vermont garden waiting for the sun (apologies to John Lennon)

Burlington's preparation for the eclipse event

On Monday, April 8, 2024, parts of northern Vermont will experience a total solar eclipse for the first time in 92 years. In Burlington, partial eclipse will begin at 2:14 PM and the total solar eclipse will last from 3:26 – 3:29 PM. The partial eclipse will end at 4:37 PM.

Viewing the eclipse without eclipse glasses can cause permanent eye damage. Obscura BTV glasses will be available for \$3 at events leading up to and on the day of the eclipse.

Burlington expects a significant influx of visitors during the weekend leading up to and on the day of the eclipse. To accommodate, the City is hosting Obscura BTV (<https://loveburlington.org/obscura-burlington/>), a celebration that features programming, information, merchandise, and more. Burlington City Arts, Burlington Business and Workforce Development, and Burlington Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department are leading these efforts, with essential assistance from all City departments. Resident information and frequently asked questions are currently addressed on the Obscura BTV website.

The City has designated official viewing sites at Waterfront Park, Battery Park, Perkins Pier, City Hall Park, Roosevelt Park, and Oakledge Park. To accommodate visitors, VT Rt. 127 (The Beltline) will be closed on Monday, April 8 from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM and will be used as a parking lot, starting at 12:00 PM, with shuttle buses running from 12:00 PM – 7:30 PM. The shuttle will drop off passengers at Lake Street on the Waterfront. Parking on VT Rt. 127 will cost \$30 for cars of seven passengers or fewer, and includes the shuttle bus in both directions. Vehicles with eight or more passengers will be charged \$50.

To provide ample room for people to congregate, walk, and park, the City is also strategically closing and modifying the following streets to vehicular traffic on Monday, April 8:

- College Street, from N. Winooski Avenue to the Waterfront, from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. This creates a safe pedestrian corridor between Church Street and the Waterfront. Please access the Downtown Garage via Cherry Street.

- Lake Street will be closed to vehicles from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. This creates a car-free zone to accommodate the large number of people in the Waterfront District. If you have a specific need to travel in this area (residents, businesses), need to park in the Main Street Landing lot, or need accessible parking in the Pease Lot, please enter the controlled gate at Battery and Main Streets. Passes will be distributed to affected residents and businesses ahead of the event.

- The following will be closed from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM: Battery Street from Main Street to Park Street; Park Street from Battery Street to Sherman Street; Sherman Street from North Champlain Street to North Avenue; and North Avenue from Sherman Street to North Street. This allows for a heavy pedestrian load in and around Battery Park and provides a clear route for shuttle busses and emergency vehicles.

- Park Street, from Manhattan Drive to Sherman Street, will be closed to regular traffic to accommodate our shuttle bus route, from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

- Monroe Street, Sherman Street, and Poplar Street, between North Champlain and Park Streets, will be closed 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM, due to Park Street being closed.

- VT Rt. 127 (The Beltline) will be closed in both directions, from Manhattan Drive to Plattsburgh Avenue, from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. The City is making this a controlled parking zone to alleviate parking issues in the Downtown. Shuttle busses will move attendees from VT Rt. 127 to Main Street from 12:00 – 7:30 PM.

- St. Paul Street, from Main Street to College Street, will be closed from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM to accommodate the Obscura After Party in City Hall Park.

- Other intersections will be controlled by uniformed traffic officers throughout the City. Drivers are encouraged to allow for extra travel time and remain patient.

More information is available at <https://loveburlington.org/obscura-burlington/>. Other questions and concerns can be sent to eclipse@burlingtonvt.org.

4-H NEWS



Everyone was a winner at the 2024 Chittenden County Invitational 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, held Friday, March 15 in Essex Junction. 4-H'ers competing at the event were (front row, from left): Saige Prisco, Ian Kascha-Hare and Fiona Adams, all from Milton; Grace Peterson, Essex; Nora Kidder, Cambridge; Avery Minor, Fairfax; Kinzi Grindle, St. Albans; Graham Robinson, Underhill; and Josie Kascha-Hare, Milton. Back row, from left: Mikayla Tobey, Fairfax; Addison Tomasi, Milton; Emma Babyak, Fairfax; Jane Curry, Burlington; Aubri Richards, Milton; Claire Romano, Fairfax; and Lily Key, Hinesburg.
PHOTO BY MARY FAY

Local 4-H'ers compete in county horse Quiz Bowl

Sixteen 4-H horse enthusiasts gathered at Essex High School in Essex Junction on Friday, March 15 for the 2024 Chittenden County Invitational 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl.

It was an evening of friendly competition, good fun and camaraderie as the 4-H'ers vied to be the first to buzz in with the correct answer to questions on a range of equine topics. The event also served as preparation for the annual State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, which will take place in Burlington on Sunday, April 7.

Chittenden County 4-H hosted the event, which attracted participants from Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille Counties. Mary Fay, Westford, helped organize the competition, and served as moderator for the buzzer rounds along with University of Vermont Extension 4-H Educator Martha Manning and adult volunteers Amanda Gifford, Fairfax, and Jaimie

Grindle, St. Albans.

Placements were as follows:

- Juniors (8-9): Saige Prisco (first), Ian Kascha-Hare (second); Fiona Adams (third), all from Milton; Grace Peterson, Essex (fourth);

- Juniors (10-11): Nora Kidder, Cambridge (first); Avery Minor, Fairfax (second); Kinzi Grindle, St. Albans (third); Graham Robinson, Underhill (fourth); Josie Kascha-Hare, Milton (fifth);

- Juniors (12-13): Emma Babyak, Fairfax (first); Jane Curry, Burlington (second); Aubri Richards, Milton (third); Claire Romano, Fairfax (fourth); Lily Key, Hinesburg (fifth);

- Seniors (14-18): Mikayla Tobey, Fairfax (first); Addison Tomasi, Milton (second).

To learn more about the 4-H horse program in Chittenden County contact Martha Manning, 802-656-7621 or martha.manning@uvm.edu.

College news

Cortland Doyle of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at the Ohio University College of Business, Athens, OH.

NEWS BRIEFS

Underhill special Town Meeting to elect new Selectboard members

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

The Underhill Selectboard will be having a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 to fill the newly-created Selectboard vacancies from the March Town Meeting.

Petitions are available and must be returned to the Town Clerk by Monday, May 6 at 5:00 PM. Petitions can also be picked up at The Town Hall or on the town's website, <http://www.underhillvt.gov/home-page/page/upcoming-election-information>.

Town Meeting day recap from MMCTV

By Angelike Contis, MMCTV

On Tuesday, March 5, for the first (and maybe last) time, Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) streamed three town meetings live! "Last" because Jericho, at its seven-hour meeting, opted to vote for future items via Australian Ballot.

Our team was out in full force. A big thank you to Tegan Greenberg who live-streamed Underhill, Tom Astle and Jim Hering who live-streamed Richmond (and ran the audio setup), and Jesse Keefe for persevering through Jericho's seven hour (!) long — and seemingly final — Town Meeting.

All three videos are online at <https://mtmansfieldctv.org/town-meeting-day-2024/>. Also check out a video snapshot (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa7p2Zt4nCA>) of the behind-the-scenes of the meeting day madness filmed by MMU's Derek Hefel, with support by Madeline Daly and Angelike Contis.

Folks were watching online... between all three towns, there was a total of 332 views immediately after... climbing to over 750 since (total views: 129 for Underhill, 261 for Jericho, and 360 for Richmond). This totaled 125 hours of combined watch time! Nothing makes us happier than seeing our communities engage with local politics, and of course we were glad to be a part of it.

We are grateful that our towns appreciate our work. All three approved our budget requests on Town Meeting Day for support for part of our time spent live-streaming and editing/archiving hundreds of local meetings each year. Underhill approved \$2600 (voters approved a \$600 increase), Richmond \$5000, and Jericho \$2900.

Camp 2024 — for the ninth year, MMCTV and the Richmond Free Library held a Middle School TV Workshop the first two mornings of February break, February 26-27.

Seven students started with the prompt "It Happened at the Library" and made two short spooky films in just six hours. Thanks to the youngsters who stopped by MMCTV last week to put the final touches on these two short films: Group 1 Film, <https://archive.org/details/ItHappenedAtTheLibraryFinalCutGroup1> and Group 2 Film, <https://archive.org/details/ItHappenedatTheLibraryFINALGroup2>.

Run for Selectboard — Town of Underhill

By Jennifer Silpe
Underhill Finance Officer
HR Administrator

The Town of Underhill has voted to add two new Selectboard members and there will be a Special Town Meeting on June 11, 2024 to elect the new members and fill the vacancies. These positions will be short, only until next Town Meeting in March of 2025, so it is a perfect way to see if it's a good fit for you.

Check out the links on www.underhillvt.gov to learn about the position and to obtain a petition, or stop in and visit us at Town Hall. To get on the ballot for June 11, 2024 you must obtain 30 signatures and petitions must be in by Monday, May 6 at 5:00 PM.

What a great way to get involved in your community, make decisions about the future of our town, immerse yourself in local community, and learn about how municipalities operate. The Board meets only two evenings a month, usually from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Town Hall (there is a virtual option also) and there may be a project or additional committee that you may choose to also get involved with or asked to assist with a side project. Get as involved as you choose. Also, there is a \$5000 stipend that you receive for your service.

About the Selectboard's role:

1. General Governance over all areas of Town business. Enacts ordinances and policies.
2. Warns the Town Meetings and proposes an annual budget for voter consideration.
3. Hires, fires and directs most Town employees, sets salaries and establishes and enforces personnel policies.
4. Authorizes all town expenditures by signing orders for the Treasurer to draw Town funds
5. Responsible for laying out, classifying, and

discontinuing Town Roads

6. Authorized to borrow money for periods of less than a year in anticipation of taxes.

7. Fill all Town vacancies until election is held.

8. Appoints many Town Officer positions, commissioners, etc.

9. Members serve as members of the Board of Civil Authority

10. Other miscellaneous regulatory powers.

This list is not complete, but I want to encourage you to get your name on the ballot. We need and deserve leadership that will be well balanced and reflect all areas of Town and members with different expertise, experiences, and availability. Feel free to come see me, Amanda, Brad, or Sherri and ask us about the position. We are excited that you are considering it.

Remember this election in June fills the seats until March 2025. If you decide to run again, the positions will be for one and two years respectively. There will be a third opening in March to fill a three-year seat on the Selectboard.

Green Up bags are available in Bolton

By Carol Devlin, Bolton Assistant Clerk and Treasurer

Green Up Day is fast approaching, and the Town of Bolton is gearing up for it! Green Up Day bags have been delivered and will be available in covered bins located outside of the Town Office and the Smilie School.

Please feel free to come pick up some bags ahead of time. More updates will come soon with details about Green Up Day in Bolton.

Corrections to Jericho Town Meeting information

Corrections to the Jericho Town Meeting information reported in the March 21 edition of the *Mountain Gazette*: Erik Johnson won reelection but Peter Booth defeated Joe Flynn in the race to fill the remaining year of a three-year term. Also, the \$500 amendment to the Town Budget passed by a vote of 86-65, not 86-85. Thanks to Phyl Newbeck for kindly bringing these mistakes to our attention.

Jericho community and Town Hall news

Save the date for Green Up Day, this year on Saturday, May 4.

The Jericho Zoning office will be closed April 1-15.

The SelectBoard wishes to thank all the volunteers who are finishing their terms of service on their respective committees. Without those who give of their time to serve the Town on advisory committees to the Board, the Town as a whole would not function as well and for that we are grateful.

- Richard Bernstein, Health Officer
- SJ Dube, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Ann Kroll-Lerner, Conservation Commission
- Sonnet Lawson, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Steven Schwartz, Jericho Bicycle & Pedestrian Connectivity Committee (Chair)
- Beth Seniw, Jericho Town Library
- Laura Vallett, Conservation Commission

The SelectBoard also wishes to thank Joe Flynn for his service to the Board and Community as interim member of the SelectBoard. His skill set of time spent on the Development Review Board plus years working on the other side of the table brought invaluable insights and knowledge to the Board.

The Jericho Conservation Commission would like to remind residents to please take down their bird feeders for the season. Bears are coming out of hibernation and we do not want to habituate them to humans by attracting them to yards with feeders. Fun fact: Bears have such a keen sense of smell that they can catch a scent as far as a mile away.

This month we feature Conservation Commission Member, Allaire Diamond. Click here to read more: <https://jerichovt.org/Celebrating-Each-Other>.

Underhill Center sidewalk scoping study available

Underhill is considering whether to construct sidewalks in part of the village in Underhill Center. A public meeting on March 14 presented a study that explored the options, costs and feasibility of an "active transportation infrastructure" in and around the Village of Underhill Center between Sandhill Road and Mountain Road, serving the village from Wells Corner Market to the Underhill Central School, "to accommodate active modes of transportation, enhance accessibility, mobility, and improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety."



(From left) Vermont State Troopers Archer and Cote, along with Cambridge Rescue members Advanced EMT Michael Curtin, Paramedic Nate Pickard, and Paramedic Jeremy Herriman, were honored with the EMS Star of Life Award. The ceremony, held Tuesday, March 19 at the Williston Barracks, celebrated their courageous efforts in saving the life of a young girl who fell through thin ice on a pond in Cambridge this past December. Advanced EMT Michael Curtin sends his thanks to the Cambridge community, because "without their support, this could have been a different outcome."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Links to the presentation — a pdf of the slides, and a video of the meeting — are available on the Town of Underhill website at <http://www.underhillvt.gov/home-page/page/underhill-center-sidewalk-scoping-study-open-house-and-presentation>.

Jericho zoning permit inspections

By Terri J Sabens VPA III,
Municipal Assessor, Town of Jericho

The Town Assessor will be out in Jericho performing property inspections in the next few months for the 2024 Grand List. There will be Jericho Town (car) magnets displayed and will also carry identification.

Property inspections are performed based on the information received through municipal permits, State wastewater permits, information reported to the Town, requests by property owners, et cetera. Appointments for property inspections are not required unless an interior inspection is needed. Property owners with no trespassing signs may be contacted directly by the Listers Office via the contact information on file.

Changes may be made to the property assessment per the information available and valued at highest and best use if no response is received. Please note: Property inspections are performed to obtain an accurate, defensible, and equitable Grand List for the Town of Jericho. If you have an open active permit and would like to schedule a time for an inspection, please feel free to contact the Lister's Office, 802-899-2640 x107 or listers@jerichovt.gov to schedule an appointment.

Town of Underhill's official paper of record

By Brad Holden
Underhill Town Administrator

The Underhill Selectboard voted to change the town's official paper of record from the *Burlington Free Press* to *Seven Days*. The Town utilizes its paper of record to warn hearings, in most cases 15 days in advance of a hearing date, or as required by law.

The boards and commissions that commonly post hearing notices in a town's paper of record include, but are not limited to, the Selectboard, the Development Review Board, and the Planning Commission.

Seven Days is a weekly paper distributed every Wednesday. The paper is free of charge and can be found locally at Wells Corner Market, Jacobs Family Market, and the Jericho Market.

Tips to register your dogs in Bolton

By Carol Devlin
Bolton Assistant Clerk and Treasurer

Is your dog registered? Approximately 150 dogs live in Bolton. Only 42 have been registered (as of March 26). If you are one of the many who have not registered your dog, please do so — it's easy to register a dog.

All dogs should be registered by April 1 every year. If you are wondering why you should register your dog:

- it helps reunite you and your dog if you have lost each other;
- it eases anxiety and stress if there is an incident involving biting another animal or a human.
- it confirms your dog has a

current rabies vaccination;

- it is state law;
- you can avoid receiving emails and/or phone calls reminding you to register your dog.

There are several ways to register:

- if your dog was registered in 2023 and the town has a current rabies certificate, all you need to do is drop off or mail the correct fee;
- if your dog was registered in 2023 and had a rabies booster, drop off a copy of the updated rabies certificate and the correct fee;
- if your dog was not registered in 2023, download the application and drop off or mail the application, a copy of the current rabies certificate, and the correct fee.

You may stop by during regular Town Office hours, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It'll take a few minutes to process the registration and you can leave with your registration and tag;

Or, you can mail everything to Bolton Town Office, 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Hwy, Bolton, VT 05676 and your registration and tag will be mailed to you;

Or, you can put everything in the 24/7 drop box to the right of the front door of the Town Office and your registration and tag will be mailed to you.

Fees after April 1: neutered/spayed: \$11; un-neutered/unspayed: \$17

If you do not register your dog, reminders will be sent out beginning April 10.

Jeffersonville Farmers' Market seeks support

Last summer was pretty wet, right? Fortunately this community is tougher than bluestone, we don't crack under pressure!

A handful of dedicated volunteers are working hard to keep our Farmers' Market afloat, but there is much work to be done. We need your support to keep the Market vibrant and sustainable this season. Your donations will directly help pay musicians and keep vendor costs low. Please consider making a donation today (<https://givebutter.com/079cSV>).

We are actively seeking sponsorship opportunities that can help offset administrative costs, such as leasing the lawn, insurance fees, and registration costs. Interested sponsors can expect to receive marketing promotions from the Farmers' Market in exchange for their support. Please inquire with us at JeffersonvilleFarmMarket@gmail.com for more information.

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



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HEALTH NEWS

Know the health risks of raising backyard chicks

From the Vermont Department of Health

Whether you're raising backyard chickens and other poultry for fresh eggs or just for fun this spring, make sure you are also protecting your health. Even if your backyard poultry look clean and healthy, they can carry germs that make people sick, like *salmonella*, *campylobacter*, and *E. coli*.

Some people, like young children, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems, can get very sick from these germs.

To keep you and your family safe, follow these simple steps:

- wash your hands with soap and water after touching poultry or anything in their area;
- avoid kissing or snuggling with the birds;
- keep the birds and their stuff outside, not in the house;
- wear a specific pair of shoes when taking care of the chickens, and keep them outside of the house;
- regularly clean the coop, floor, nests, and perches.

For more tips, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html

Spring fitness classes at Community Center Jericho

Your Best Body Fitness Classes at the Community Center, Jericho Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM; six-class punch pass \$48, or drop-in classes \$10 each. Start any time! Punch passes good through Tuesday, April 30. An hour of movement, fun, and laughter as you discover your best body and calm mind. This class melds aerobic, Pilates, and yoga components, increasing balance, muscular strength, and endurance. Offered by Trish Densham, long time fitness professional, certified personal trainer and advocate of all things in motion. To sign up or find out more contact Trish, tdmover@gmail.com or 802-999-1265.

The next total solar eclipse in Vermont will happen in 2106. Plan now for how to experience this year's April 8 total solar eclipse safely! — Editor

Healthy Lamoille Valley events, opportunities

By Jessica Bickford, Healthy Lamoille Valley

The 2024 Vermont Young Adult Survey is open! Are you a Vermonter between the ages of 18-25? Take the Vermont Young Adult Survey and you could win a gift card worth up to \$500! This confidential survey is sponsored by the VT Department of Health and takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Once you have completed the survey, you can enter a drawing (on a different site) to win a gift card. Take the survey at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7697507/2024-Vermont-Young-Adult-Survey>.

The Vermont Department of Health is forming a Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council. This is a new youth leadership opportunity designed to bring youth and youth voice to the forefront of tobacco prevention efforts in Vermont. \$1400/year stipend. Learn more: <https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/Vermont-Tobacco-Control-Youth-Leadership-Council-Application-Packet.pdf>.

Join us for a Prevention Celebration in May! We invite you to join us on Wednesday, May 15, 12:30 – 1:30 PM at Green Mountain Tech & Career Center for National Prevention Week and celebration of prevention efforts in the Lamoille Valley! We will have snacks and an ice cream sundae party to recognize and share out the many projects that are happening. We especially look forward to hearing from students about their projects!

Healthy Lamoille Valley's Cooler Safety Stickers are Back! Make a plan to keep kids and teens safe during gatherings and parties this year. Keep your non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks in separate coolers and label them with our easy-to-read stickers. Email jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org to get your stickers today.

Toe walking in young children

Parents have been stepping up to ask me if they should worry if their toddler tends to do a lot of walking on their toes rather than their feet. Let me try to toe the line on this interesting topic.

Important things to know

Toe walking is when a young child walks on the balls of their

feet with no contact between the heels and the ground.

Flat-footed walking should be seen by age two and by age three, heel-toe walking should be in place. Most toe-walking occurs out of habit as an infant is learning to walk. More than half of the children who toe walk will stop doing so on their own by age five.

If it is a habit, it has been shown to run in families.

If, on the other hand, your child toe walks most of the time, has stiff muscles, is uncoordinated, walks awkwardly, and is unable to weight bear on their feet, then medical attention should be sought for a developmental and neurologic assessment to determine for example if the toe walking could be due to a short Achilles tendon, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, or autism.

If your child's health care professional finds none of these causes for your child's toe-walking (which is commonly the case) and it is an isolated finding, then it may just be what we call "toe walking of no known cause," meaning it's likely a habit that, as I said, will go away over time.

Stretching exercises, however, may still be useful while your child demonstrates this behavior to make sure there is no increased stiffness or tightening of their Achilles tendon.

When to see your health care professional

Certainly, you should consult your health care professional if you see toe walking after age two. Contact them sooner if the toe walking is accompanied by tight leg muscles, stiffness in the Achilles tendon or you note a lack of muscle coordination in your child.

If a nerve or muscle problem is found, referral to a pediatric neurologist or orthopedist would be in order for further evaluation and treatment, which might include physical therapy, and if a neurologic problem is identified, leg braces, botulinum toxin or Botox, and sometimes surgery might then be recommended to improve motor skills, muscle strength, and prevent further muscle damage.

Hopefully, tips like these will allow you and your child to put your best foot forward when it comes to knowing more about when and when not to worry about your child's toe walking.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please support Westford Robotics team for Western Edge competition

To the Editor,

One of our Westford robotics teams, the Pickle Pandas, has some exciting news: they've been chosen to represent the state of Vermont in the Western Edge Open competition held in California, Friday-Sunday, May 31-June 2.

With over 50,000 teams worldwide competing for one of the few spots to move on, this is a point of pride for our students, school, town, and state. These students have put in almost 90 hours of extra-curricular effort and have honed their engineering, coding, and problem-solving skills in order to create projects that will better the STEM community. They are now asking for your support so that they can continue their journey in California.

Over the next few weeks, the Pickle Pandas will need to raise funds in order to cover the cost of transportation, lodging, and meals. Specifically, they are looking for sponsors. If you own a local business, please consider supporting our team! All sponsors will be featured prominently on our online team media and team materials at the competition. If a monetary commitment is unfeasible, we are also accepting gift certificates, experiences, or other items that we could raffle.

The Pickle Pandas will also be hosting a couple of in-person fundraisers, including a bottle drive and raffle. The bottle drive dates are Saturdays, April 6 and May 11, both from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Minor's Country Store, 874 Main St. (VT Rt. 104), Fairfax.

If you'd like to donate individually, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Jessica Moreland (fundraising lead, jessica.moreland33@gmail.com) or Mark Drapa (head coach, mdrapa@ewsd.org). Donations can be made out to Westford School, Attention: Westford Robotics Team.

We appreciate any amount and look forward to keeping you updated on our progress. On behalf of the students of the Westford School Pickle Pandas, thank you for your support!

Jessica Moreland
Westford

Supporting S.258, legislation changing VT wildlife management

To the Editor,

Bill S.258 has the potential to make Vermont a leader in science-based, ethical wildlife management in the United States, making wildlife management more democratic, compassionate, and responsive to addressing the biodiversity and climate crises.

Many hunters believe that any new limits are a slippery slope to ending hunting, but this is not the case. I support the right of all Vermonters to fish and hunt for food in a fair chase, ethical and humane manner.

Although the vast majority of Vermonters want to see more humane wildlife management practices, there is a huge barrier to limiting the barbaric practices of recreational trapping and hounding because of the power of the Fish and Wildlife Board. S.258 has passed the VT Senate and although watered down it is a step in the right direction.

Now it moves to the VT House. Please contact your representatives with your support for this bill. For more info and links to your legislators visit <https://www.protectourwildlifevt.org/legislation>.

Christine Gluck
Underhill

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Update from the Vermont House

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden House District

March 27

Since returning from the Town Meeting break, the Legislature has been busy preparing for "cross over." Cross over is the date when all bills need to be out of committee if they are to be considered for passage. Any bills not acted upon "die on the wall," meaning they will not be considered at all. In the last two weeks, the following bills have seen action (get ready, it's kind of a long list):

H.856 — is a bill relating to certain provisions of medical leave for a serious injury;

H.534 — is a bill relating to expanding penalties for retail theft;

H.867 — is an act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws governing alcoholic beverages and the Board of Liquor and Lottery;

S.18 — is an act relating to banning the sale of flavored vapes and e-liquids and certain tobacco products (this bill is headed to the Governor's office);

H.10 — is a bill amending the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program;

H.622 — is a bill that relates to training and reimbursement for emergency medical services;

H.706 — is an act banning the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticides;

H.173 — is an act that prohibits the manipulation of a child for the purpose of sexual conduct;

H.233 — is a bill relating to establishing licensure and regulatory standards for pharmacy benefit managers;

H.614 — is an act relating to penalties for timber trespass and land improvement fraud;

H.741 — is a bill related to health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screening;

H.868 — is a bill related to the fiscal year 25 Transportation Program (otherwise known as the T Bill);

H.661 — is a bill updating child abuse and neglect investigation and substantiation standards and procedures;

H.121 — is a bill that creates the Vermont Data Privacy Act;

H.289 — is a bill updating the renewable energy standard;

H.845 — is a bill designating November as Veterans' Month;

H.621 — is a bill updating health insurance coverage for diagnostic breast imaging;

H.639 — is a bill that requires the disclosure of flood history of real property for sale.

All of the bills beginning with an "H" are House bills that have now been sent to the Senate for consideration.

Thanks for reading, and if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

Legislative updates from the Vermont Senate

By VT State Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North

March 28

Crossover has come and gone. Bills that didn't make it out of their committees of jurisdiction are toast. Scores of bills are moving within each chamber and between the House and Senate.

My morning committee, Senate Ag, is taking testimony on several bills.

H.81, the Right to Repair Agricultural Equipment, is the bane of manufacturers, who worry that other consumer products will be next.

H.706 would ban neonicotinoid seed coatings, which contaminate plants, soil, and water, harming pollinators. We heard from one beekeeper who lost 85% of his colonies last year. Another has lost 50%.

H.603 would allow farms to part-out the poultry that they slaughter and sell directly to customers. Selling parts vs. a whole chicken yields the farmer \$10 more per bird. Current demand for Vermont chicken parts far outweighs the supply.

My afternoon committee, Senate Institutions, will soon address the House's version of the Capital Bill. We've already drafted a bill to save the Salisbury Fish Hatchery, which the Governor had planned to shutter.

S.206, the bill I introduced per a constituent request, would make Juneteenth a state holiday. It moved easily through the Senate and into the House this month. (A no-cost bill!)

Feel free to contact me if you're planning a visit to Montpelier (Tuesday-Friday). We could meet up in the State House cafeteria, if time allows.

Catch me at the Community Conversation hosted by Franklin County legislators on Monday, April 15, 8:00 AM at Fairfax Town Hall; or at the Community Conversation hosted by Milton legislators on Saturday, April 20, 10:00 AM at their Public Library. Each weekend I attend PoliTalk in Essex (www.facebook.com/EssexPoliTalk).

Send email to iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us. I post highlights from the Senate Floor and our district at www.facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner. Thank you!

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin

at 802-453-6354

for more

information

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COMING EVENTS

Jericho Underhill Farmer Forum April 13

Come to the Jericho Underhill Farmer Forum on Saturday, April 13, 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the United Church of Underhill's Meeting Room, 7 Park St., Underhill Flats. The event is sponsored by the Jericho Underhill Food Hub.

Learn what's new with the Food Hub special projects, hear about progress on our local food stands, and join actions to promote your farm as part of planned community outreach and events.

The forum's agenda includes updates on special projects, marketing and publicity, and more:

- Special project: Local Farms and Foods leaflet.
- Educating about fresh local foods and agriculture — Special project: Farm to School; Special project: Summer community bake off; Special project: Grafting workshop.
- Commercial kitchen and value-added products — Special project: Access to local commercial kitchens.
- Available farm land — Special project: Community potato planting; Special project: Revitalize school gardens.
- Access and distribution — Special project: Local food distribution and delivery; Special project: Supporting local food stands.
- Updates on The Farm Upstream and Chamberlins food stands.
- Digging In and Sowing Seeds - Collaboration on One Special Project
- Community building and celebrating local foods — Special Project: Community dinners highlighting foods from our local farms.
- What's next and future farmer forums.

St. Thomas Church Yard Sale donation day April 20

The first Donation Day for the annual St. Thomas Church "Spring into Summer" yard sale will be Saturday, April 20, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. The sale will be held Friday-Saturday, June 21-23. Meanwhile:

- Please sort through those boxes in the cellar, garage and barn;
 - Look for the forgotten craft supplies, fabric and yarn,
 - The outgrown puzzles and games, toys and books,
 - Sports equipment and housewares stored in all of the nooks!
 - Linens and lamps and holiday decorations
 - Tools and camping stuff for your various vacations!
 - Bring us your small appliances, pictures, boots and shoes
 - Office supplies and knick-knacks you no longer use!
- For more information or with questions contact Mary Bibb, mvbibb@outlook.com.

Ongoing Events

Eagles Auxiliary Friday Night Bingo, Fridays, 6:30 – 9:45 PM, through Friday, May 24, Eagles Club, VT Rt. 109N (Waterville Rd.), Jeffersonville (.5 miles from the junction of VT Rts. 108-109). Doors open at 5:00 PM, with bingo refreshments available; purchase quickie, regular, and special bingo game papers by 6:15 PM. Bingo quickie games start at 6:30 PM; regular bingo games begin at the end of the quickie games. Pull tabs may also be available before games start. There is a 50-50 raffle at half-time intermission, when refreshments are sold. The \$1000 jackpot-cover-all game is played during the last regular game of the night and has to be won by a "designated number" of balls called. If not won, the cover-all game continues for a consolation payout. All players must purchase at least three cards. Each game's payouts are split between the winner(s) for that game. Children attending must play at least three cards and be under supervision by an adult (any payouts to children will be paid to the supervising adult). No card splitting. Please view our game rules posted at the Eagles Club. For additional information, contact the Eagles Club on Friday nights, 802-644-5333 after 5:00 PM (or leave a message during the week and receive a call back on Friday when bingo opens). Come join us and enjoy our Eagles Auxiliary Friday Night Bingo!

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

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (April 11) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (April 4, 18), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper, on the last Thursday of the month (April 25), 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come and enjoy some great soups and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

Waterville Country Church hosts a Community Meal the first Thursday of each month (April 4). Come enjoy a relaxing homemade meal with neighbors at the church, or pick up meal(s) to go. Donations accepted. All donations will be given to a local nonprofit, charity, or community service organization. March donations will go to the Johnson Food Shelf. For information contact Susan Schill or Kim Pitt, watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com. Ask about delivery to shut-ins!

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

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

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

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

Coming Events

Wednesday, April 3

Red Cross Blood Drive in Richmond, 12:00 – 6:00 PM, Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for more information and to make an appointment. Or, for assistance, please contact dthomas@gmavt.net or call 802-434-3654. As you may know, there is a critical need for blood. Ask a friend who has never donated, or a high school senior to join you in a groundbreaking, rewarding, and possibly life-saving experience.

Saturday, April 6

British Empire: Using FindMyPast.com, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, on Zoom. The website www.FindMyPast.com has an extensive collection of resources specific to the United Kingdom, plus Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. In this class from the Vermont Genealogy Library, Christine Cohen will explore resources including British and Irish newspapers, parish registers, workhouse and poor law records, military records, and census records including the just released 1921 schedules. Also, migration around the world by your ancestor throughout the British Empire. This class will be held online via Zoom from 10:30 to noon. Cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Bottle drive to support Westford robotics team The Pickle Pandas, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Minor's Country Store, 874 Main St. (VT Rt. 104), Fairfax. The Pickle Pandas will represent Vermont in the Western Edge Open competition held in California, Friday-Sunday, May 31-June 2. These students have put in almost 90 hours of extra-curricular effort and have honed their engineering, coding, and problem-solving skills in order to create projects that will better the STEM community. They are now asking for your support to raise funds in order to cover the cost of transportation, lodging, and meals. The Pickle Pandas will be there in-person! To donate individually, please reach out to Jessica Moreland (fundraising lead, jessica.moreland33@gmail.com) or Mark Drapa (head coach, madrapa@ewsd.org). Donations can be made out to *Westford School, Attention: Westford Robotics Team*.

Tuesday, April 9

Vernal Pool Reptiles and Amphibians, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, online. Many Vermont reptiles and amphibians rely on vernal pools for mating and breeding. These wet areas are critical habitat for the reproduction of species like frogs, salamanders, snakes, and turtles. Herpetologist Jim Andrews will discuss which reptiles and amphibians use Vermont vernal pools. He will give you tools to identify different reptiles and amphibians and discuss the natural history, distribution, and status of vernal pool-loving species. Allaire Diamond will discuss how these sensitive areas are handled in VT Land Trust's conservation easements. Please pre-register at <https://vlt.org/events/vernal-pool-reptiles-and-amphibians/>.

Thursday, April 11

Jericho-Underhill Coffee Hour, 10:00 AM, Ale & Bean, Jericho Corners. Come join us for an hour of coffee and conversation, sponsored by the Jericho Community Center. Each month a Coffee Hour is scheduled, sometimes on Saturday, sometimes Thursday, and either in Underhill, Jericho Corners, or Jericho Center. Everyone welcomed, first timers or repeats! For more information contact Julia Blake, juliavblake@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 13

Hidden French Foundations of North America, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Delve into the rich Franco-American history of North America with Suzanne Blanchard and learn how your own family may have played a part in its expansion throughout different eras — from the voyages of Verrazano and the pioneering efforts of Champlain to the influx of Huguenots. Uncover the secrets of the fur trade and other ventures that shaped the course of history. We will also delve into the Louisiana territory, the Québec Grand Hemorrhage, and westward expansion. Our goal is to map French exploration, trade, and settlement that occurred throughout North America. This class will be held online via Zoom from 10:30 to noon. Cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

JETF Repair Café, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Save the date! As it gets closer there will be a request for volunteers and the Café will open up for registration. An opportunity for those with experience in repairing everything from clothing and jewelry to appliances to help those who need assistance. The goal is to keep as much as possible out of our landfills. For more information or to volunteer contact Phyl Newbeck, vtphyl72@gmail.com.

St. Thomas Calcutta, 4:30 PM doors open, 6:00 PM dinner, Mansfield Barn, 3 Irish Farm Road, Jericho. Looking for the perfect welcome to spring? Gather your friends and join us for a Calcutta hosted by St. Thomas Church of Underhill Center. A "Calcutta" is an elimination jackpot game coupled with dinner and entertainment. There will only be 100 balls sold for a chance to win the \$2000 cash grand prize. The event also features multiple other prizes, a silent auction, free photo booth, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$130 each which includes one (1) ball for the jackpot game and dinner for two, catered by Jericho Café and Tavern. For

more details or to purchase tickets, email stthomasvtcalcutta@gmail.com or visit the St. Thomas website, <https://stthomasvt.com/>.

Cambridge Fire Department annual Calcutta fundraiser, doors open 5:00 PM, dinner 6:00 PM with event following, Smugglers' Notch Resort meeting house. A great opportunity to gather a group of friends to support a great cause and get to meet some of your local fire fighters. Only 98 tickets will be sold, each ticket (\$120) includes dinner for two and entry into the Calcutta raffle event. The final two tickets will be raffled off, \$10 per chance to win one of these two tickets, during the event. Every 10th draw is a prize; cash prizes up to \$1500 during raffle. Tickets 99 and 100 are guaranteed winners, not placed into the game until after draw #90. Mixture of cash prizes and raffle prizes throughout the event; the last five draws receive cash prizes. All proceeds go to Cambridge FD Fundraising account, which goes toward equipment purchases and maintenance, annual events, and more. For tickets, please call 802-760-9815.

Bunco, 6:00 PM, Cambridge Community Center, Jeffersonville. Cambridge Area Rotary presents BUNCO, the most fun you'll have with a dice game! The idea is to roll as many sixes (6s) as possible as you move from table to table socializing with everyone who attends. But wait, there's more... a silent auction, prizes, beverages (adult and otherwise), a Ronco Bottle and Jug Cutter, Ginsu knives, and snacks. 6:00 PM social hour, with the game beginning at 7:00 PM. \$15 per person at the door or buy tickets from a Rotarian. Don't say "no dice" to this event!

Monday, April 15

Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108, Jeffersonville. The session begins with a light breakfast, followed by a short briefing by the legislators attending, and a Q&A session. Breakfast by Smugglers' Notch Resort. Learn more and please register at <https://lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast/>.

Tuesday, April 16

MMU and Rice Memorial High Schools' England Tour Preview Concert, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington. Featuring *MMU Choirs*, *Rice Memorial HS Chorus*, and *MMU Instrumental Ensemble* will perform two movements of *Mass in Blue* (which they will play in full at Worcester Cathedral in England on Saturday, April 27) accompanied by Burlington Jazz Pianist Samuel Whitesell, an *a cappella* arrangement of *Loch Lomond*, and the spiritual *Hear My Prayer* by Moses Hogan.

Saturday, April 20

Identifying Your Ancestor Using the FAN Principle, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom and in person at the VT Genealogy Library, Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Rd., Essex. Do you have some ancestors who are hard to locate, or difficult to separate from people with similar names? Even when we find a person in the right place with the right name, we still need to establish that this is actually our person. Resolving these cases involves the use of additional resources beyond censuses and vital records. One approach is the FAN Principle (Family-Associates-Neighbors), also called "Cluster Research." In this talk Joanne Polanshek will discuss this research technique, the types of sources, and some examples. Cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Sunday, April 21

Spring Wildflower Progression I, 10:30 AM – 12:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Explore our trails in search of spring wildflowers and ephemerals. Learn about the season challenges and changes influencing these briefly blooming beauties with Museum volunteer Mary Ann Schlegel. (This is the first of two; other walks happen in May.) Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/spring-wildflower-walk1/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

Wednesday, April 24

Eggstatic! (for kids), 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Why do birds lay eggs? How do bird eggs compare to other animals? Discover challenges and conditions eggs face, and how they survive. Ages 6-10; limit 8 participants; cost, \$15-\$35. Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/eggstatic-april/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

See It, Sketch It, Bird It! 1:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Get ready for spring birding with this interactive program. Learn techniques for observing, describing, sketching, and identifying birds — tools that will immediately help you become a better birder! Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/see-it-sketch-it-bird-it-april2024/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

Family Game Day (all ages) and Night (adults and teens), Day 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Night 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Community Center in Jericho (CCJ), 329 Browns Trace, Jericho. Hosted by CCJ and the Jericho Town Library. For more information contact Julia Blake, juliavblake@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 27

April Bird Monitoring Walk, 7:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Join our monthly monitoring walk to record birds on the Museum's property. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Maximum 12 people. Free, suggested donation \$5-15. Register at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/april-bird-monitoring-walk-2024/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

Spring Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Please help us prepare the Museum for our spring opening, and we'll feed you! From trail maintenance to hanging art, we have opportunities for all. Come for an hour or all day, bring yourself, a friend, a family. Register (so we know how many sandwiches to make) at <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/volunteer-work-day-april-2024/>. Museum trails are open from sunrise to sunset, every day. Libraries have passes, and admission is always free for members (<https://birdsofvermont.org/membership/>).

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



A freshly-managed area of Ethan Tapper's own forest in Bolton. Working forests are managed for biodiversity, climate resilience and more, while also producing local, renewable resources.

PHOTO BY ETHAN TAPPER

The triad approach to a functional forested landscape

By Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

We can put the ways that forests benefit our lives and our quality of life into three general categories: *ecological, economic, and cultural*. The *ecological benefits* of forests include how they clean our air and our water, regulate our climate, and do much, much more — providing the means for humans, and so many other species, to exist. Forests also provide *economic benefits*: adding billions of dollars to Vermont's economy and growing local, renewable resources like wood that enrich our lives and

lower our reliance on more harmful resources produced elsewhere. Finally, forests provide *cultural benefits*: they are inarguably essential to our identities as Vermonters, to so many of the things that we do and value and love. As we envision a future for ourselves and for our forests, balancing all of these benefits is key: how can we care for forests in a way that creates and sustains an ecologically, economically, and culturally functional landscape?

Almost anywhere that there are forests, they can be placed into one of three broad categories — *production forests, working forests, and reserves* — a *triad* of forest management approaches with different objectives, that employ different strategies and have different strengths and weaknesses.

The first leg of the triad is *production forests*, where trees are managed essentially as crops — often grown and harvested on relatively short rotations and using intensive management techniques. Production forests may be more diverse forests of naturally-regenerating trees, but (globally) often take the form of monoculture plantations. Production forests provide some of the ecological benefits of a natural forest, but their main strengths are economic — they provide huge amounts of renewable resources, jobs, and local economic benefits. It should also be said that the fact that production forests produce so many renewable resources is itself a powerful global ecological and cultural benefit — lowering our reliance on resources that cause significant harm to ecosystems and peoples elsewhere.

The second leg of the triad is *working forests*, the category that nearly all forests in Vermont fall into. These are forests that are periodically managed for wood and other resources, but also for a wide range of other values: things like biodiversity protection, carbon, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The economic benefits of working forests are not as concentrated as production forests (so you need a much greater acreage to produce the same quantity of resources), but they provide periodic economic benefits, as well as more ecological and cultural benefits than production forests.

Finally, the third leg of the triad is *reserves*. Reserves are forests that are essentially unmanaged (although we use the term *passive management*), allowed to develop largely without human intervention. Reserves may provide some economic benefits from tourism and forest-based recreation, but their primary benefits are ecological and cultural.

While you may be biased toward one leg of the triad or another, production forests, working forests, and reserves are likely all necessary to meet our ecological, economic, and cultural needs. The three legs of the triad exist in a dynamic relationship with one another: if we want more reserves, we will also need more production forests to produce the resources that we need to sustain us; if we want fewer production forests, we will need far more working forests and fewer reserves. If we say “not in my backyard” to working forests in Vermont, we are likely saying “yes” to production forests somewhere else.

Of these three forest types, I think that working forests are by far the most radical and beneficial. They are the only forests that we have a real relationship with, the only ones that truly balance all the things that we ask, and require, from our forests. In working forests we can recognize our responsibility to protect forests for their own sake (like a reserve), and to produce renewable resources (like a production forest), while also acknowledging that we can play a positive and even regenerative role in these ecosystems — not as a farmer of a crop, not as a bystander, but as the steward of a complex and precious living system. While we need some production forests and reserves, I believe that working forests are the place where we can maximize the ecological, economic, and cultural values of forests.

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

Let's stay out of prison

By Bill Schubart

I think a lot about the criminal justice system. At 79, I've mostly evaded its embrace except for a few driving offenses, a surprise visit from the FBI, and a college incident in Ohio that I was too drunk to remember, but one that landed me in a drunk tank for an evening.

I have friends who've been on both sides of the system, both transgressors and enforcers — police, lawyers, judges, jailers — and like many, I understand the system is antiquated, unjust, and needs to be reimagined.

The good news is there are many working today to build a better, more just system, one that maintains the goal of safeguarding the public from chronic violence and theft but abandons the punitive Old Testament ethos.

There are domestic and international models from which we can learn, like the much-touted Norway model, Portugal's decision to decriminalize drug addiction and replace jail with addiction treatment, and pioneering work being done nearby in the State of Maine, as well as work being done in our own state that has reduced our incarcerated population by almost half.

The broader question we must ask ourselves is, “Are we a punitive society or a supportive community that invests in our citizens and shares prosperity? Do we invest in people and communities... or jails, homeless shelters, and emergency rooms?”

The United States has one of the highest per capita incarceration rate in the developed world. In the U.S., only Maine, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts have a lower per capita incarceration rate than Vermont. As of March 11, Vermont's total incarcerated population was 1363, of which 112 are female and 124 men are housed out-of-state at CoreCivic in Mississippi, a for-profit prison company. Vermont's total population under some form of community supervision is 3141 on probation, 660 on parole, and 246 on furlough.

A rapidly growing rate of geriatric prisoners, reflecting long sentencing, has put a severe burden on all prison systems, especially as it relates to the correctional system's obligation to provide healthcare. Given very low recidivism rates for male prisoners over the age of 40 (7.5%), why not enable prisoners to

earn early release and better prepare them for reentry?

Senator Tanya Vyhovsky has sponsored bill S.155 that would allow an incarcerated person to petition a court for early release after serving a fixed portion of their sentence based on earned criteria such as good behavior or completing educational or training programs. However, it is not expected to pass this session.

Senate bill S.58, an omnibus crime bill reflecting earlier “tough-on-crime” attitudes, makes prosecuting drug crimes easier, adds new crimes, and delays implementation of the “raise-the-age” initiative to reduce the number of juveniles in corrections. (To this point, in my next column, I'll write about an innovative program underway between Community College of Vermont (CCV) and the Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC).)

A former Commissioner of Corrections once reminded me that Corrections doesn't put people in jail — police, prosecutors, legislators, juries (us), and judges do. Corrections is their keeper, charged with maintaining a secure facility and ensuring the health and wellbeing of those in their care.

Many correctional systems, including Vermont's, understand that they must also prepare those in their care for a life outside. This may include access to language, literacy, and other basic education skills, job training, addiction treatment, healthcare, and/or trauma-informed counseling. So given the certainty of reentry into our communities, how do we best use an incarcerated person's time inside?

First, we must understand the criminogenic environment outside and how it can lead to criminal behavior. Studies have shown that between 62-78% of incarcerated adult males experienced trauma during their lifetime prior to incarceration.

We also know that the prefrontal cortex matures more slowly in boys than in girls. Put simply, young boys and men do more risky and stupid things when they're young. Do you want to be measured solely by the worst mistake you made in your lifetime? I don't. Did nothing else matter? Are we only the sum of our worst behaviors?

After an offender is proven guilty in a court of law but prior to the sentencing hearing, what if the judiciary required a professional evaluation to determine whether a defendant's alleged crime resulted from poverty, physical or mental illness, substance abuse, disability, gambling, or the intergenerational transfer of trauma?

If any of these latter causes were determined to be the genesis of the alleged crime, treatment would replace judicial process and sentencing.

Such a system would significantly reduce the court backlog that denies so many alleged perpetrators the constitutionally guaranteed right to a “speedy trial.”

The consequences of such a process change would put immense pressure on us as a society to invest in our community and family-support systems: addiction treatment, mental-health counseling, healthcare access, education and job training, and anti-poverty efforts (housing, hunger etc.) — initiatives which would, however, reduce entries into our correctional system and their consequent costs. Currently, preventative supportive services are woefully inadequate and underfunded.

Meanwhile, Governor Scott's administration has introduced plans to build a new prison estimated to cost \$70 million, although his office estimates it may well cost twice that. What community support services could be funded for that amount?

Vermont's hunger, homelessness, and poverty rates are rising. So too has the reported incidence of young people suffering from mental health issues. Between 2018 and 2021 Vermont experienced a 60% increase in children ages 3-8 years old with a mental, emotional or a behavioral health condition presenting as anxiety, depression or behavioral and conduct problems.

We know through many studies that moving our social and economic investments upstream to education, intervention, prevention, and access to support services will radically reduce our costs of remediation, repair, and restoration. We can measure our societal failures by the number of people waiting in emergency rooms, committing self-harm or suicide, shooting up on our streets, or wasting away behind bars.

Most Vermonters want a more effective criminal justice system, one that reduces reliance on prisons but focuses instead on causation, prevention, and community support systems. And thanks to the Vermont Prisoner's Rights Office within the Office of the Defender General, Jayna Ahsaf of the Vermont – FreeHer Campaign, the Vermont ACLU's Smart Justice Campaign, and visionary leadership in the DOC, we are seeing significant progress. But the shift to a more just and cost-efficient system is up to us.

Nature Notes from Cambridge Conservation Commission

March 21

Our last post was the bewildering early arrival of spring, and now we find ourselves deeper into winter. Much of the wildlife out there now is back from migration, out of hibernation, or newly erupted from the ground. They are two to three weeks early — how will the plants and animals we observed manage?

People have taken down bird feeders already because of bear sightings. Many birds are back — geese are moving through the sky and small groups of mallards have been seen in the river lately. Aggressive duck mating was witnessed on a private pond. Roosters started crowing... and then stopped. Robins are back, but where are the worms?!

Ticks are/were out too, so keep an eye out for those little bugs.

Fisher cat prints were seen in the hills west of VT Rt. 108N near the VAST trail. In the same neighborhood, an ermine (short tailed weasel) was caught on camera.

A red fox was spotted in the morning in a residential area of Jeffersonville, which felt concerning. Aren't they nocturnal? Upon research, they appear to be diurnal — most often seen at dawn and dusk, but also seen during the day, so no cause for alarm.

Many plants were gearing up for growth. Rhubarb, garlic, daffodils, and some perennials are now covered with snow, but they are hardy. The first crocus have croaked.

If it does warm up in the next couple weeks, be alert for frogs and salamanders crossing roads on wet evenings. Try to get out to the vernal ponds to see the action.

Total Solar Eclipse

Monday, April 8, 2024

Are you ready for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse?
The Westford Public Library is here to help! We are so excited to be part of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). This means we have had training, equipment and solar glasses for FREE thanks to the generous sponsors below.

Eclipse Timing for Westford:
Partial Eclipse begins: 2:14
Totality begins: 3:26:20
Totality ends: 3:29:42 (that's an incredible 3 minutes 22 seconds of totality!)
Partial Eclipse ends: 4:37

Please note that these exact times are for Westford — depending on your exact location, precise timing will vary, so use your eye protection or pinhole projector and be safe!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

Jericho Congregational Church

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT

Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson

Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages

Fellowship time at 9:30 AM

Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery care provided

Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building

Calvary Episcopal Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in person or on Zoom. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Waterville Union Church

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

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Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible

— all are welcome! There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. Weekday online offerings include Centering Prayer. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at www.goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

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

St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

Covenant Community Church — "Come As You Are!"

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

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 – 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 – 11:00 AM; Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM – ?

Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo's)

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Spooky library short films

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

We may be best known for our work on municipal meetings, but we also work with young people. Here are two short films produced at our recent 9th annual February break MMCTV/Richmond Free Library Workshop, made in just two short three-hour sessions (and a bit of extra editing time). The prompt was "It Happened At The Library." The result was... chilling.

• <https://archive.org/details/ItHappenedattheLibraryFINALGroup2>

• <https://archive.org/details/ItHappenedAtTheLibraryFinalCutGroup1>

Stay tuned for the date of our upcoming middle school TV camp in July.

Cambridge Flag Project to honor veterans, first responders

American Legion Mount Mansfield Post 35 is proud to announce round two of the Cambridge Flag Project in Jeffersonville. Your sponsorship purchases a flag that will be part of an ongoing display in the weeks leading up to Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

There are currently 54 flags and nine-foot flag poles that are being sponsored and that will be placed in the Silo Green. The flags will be displayed in this area for a week before Memorial Day, July 4, and Veterans Day. Once collected, they will be taken down and safely stored in a clean, dry location for future display.

The flags are quality 3'x 5' (made in U.S.A.) American Flags that will be displayed on a nine-foot tall pole. Each pole will have a laminated 4"x6" card attached to it displaying a photo (if desired), name, rank, and branch of service/agency of the veteran or first responder. The opposite side of the card will display the name(s) of the sponsors.

If you would like to sponsor a flag for a veteran or first responder, please complete the form below & submit it along with a check for \$120 and mail to: American Legion Post 35, Attn: Cambridge Flag Project, P.O. Box 96, Jeffersonville, VT 05464.

Forms can be found online at <https://bit.ly/4avK7cf> and payment must be received by Friday, May 3, 2024. If you have any questions or to email photos of your veteran, please reach out to Post 35 Commander Charles J. Guyette, guyette76@hotmail.com.

Final 2024 Lamoille Legislative Breakfast April 15 at Smuggs

By Pat Ripley, LEDC

With the 2024 Legislative Session approaching its final days and this year's legislative priorities taking shape, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce are pleased to invite you to our next Legislative Breakfast event coming to Smugglers' Notch Resort on Monday, April 15! Learn more and register for the event online at <https://lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast/>.

The April breakfast is the last of our four-part breakfast series, offering an opportunity to hear from our Lamoille County representatives and learn about what they are working on at the Statehouse. Attendees will also be allowed a chance to ask questions about the topics on their minds.

Last year was the first time we held an event of this kind since prior to the pandemic. These breakfasts have been well attended ever since, with some events selling out. Be sure to register early!

Each event begins with a light breakfast and coffee from local restaurants, followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A. Each event runs from about 8:00 – 9:30 AM.

"With continued community support of these important events we expect to be able to hold our legislative breakfasts for years to come. These events have long been staples to Vermont's communities and it has been a pleasure to see the local support from all aspects of the community," LEDC and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Patrick Ripley said. "We hope to continue creating a space for engaging, respectful community dialogue. Public participation is the key to ensuring these events can take place for years to come."

Register online at <http://www.lamoilleconomy.org/breakfast>.

United Way Volunteer Connection

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

PARENTING SPECIAL – Prevent Child Abuse Vermont is looking for volunteers with an interest in strengthening families. Join a committed team of leaders facilitating virtual parent education classes and support groups, meeting online via Zoom to help parent learn the skills they need to strengthen themselves and their families. Fill out the volunteer application at <https://www.pcvvt.org/volunteer-application>.

ON THE BOARDS – Several organizations are in need of volunteers to serve on their Boards of Directors:

- YMCA VT Camp Hochelaga is looking for a Treasurer to safeguard operating and capital funds, report to the Board and to membership and the public, see that financial obligations are met, sign leases or other obligations, serve on the Executive Committee and as ex-officio member of the Finance & Facilities Committee. Call 802-861-7826 for more information.

- KidSafe Collaborative needs Board members with a commitment to carrying out their mission of preventing and addressing child abuse and neglect in the community. Board members share responsibility for the fiscal well-being of the organization, oversee all KidSafe Collaborative programs, set policies, support fundraising efforts, and regularly attend monthly Board meetings. Contact kidsafe@kidsafevt.org to learn more.

- Cancer Patient Support Foundation is seeking board members to help support Vermont cancer patients and their families by removing barriers to treatment and providing financial support for costs of food, housing, childcare, transportation, and medical costs not covered by insurance. Contact info@cpsfvt.org to learn more.

- ILLUMINATE VERMONT - On Friday-Saturday, April 5-6, 5:00 – 9:00 PM each night, Illuminate Vermont will light up South Burlington's Market Street with live music, food and drink concessions, crafts, and more in indoor and outdoor markets. Volunteers are needed both evenings to help set up and take down. Share in the fun of this community tradition. For information and to sign up to volunteer, contact 802-846-4107 or information@illuminatevermont.com.

- HANG IT UP - Habitat for Humanity is in need of volunteers at its Milton ReStore to help with clothing intake. Volunteers can sort, hang, and stock gently used and "throwback" clothing donations. Weekday and weekend shifts available between 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. No experience needed. Contact volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

- A YEAR OF SERVICE in NORTHWEST VERMONT – Join United Way of Northwest Vermont as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. We have four full-time positions starting August 2024 including working as a coordinator for one of our programs: the Prevention Network, Common Good Vermont, or Volunteer Engagement. VISTA positions provide the unique opportunity to build professional skills while helping to expand programs designed to empower individuals and communities. Contact Dillon Boisvert, dillon@unitedwaynwvt.org, or go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.org/get-involved/join-our-team/>.

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Call Brenda at 802-453-6354

or email to mtngazette@gmavt.net

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Through Sunday, April 28 at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Rd., Jericho Center is the exhibition titled Photography from a Meteorologist's Point of View by Conor Lahiff. On Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 PM, Conor will give a talk on his photographic process and inspirations as a meteorologist, which include locating the best spot to photograph the elusive Northern Lights. For information contact 802-899-3211 or <https://www.emilegruppegallery.com/>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Colby Crehabn returns to Richmond with new band Marsh Lights: Following time living in the western U.S. and eastern Europe, Burlington, VT musician Colby Crehan has returned to the stage with Marsh Lights on Thursday, April 4, 7:00 PM at the Richmond Congregational Church. The former vocalist and songwriter for the *Bluegrass Gospel Project* and *PossumHaw* has reunited with *PossumHaw* bandmates for the five-piece acoustic project. The band will record their first studio album in 10 years this month. Marsh Lights plays acoustic folk-grass music, with new songs and songs pulled from the *PossumHaw*

songbook, as well as instrumentals written by banjoist Ryan Crehan and mandolinist Stephen Waud. Colby is also joined by Charley Eiseman, long-time friend and musical collaborator, and Mitch Barron, who brings his skilled upright bass playing to the stage, along with deep, rich vocal backup. Tickets for the April 4 show are \$25 in advance, \$27.50 at the door; tickets for children 16 and under and seniors 65+ are \$17.50 in advance and \$20 the day of the concert. For more information, visit <http://marshlightsmusic.com>.

The Westford Music Series concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. On Sunday, April 7 at the Westford Common Hall (aka the white church) from 4:00 – 5:00 PM, the Westford Music Series presents *Helianth* — offering a fresh new program, *Zodiac Dust*, for the celebration of the April 8 eclipse. Oboist Katie Opera and bassoonist Rachael Elliott are joined by NY percussion virtuoso Thomas Kozumplik for a springtime series of music by J.S. Bach, Debussy, Kozumplik, Padma Newsome, Isadora Zebeljan, and others. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy an intimate and expressive chamber music experience while anticipating the eclipse with a gorgeous engaging repertoire of classical music from the baroque through 20th century contemporary genre. Pie raffle for extra fun. Free will donation. The final session of the 2023-2024 season will be May 5, *Howling Waters*. For more information, contact Marjorie Hamrell, 802-879-4028.

At the **Emile A Gruppe Gallery** through Sunday, April 28, Emile A Gruppe Gallery has an exhibition titled *Photography from a Meteorologist's Point of View* by Conor Lahiff. On Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 PM, Conor will give a talk on his photographic process and inspirations as a meteorologist, which include locating the best spot to photograph the elusive Northern Lights. For information about the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Rd., Jericho Center, contact 802-899-3211 or <https://www.emilegruppegallery.com/>.

The **Underhill Arts Council Art Show of local talent**, located in the Underhill Town Hall, will last through the month

**G O V E R N O R
P H I L S C O T T
W I L L B E
M A K I N G
A
S P E C I A L C A M E O
A P P E A R A N C E
I N T H E M O U N T
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O F L I T T L E S H O P
O F H O R R O R S .
The cast and crew sent the Governor a video invitation back in January (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JSIQgITWUfm6h1qbsf1WYg12916XAzRL/view?usp=sharing>, or the shorter version, <https://bit.ly/3VDTgLz>). Then they followed up with him with another video in January. And this week they found out he's going to join the cast for one night in the dentist chair on stage — the cast and crew are pretty excited about it. In correspondence the Governor's office has said that the Governor and his whole staff have been enjoying our videos in their meetings, and though the Governor has never been in a play before, he's looking forward to making his stage debut in Little Shop of Horrors. Join us!** PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



of April. The show is open during regular Town Hall hours. If you have contributions you wish to make, please let us know at jc6greenmont@gmail.com.

Art / Music / Theater continued on page 10

SUMMER CAMPS

VTSU Johnson Summer Athletics Camps

The Johnson Athletic Department is excited to share its our upcoming Athletic Summer Camps for 2024. We have a full summer of fun for all!

All camps can be found on the official Athletics site of Vermont State University Johnson, <https://nvubadgers.com/CAMPS-CLINICS/INDEX>.

- Boys Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday June 16-20, day and overnight;
- Boys and Girls Volleyball Camp, Monday-Thursday, June 24-27, day only;
- Boys and Girls Soccer Camp, day only, three sessions, all Monday-Friday: July 8-12 (session 1), July 15-19 (session 2), July 22-26 (session 3);
- Girls Softball Camp, Sunday-Thursday July 14-18, day and overnight;
- Girls Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday August 11-15, day and overnight.

Girl Scout day and overnight camps in Vermont

Registrations are open for Girl Scout day camps and overnight camps for this summer! Our nearest day camp is located in Richmond on a lovely parcel in the woods, and our overnight camp is in Thetford, VT. If that's your jam, come join us!

Here are the postings from Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains:

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Twin Hills! Camp Twin Hills is located in Richmond, VT and offers one-week and two-week sessions for campers in kindergarten through grade 10. Visit the link to learn more about our programs and bus routes: <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/activities/camp-and-outdoors/twin-hills.html>.

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Farnsworth! Camp Farnsworth is located in Thetford, VT on Lake Abenaki and offers sessions ranging from four days to two weeks for campers in grades 1-12. Visit the link to learn more about our programs: <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/activities/camp-and-outdoors/farnsworth.html>.

Lake Champlain Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Camps

Lake Champlain Yacht Club's (LCYC's) Junior Sailing camps are open to children ages 8-17. Our program creates a love of sailing. Your child will learn safe on-water practices while having fun and gaining a sense of stewardship for Lake Champlain.

Registration is open for the 2024 season. Don't miss out on all the summer fun! Sessions are week-long half-day and full-day for new and experienced sailors. LCYC's program builds confidence and independence. Instructors are U.S. Sailing certified and maintain Red Cross First Aid and CPR qualifications.

For more information go to <https://lcy.cinfo/junior-sailing>.

Summer camp registration open at Saxon Hill School

Register today for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho!

Weekly camps at Saxon Hill School provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. Saxon Hill School camps engage children with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun.

Our camps are designed for children ages 3-6. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure, counselors will aim to focus each week on children's interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open!

Camps run weekly from June 10-August 12, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

Registration open for summer camps at Poker Hill Arts

Registration is open for two camps: Art from Nature, Monday-Wednesday, July 1-3; and Fairy Camps, from Mondays, July 8 or 15. See Poker Hill Arts summer camps online at <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/summer-camps>.

Poker Hill Arts will also offer Musical Theater camps from Mondays, July 22 and 29, contact dtomas0712@gmail.com; and Music Rocks camps from Mondays, August 12 and 19, contact timbolandusa@gmail.com.

As of the end of March the camps are mostly full but we do maintain a wait list for when space opens up.

BCA Summer Camps open for registration

Secure a summertime filled with creative fun for the young artists in your life — Burlington City Arts' (BCA's) summer camp registration is now open. With an abundance of unique offerings for ages 6-17, half-day options to combine to create a full-day

camp (see catalog at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog>) and an Aftercare Art Club that goes until 5:00 PM, you can create a custom camp experience that supports your whole family.

Spaces are limited and they go fast, so be ready and browse the options, submit a scholarship application (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/form/apply-for-a-youth-scholarship>), create an account or locate your login at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog> and be ready with your camper's full information for checkout. You can also peruse our camp registration FAQs (https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Camp_2024_FAQ_edited.pdf) to get all the tips and tricks that will make registering a breeze.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration open

If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps (GMCC) this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and at Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

Conservation Camps open Sunday, June 16 and continue until Friday, August 16. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging, and equipment, and financial assistance is available.

Information and registration are available at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>.

For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call 802-522-2925.

Vermont summer programs at Smuggs for kids ages 7-15

This summer, dive into the adventure that awaits at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville. Smuggs Camp is your ticket to extraordinary summer memories, filled with unique experiences you won't find anywhere else. Transportation is available for \$10 per day, per child round trip to and from Burlington, Jericho, and Essex. The cost is \$119 (one program is \$129) per day, per child, for programs available Monday-Friday, June 17-August 30: High Adventure' Mountain Bike; STEM Projects, Problems, and Puzzles; Wilderness and Survival Skills, Arts and Crafts, and Discovery Camp.

For more information and to register: <https://www.smuggs.com/pages/summer/kids/vermonter-camp.php>.

Chittenden County Soccer School

By Eric Barker

Registration is open until Saturday, June 22 for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2024, Monday-Friday, July 8-12 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the "love of the game" to all our players.

Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

There are half-day and full-day camp options, and age groups range from 5-16+.

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



Camp Koda, Underhill

- Co-ed summer camp for kids that have completed K through age 12
- Nine sessions, M-F, 8:00am – 5:30pm
- Campers have fun playing, learning, and growing in a safe environment
- State subsidy and /or financial assistance may be available

Register at gbymca.org/programs/camp-koda



The Y's Community Partner
NORTH COUNTRY
Your community credit union

Students to Tour England and perform in Worcester Cathedral

England Tour Preview Concert - Tuesday, April 16

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington Noon to 1:00 PM



Worcester Cathedral, England

Featuring: MMU Choirs, Rice Memorial HS Chorus, and MMU Instrumental Ensemble



Caleb Pillsbury, MMU Chorus Director



Mary Bauer, MMUSIC Music Director



Kenneth Gintner, Choir Director at Rice Memorial High School (MMUHS alumnus)



BBC Symphony Chorus Director Neil Ferris



British saxophonist Jess Gillam



Will Todd, composer of Mass in Blue

Musicians in our schools and community have been through a lot in the last five years. During the COVID pandemic schools were unable to sing or play together. As Vermont schools recover and return to normalcy, it is exciting to report that music is alive and well in the MMU Music Department. This year we return to our normal performances in parades, elementary schools, musicals, football games, and concerts at the high school.

The students' achievements this year are also outstanding. MMU is well represented in the 2024 Vermont Northwest District Music Festival, Vermont All State Music Festival, and New England Music Festival — all of which will feature inspirational and uplifting performances by the Bands, Orchestras, and Choruses.

What makes this year particularly special is a truly once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunity. The MMU Choirs will join forces with the Rice Memorial High School Chorus for a performance of *Mass in Blue* by Will Todd in Worcester Cathedral in England on Saturday, April 27, with a choir of 200 high school singers from throughout England.

The performance of *Mass in Blue* will feature the composer Will Todd accompanying the choir with his Will Todd Jazz Ensemble, renowned British saxophonist Jess Gillam, and BBC Symphony Chorus director Neil Ferris conducting. MMU Instrumental students with the MMU Band Director Mary Bauer will travel as well, performing at schools in Worcester over the course of the week-long trip and attending a woodwind masterclass with Jess Gillam. The trip will include 41 students from both schools, which will be a full UK Coach bus when including the chaperones and teachers.

MMU Choral Director Caleb Pillsbury describes how and why this trip came together: "During the pandemic, singing together was banned in schools by the VT Department of Health. Students were limited to only singing through a computer and playing stringed instruments while they were together. The chaos of the moment meant it was difficult to create the vital and life affirming experience of singing together in a choir or playing in a band. Once COVID was over, I felt the students deserved an incredible performance experience after all their hard work. After an invitation by the director Neil Ferris, I knew that this was the perfect opportunity! It was such a wonderful opportunity that I felt that it should not be limited to just the MMU Community. I invited my colleague (and MMU Alum) at Rice Memorial High School, Kevin Ginter, to join us. He is such an excellent choir director as well as an outstanding singer and voice teacher, I knew it would be a good match in combining our choirs. The community in Worcester has worked hard to create performance opportunities for the instrumentalists as well."

There is a noticeable "buzz" around the department preparing for the April departure. MMU ninth grade student Phoebe Gresham says, "I've always wanted to travel, and having the opportunity to go on a school trip across the ocean to a country I've never been to, all as a freshman, is amazing. While doing something I love, too!"

MMU and Rice were fortunate to host BBC Symphony Chorus Director Neil Ferris in a week-long residency in February in order to prepare *Mass in Blue*. After his time in Vermont, Neil Ferris says, "I had a wonderful few days with the students from MMU and Rice Memorial High Schools. Their outstanding teachers have fostered a culture of excellence and the students sing with commitment and joy. I cannot wait for us to meet again when they join us for the concert in Worcester Cathedral."

Eleventh grade MMU Student Otto Mabley-Ward finds that "*Mass in Blue* has pushed me past the limits I thought I had, and allowed me to reach my full potential! Neil Ferris is a great conductor and person. He combines the fun parts of singing with an ounce of seriousness so we can become better singers." MMU Student Hana Chafai, ninth grade, agrees: "Neil was fantastic. Amazing conductor and he's very efficient. I think it's been cool getting to see where we started at the beginning of the year with *Mass in Blue* and where we are now. It's been amazing being able to come together and collaborate with Rice, an opportunity that some of us may not have been able to do if it weren't for this."

Instrumentalists performing in Worcester have been working together all year, MMU ninth grader Clem Lawson says. "Preparing the Instrumental Ensemble's repertoire has been an enjoyable and new experience for me working in a small group with a variety of instruments." Taggart Ackerman, MMU ninth grader says, "I'm excited to be playing for and inspiring kids to play the French horn that live across an entire ocean."

While in England, students will visit sites in London and around Worcester: Warwick and Windsor Castles, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, a reception by the Mayor of Worcester held in the City's Guildhall, as well as the West End production of *Wicked* and The Globe Theater's production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. The combined Vermont High School Touring Choir will also perform in a solo concert with the Royal Grammar School-Worcester and their Choral Director Jonathan Somans on Tuesday, April 23 in Worcester Cathedral.

The Vermont High School Touring Choir and the MMU Instrumental Ensemble will hold a free England Tour Preview concert at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington on Tuesday, April 16, 12:00 - 1:00 PM. The concert will feature the combined choir performing two movements of *Mass in Blue* accompanied by Burlington Jazz Pianist Samuel Whitesell, an a cappella arrangement of *Loch Lomond*, and the spiritual *Hear My Prayer* by Moses Hogan. The Rice Memorial High School Chorus, MMU Choirs, and Touring Instrumental Ensemble will also perform!

We welcome all to join us at our Preview Concert and celebrate the exciting return of live music to our schools and to the community at large!



MMU Chorus



MMUHS Band

LIBRARY NEWS

Spooky library short films

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

We may be best known for our work on municipal meetings, but we also work with young people. Here are two short films produced at our recent 9th annual February break MMCTV/Richmond Free Library Workshop, made in just two short three-hour sessions (and a bit of extra editing time). The prompt was “It Happened At The Library.” The result was... chilling.

• <https://archive.org/details/ItHappenedAtTheLibraryFINALGroup2>

• <https://archive.org/details/ItHappenedAtTheLibraryFinalCutGroup1>

Stay tuned for the date of our upcoming middle school TV camp in July.

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

Adult Programs

Mondays April 8, 29 and Wednesdays April 10, 24, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention. Age Well and DRML are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention for those 60+ or those who have limiting conditions that would like to improve their balance, strength, and well-being. We will learn the Sun Style Form and ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed. The form can be adapted to your personal needs, so all can participate fully. In-person or on Zoom from the comfort of your own home (Zoom link will be provided). Registration required, please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne at joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Second Tuesdays, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (or whenever you would like to leave): Underhill/Jericho Cribbage Group meets in the program room at DRML. All levels are welcome! We will split up into pairs, singles, and three-hand depending on the turnout. Please bring your own deck and board in case we need them.

Thursdays, April 18, May 2, 16, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters Group. Join as at DRML for a couple of hours of crafting and conversation with your neighbors. All are welcome — beginner to expert — in any craft you can transport. Hope to meet you there. Questions? Please contact Amy Tower at 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

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Intermediate Watercolor Classes with Artist Kathleen Berry Bergeron will be offered in Richmond beginning Friday, April 12 for six weeks on Fridays, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Contact paint78@hotmail.com ASAP if interested.

The Impossible, A Telling of Cinderella's Story will be performed at Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho on Saturday, April 13 at 1:30 and 6:30 PM, and on Sunday, April 14 at 1:30 PM. Ticket information can be found at <https://vermontyouthdancers.org/>. *Cinderella* is a story of inner strength, self-discovery and perseverance. Though they lead very different lives, both Prince Edward and Cinderella must stay true to themselves, while struggling under the scrutiny of family expectations. While Ella survives the tragic loss of her parents and forced servitude in a family in which she never really belongs, Edward must establish his role in the royal family, insisting on his own choices — contrary to tradition. Both wish to be seen for who they are, maintaining their kind and gentle nature, forgiving those who were most harsh, and finding each other and true friendships along the way.

Vermont Youth Dancers is a local dance company founded in 2006, by Jericho resident Mia Groff, and co-directed with Theresa Robinson. VYD’s cast of 37 includes dozens of local talented dancers ages 8-18 from Jericho, Underhill, Essex, West Bolton, and Williston. This nonprofit organization focuses on offering performance opportunities and leadership development to local dancers while also giving back to other local nonprofit agencies.

With this show, Vermont Youth Dancers highlights the work of *Reframe*, a thrift shop for teens in Jericho (“threads for the true you!”). *Reframe* is an up-scale nonprofit teen thrift boutique run entirely by donations and volunteers — providing gently used and new clothing, room decor, school supplies, and personal hygiene products. This unique shop serves all teens in our community, including those experiencing hardships, and strives to provide a unique and fun experience for teens to shop affordably in a supportive, welcoming, and respectful environment. Thank you for helping us support their work!

Live Choral Music: Verdi’s Requiem: On Saturday, April 20, 7:30 – 9:30 PM, the Burlington Choral Society (BCS) will perform Giuseppe Verdi’s *Requiem* at the Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael’s College, Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester, honoring the 150th anniversary year of its first performance at Milan’s Church of San Marco on May 22, 1874. “The Verdi Requiem is one of the titans,” says BCS Artistic Director Richard Riley. “Dramatic from the downbeat!” Verdi’s original setting was for four soloists, double choir and large orchestra. In this performance, the Burlington Choral Society will be performing a 2012 arrangement by the German choir director and music pedagogue Michael Betzner-Brandt, who arranged the work as a “chamber oratorio” for piano, horn, double bass, marimba, and percussion. The four vocal soloists will be soprano Helen Lyons, mezzo soprano Amber Smoke, tenor Joshua Collier, and bass Jeremiah Johnson. Richard Riley will conduct. The Verdi Requiem has become one of the most frequently performed major choral works in the United States and Europe. The Metropolitan Opera has performed it more than 50 times since 1901; during World War II it was performed 16 times by Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp. It was last performed in Burlington by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in 2010. In presenting this Requiem performance, the Burlington Choral Society honors the memories of past members and leaders Ann Curran, William Harwood and Maria Novas-Schmidt. Join online: <http://www.bcsvermont.org>.

Weekly Burlington Literature Group meets on Tuesdays, via Zoom: Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads this weekly virtual book group and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group met for years meeting in person, but since the has met via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down

Sunday, April 7, 2:00 PM: Sunday Music Series: *The Beeline Ramblers* & Graham and Katie. Since 2007, we have been featuring talented songwriters in April for recognition of National Poetry Month. *The Beeline Ramblers* were part of the initial program and it is our pleasure to welcome them back with guest performers Graham and Katie.

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers, a monthly adult book discussion group. This month’s selection is *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V. E. Schwab. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, always the second Tuesday of the month. For more information on how to join, contact Chrstitine@cstaffa.com.

Thursday, April 11, 6:00 PM: Legislative update. Join your local representatives Edey Graning and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session. Please feel free to join us and meet with your representatives.

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 PM: Board of Trustees meeting, in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@gmail.com) to receive the link to attend.

Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 PM: Underhill Energy Committee. Follow up to the “Wanna Be A Solar Farmer?” meeting held in March, the Underhill Energy Committee will invite several solar developers who will provide details and answer your specific questions about hosting a solar farm on your property. Please contact Steve, steve831@gmail.com, if you have any questions about the informational meeting.

Thursday, April 25, 6:30 PM: Mah Jongg. Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you’ll love Mah Jongg! All are welcome—no experience necessary!

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Club. Check the library website at <https://www.drml.org/programs/calendar/> for more details. If you need a copy, call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. We meet in-person in the program room. A Zoom link is available. Email Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com for a link.

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 PM: Chez Henry. French: Venez nous rejoindre notre cercle de conversation de retour à la bibliothèque Rawson dès mardi le 30 avril à 19 heures. En hommage affectueux à notre cher raconteur en chef défunt, Henry Weinstock, nous vous prions de venir partager vos idées pour cette série de réunions dans une ambiance de décontraction et d’amitié. Ce cercle n’est pas visé à faire apprendre la langue, mais les francophones de

tous niveaux et ceux qui ne sont que des «French curious» y seront bien accueillis. (English: Come join our informal French conversation group back up and running at the Rawson Library. Named in fond remembrance of our past leader and “raconteur sans pareil,” Henry Weinstock, come share your ideas for a new series of informal Tuesday gatherings beginning April 30 at 7:00 PM. This is not intended as a language class and we welcome all levels of French speakers as well as the French curious.)

Youth Programs

Ongoing

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby Toddler Storytime [ages 0-5] Join us for a baby and toddler focused story time with tickles, bounces, songs, rhymes and, of course, stories.

Fridays (except April 26), 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London [ages 0-5] What makes Friday so great? Songs and stories with Beth and David London. Hope to see you there!

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

Thursdays, April 4, 18, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: [ages 8+] Animation Club. Create a claymation masterpiece, or try out an animation app. The library has what you need to get started animating your very own videos. Please sign up when you call, email, or visit the library.

Monday, April 8, 1:00 – 4:00 PM: Solar Eclipse [all ages]. Join Ms. Abbey and our friend Scott Turnbull from the Vermont Astronomical Society on the back lawn to view the total solar eclipse! We will have a limited number of eclipse glasses available.

Wednesday, April 10, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Warrior Cats Club [ages 10+] Do you love the Warriors books? So do a lot of people. Join us to chat about your favorite characters, make art and talk all about the story. No registration needed. Hope to see you there!

Thursday, April 11, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Craft Stick Catapults [ages 6+] Build mini catapults out of popsicle sticks, glue, rubber bands, and other little crafty things, and then compete to see which design can chuck various projectiles the furthest. Space is limited. Please sign up by stopping by the library or contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Fridays, April 12, 26, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+] Build a flower, a tractor or an alien spaceship! Anything you build will be on display in the kids’ room until the next LEGO club. Please sign up when you call, email or visit the library.

Library news continued on page 11

interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages to discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com. Upcoming authors include László Krasznahorkai, Patrick Modiano, Iris Murdoch, David Foster Wallace, Colum McCann, Saul Bellow, and Thomas Pynchon.

Artistry in Underhill Town Hall — A collection of varied and unique art is viewable throughout Underhill Town Hall! Come see the latest creative showing by your neighbors, friends, and fellow townspeople. Thanks to those who have freely offered their work. Thanks to community energy and the leadership of the Underhill Arts Council, which is committed to inspiring the community by highlighting local art and craft. Our goal is to bring forward all forms of creative expression. All ages are welcome! Have something you’d like to share? Please contact John Connell, jc6greenmont@gmail.com, or Mary Hill, maryhillstudios@gmail.com.

The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville in their 40th season presents two unique exhibitions. First, the Legacy 2024 Collection [through December 22] features the works of 17 contemporary artists and includes selected works by Mary Bryan and Alden Bryan. The Legacy Collection continues to honor the tradition of artists who visit Vermont and New England specifically to paint. The Legacy Collection will be on display in the Main Gallery until May 15, after which the exhibit will be displayed in the East Gallery until December 22, 2024. An exhibition catalogue will be available. Second (and for the second year), the Gallery will exhibit the Small Members’ Group Show [through May 12]. Entirely artist-curated, this exhibition features works in a variety of styles and mediums, selected from the collections of the participating artists. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org or www.bryangallery.org.

At Bryan Fine Art Gallery in Stowe through Sunday, July 14: Evoking Vermont’s Landscape. Six talented Vermont artists showcase their original interpretations of the state’s diverse scenery, celebrating Vermont’s natural surroundings in works that capture the spirit of Vermont, each artist bringing their own flair and interpretation. Participating artists: Ken Rush, Danby; David Pound, Stowe; Steve Clark, Vergennes; Kate Follett, Jacksonville; James Rauchman, Morrisville; Mathew Pardue, N. Ferrisburgh. Free admission. For more information about this and other upcoming exhibitions and events: www.bryangallery.org. Bryan Fine Art Gallery, 64 S. Main St., Stowe. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday, Saturday 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more information contact 802-760-6474 or info@bryangallery.org.

Monthly Essex Art League meeting on the first Thursdays — Artists and art lovers are welcome to join Essex Art League (EAL) and participate in our year-round, weekly en Plein Air gatherings. We meet each Thursday to paint in a different and beautiful location in the area. Joining EAL also avails you of opportunities for field trips to shows and galleries as well as participating in workshops. The Essex Art League has been open to artists and art lovers from throughout Vermont for 50+ years. We meet the first Thursday of each month from September-June. The topics for our upcoming meetings are as follows — April 4: Annelein Boekenkamp, a Vermont watercolorist, speaks on her process and journey; May 2: metal artist Rebecca Nase Chomyn of Fairfield discusses her process; June 6: summer potluck kicks off EAL summer recess. Those looking for more information may go to our website <http://essexartleague.com/>.

SongFarmers, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (March 20, April

17), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments; no electronics except keyboard and bass. It’s a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just enjoy the gathering, are welcome. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Weekly Community Choir — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong*! We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on the second and fourth Thursdays (during the winter) of the month (April 11, 25), 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Just bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way works here, where our aim is to sing for the joy it (no performances except a short one for family and friends at the end of the season). Come as often as you are able. Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Doug Varney, 802-343-4513 or vthockeyman@gmail.com, or just show up!

The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for its annual Creation Grant, which supports artists or artist groups in creating new work. Grant funds may be used to compensate artists for time spent creating new work, to purchase materials, or to rent equipment or space for the process. This highly competitive program is reviewed by an independent panel of practicing artists and arts professionals. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Examples of fundable projects: a multimedia artist creating a new video series; a writer completing the first draft of a novel; a dance ensemble developing choreography for a new piece; a visual artist creating art for exhibition that explores new subjects and techniques; and a musician composing music for a new album. Application deadline: Tuesday, April 9. Learn more and apply at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/artists/creation/>.

Burlington City Arts (BCA) announces the application period for the 2024 BCA Community Fund will open on Wednesday, April 1. The fund awards \$5000 grants to individual artists, artist groups, and arts organizations to support Burlington-based projects that promote a vibrant creative community and contribute to the greater public good. Applications will be accepted through Tuesday, May 28. Since 2016, the BCA Community Fund has been a testament to BCA’s ongoing commitment to supporting local artists and arts organizations, nurturing creativity, and promoting community engagement. The fund was expanded this year thanks to a \$40,000 gift from Tito’s Handmade Vodka along with other supporters and support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and BCA will be able to double the granting ability of the Community Fund in 2024. Supporting diverse and talented recipients who span a wide range of artistic disciplines and reflect the vibrant and dynamic arts community in Burlington, the funded projects and initiatives will contribute to the cultural landscape and enrich the lives of community members. To apply for the 2024 Community Fund Grant, please visit: <https://burlingtoncityarts.awardsplatform.com>. To learn more about BCA’s previously funded programs or to support, please visit: <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/artist-resources#communityfund>.

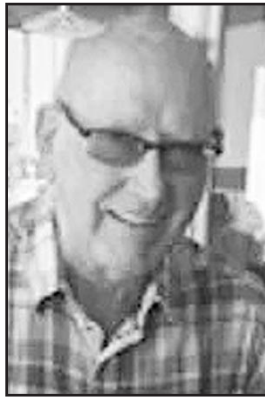
OBITUARIES



Therese Dandurand, our rock, passed away in the presence of her loving family in Westford, VT on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Born in St. Hilaire, Québec, Canada on November 4, 1929, Therese displayed strength with a tender touch in all the things she engaged in. Throughout her life Therese worked alongside her husband Gerard in his Drafting business for over 40 years in Graniteville, VT. Therese found joy through the many seasons in Vermont, often spending time outdoors as she did as a child growing up on the farm

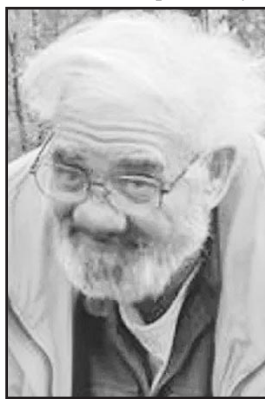
in Canada. Therese and Gerard built their dream home on the shores of Lake Champlain in Milton, VT, where she maintained a beautiful garden. During the winter months you could find her cross-country or downhill skiing. She spent the last 20 years on Pearl Street in Essex Junction, VT where she exercised regularly and played Rummikub with her friends and loving grandchildren. She was a gifted artist and was known for her desserts. Her family will miss the wonderful birthday cards and famous tourtières (Canadian meat pie), the most eagerly awaited gift at Christmas. Therese leaves behind a legacy of love and creativity that will forever be cherished by her surviving family: daughter Monique Crete and partner Scott Maille, sons Paul Dandurand, Michael Dandurand and his wife Colleen, Roger Dandurand and his wife Sue; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Gerard Dandurand. The family would like to thank Peggy Danyow and Howard Kirby, who provided help in so many ways. We are thankful to the University of Vermont Medical Home Health teams and Hospice nurses who cared so lovingly for Therese in the last weeks of her life. May she rest in peace knowing that she touched the hearts of many with her wit and strength. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, May 3, 2024 at the Holy Family Church in Essex, VT, with burial to follow in St. Ann Cemetery. A full obituary can be found on the Minor Funeral Home website.

Linde Ralph Emerson, Sr., "Fib," of Bolton, VT, passed peacefully Monday, February 12, 2024 after a long illness at the St. Albans (VT) Healthcare and Rehab Center, where he was well cared for and loved. He was born October 25, 1936, in Plainfield, VT to Pearl and Howard Emerson. Linde is predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Raelene Lillian Emerson, sons John Anthony Gallo and Linde Emerson, Jr., and siblings John Emerson, Joann Metz, Eldine Jelley, and Janice Logan, deceased February 21, 2024. He is survived by his brothers Leo and Roy Emerson, and his children Jerry, Christine, and Donna Gallo and Jim Chisholm, Juliann and Doug; seven grandchildren, eight great-



grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Linde and Raelene owned country stores in Perkinsville, VT and Alburg, VT. They enjoyed traveling from Vermont to California, visiting family. They managed state and mobile home parks, making lifetime friends. He retired from the Bolton town office in 2019. His favorite pastimes were buying his beloved wife sweet, caring cards, spending time with her and family, walking, and playing cards. A celebration of life will take place Monday, May 6, 2024, at the Smilie School, 2712 Theodore Roosevelt Hwy (U.S. Rt. 2), Bolton, VT 05676, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The family will provide finger food and soft drinks. Honored to be serving the family of Linde Emerson is Rett Heald of the Heald Funeral Home, where messages of condolence are welcome at www.healdfuneralhome.com.

Ronald N. Fleming, 68, of Richmond, VT passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, March 14, 2024 with his devoted and loving wife Tammy of 30 years, and his sister-in-law Christina "Chrissy" McSweeney by his side. He was born in Hartford, CT on February 20, 1956 to the late Robert "Joe" Fleming and Janet (Macomber) Fleming. He grew up in Westford, VT and attended Essex High School, Essex, VT. He married the former Tammy McSweeney on July 6, 1993. Ron's hobbies were hunting, garage saling, scratching lottery tickets, traveling with his wife Tammy, and spending time at camp — "The Swamp Donkey Inn." Ron worked as a mechanic for



Whitcomb's Paving, Bob's Gun Shop, and CCTA where he retired from. Ron will be missed dearly, and we will always cherish our memories and time spent with him. He leaves his wife Tammy; twin brother Donald and wife Debra; brothers Michael, Wayne and partner Brenda Forsey; his sister Shelly and her husband Ken Booker; and Aunt Rita Burns; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Kimberly Ann and her husband Eddy Robinson, Christina "Chrissy" McSweeney and husband Todd Raymond, Adam

McSweeney and wife Dawn, Jim McSweeney and wife Paula, Shannon McSweeney and wife Amanda; many nieces, nephews, cousins; and his cat, Max. Ron was predeceased by his nephew Justin Fleming, father-in-law James S. McSweeney II, mother-in-law Margaret "Peggy" McSweeney, sisters-in-law Darlene Wright and Tina Nichols, brother-in-law Kevin C. McSweeney, and niece Christina McSweeney. Our heartfelt thanks to Ron's brother Wayne, who was by his side from the beginning of his illness until his passing. Thank You to UVM Home Health and Hospice and Dr. Ades's office for taking such great care of our Big Guy. There will be no service per Ron's request. A Celebration of Life for him will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, 12:00 – 3:00 PM at The Eagles Club, VT Rt. 109, Jeffersonville, VT.

Ramon Joseph Astillero, Sr. of Jericho, VT passed away at home on Monday, March 18, 2024. Ray was born in Philadelphia, PA on August 14, 1949 to Ambrocio and Margaret Astillero, the second of eight children. Ray started working for IBM in Manassas, VA, then moved with IBM to Vermont. He met Brenda in 1977 and they married in 1978. Ray worked 30 years for IBM as a maintenance technician, department manager, and facilities tech. Ray was also in the Army/Army National Guard, mostly in the 131st Engineer Company and Public Affairs, retiring as a Major. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Ray enjoyed fishing, woodworking, photography, and



spending time with family. Pop loved spending time with his grandkids, and truly enjoyed every moment he had with them. Ray loved his time with The Guys: Tippy and Lisa, George and Barb, Donny, Brian, and Mike. He really cherished his time with them, especially at the sugarhouse. He is survived by his wife Brenda Astillero; children Martina Astillero (Chris Safford) and Ramon (Nichol) Astillero Jr.; grandchildren Tiana Valyou, Paige Safford, and Gwendolyn Astillero; his siblings Maria, Steve, Linda, Rafael, and Margaret; and also by many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews that he adored. He was preceded in death by his parents Ambrocio and Margaret Astillero, and his brothers Ambrocio Jr. and William. Relatives and friends were invited to his visitation Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at Minor Funeral Home (www.minorfh.com), and Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, VT. His family would like to thank the awesome nurses of Miller 5, and the folks of UVM Home Health & Hospice. As a veteran, Ray supported veterans and the battles they continue to fight at home. In lieu of flowers, our family would ask you to donate at <https://letstalkstrength.com/>.

Library news continued from page 11

drawings done by students of the Vasylykivskiy Children's Art School in Izium, Kharkiv region, Ukraine. Ranging in age from 9-14, students created a piece in support of Fermata's mission of promoting peace through arts and culture.

Weekly/Monthly Children's Programs Weekly programs at the RFL run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Saturday, April 13, 10:30 AM: Local Children's Author Book Reading/Storytime in the Community Room. Do you love sharing the outdoors with the young people in your life? Join us for this interactive book reading suited for ages 2-6. Debut children's author and local musician Rusty Charpentier will be singing songs, leading games, and reading *It's Beautiful Outside Today*. In this story, two kitties venture outside to enjoy the weather no matter the season, reminding us that any day is a beautiful day with exciting and fun things to do. This book is full of positivity and excitement for spending the day together with loved ones and enjoying nature.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant through five years and their grownups are invited to join the fun!

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

Saturdays, April 20, May 18, 10:30 – 11:00 AM, Community Room: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime): Join native Spanish speakers Chichi and Eva for picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us on the third Saturday of every month, September-May.

Trustees Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (April 8) via Zoom until further notice. All meetings are open to the public.

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

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

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

Use certified
solar-viewing glasses



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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

Eclipse events - save the dates!

We'd love your feedback! The Library is currently working on its Strategic Plan for 2025-30. Your responses will help us enhance and improve the services we offer to the community. Thank you for taking the time to lend your voice as we look to the future! The survey is posted on our website and paper copies are available at the library.

COVID Test Kits are back, thanks to our friends at Vermont Center for Independent Living. You may take up to four kits per person in your household. Available while supplies last.

Accepting book donations! Two boxes accepted (per household/per week) that are easy for us to carry. Fiction and nonfiction, juvenile and adult, hardcover and paperback in very good condition, that we may put into our collection or sell in our June book sale to benefit the Children's Summer Reading Program. No textbooks, magazines, VHS, encyclopedias, multi-volume sets, technology or travel books over five years old, mildewed, stained or smoky items please. Thank you so much!

Monday, April 1, 9:00 AM: Eclipse glasses distribution begins. Stop by the front desk for yours! Available while supplies last. Patrons may ask for up to three pairs. Reservations not accepted.

Saturday, April 6, 10:00 AM, Memorial Hall: Eclipse Information. Presented by Scott Turnbull, member of the Vermont Astronomical Society. In anticipation of the Total Solar Eclipse coming to our skies on April 8, this informational presentation will explain how a solar eclipse happens. More importantly, methods to safely view an eclipse will be described. A video of a previous total solar eclipse will be presented so that you will know what to expect on the big day. 250 pairs of eclipse glasses will be distributed to participants at the end of the program.

Monday, April 8, 2:00 – 4:30 PM: Viewing Party in the Back Garden. 250 pairs of eclipse glasses will be available. Cloudy day? No worries! We'll be live-streaming NASA's website throughout the library. There will also be an eclipse-themed Storywalk®!

For all ages

In the display case: Turn mud season into sugaring season with these vintage Maple sugaring supplies!

Children's area

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

Storywalk® along the back garden fence. New: *A Few Beautiful Minutes* by Kate Fox.

Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen.

Rock'n' read with Miss Noreen!

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM: Storytime with Ms. Emily. Stories and songs for young patrons.

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

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Pokemon Club. Open to grades 4-8. Pokemon decks available for kids to play the card games, as well as some themed crafts available. Participants are invited to bring their own handheld video game devices or tablets to play their own Pokemon games or Pokemon Go.

Fridays while supplies last: Grab'n'Go Craft Kits.

Adult area

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

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

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

Thursday, April 4, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group. *The Glass Universe* by Dava Sobel. The little-known true story of the unexpected and remarkable contributions to astronomy made by a group of women working in the Harvard College Observatory from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s.

Tuesday, April 23, 2:00 – 3:30 PM and 6:00 – 7:30 PM: Noreen's Creative Card Classes for adults. Make two cards using different techniques. Limited class size. Register online.

Thursday, April 25, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Stacked Poetry Workshop. Celebrate Poetry Month by creating stacked poetry! Build a poem using book titles printed on the spines. We'll spend 30 minutes creating poems and share them with the group.

Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Zentangle for adults with Julia Davenport. Enjoy this beautiful art form that welcomes slowing down and tapping into your creativity. No prior art experience needed. Register through the website.

Thursday, May 2, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group. *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. McCann unfurls the story of two fathers, one Palestinian and one Israeli, who have both lost their daughters to the violence that surrounds them. Over the course of the day, these two men's lives intertwine as they attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace. A novel based on actual events.

Museum Passes are available for year 'round fun!

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

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313; [@essexfreelibrary](https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/); website <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/>.

Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Evening Zentangle for adults with Julia Davenport. Enjoy this beautiful art form that welcomes slowing down and tapping into your creativity. No prior art experience needed. Register through the website.

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

SCHOOL NEWS

David Marlow, new Principal at Underhill Central School



The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) is pleased to announce the appointment of David Marlow as the new Principal of Underhill Central School, effective July 1, 2024. David Marlow brings with him a wealth of experience and dedication to education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and History from St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT

and furthered his education earning a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from the University of Scranton (PA). Currently serving as the Director of Student Activities at Mount Mansfield Union High School since 2012, David has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to the well-being and success of students. In his new role as Principal of Underhill Central School, David is eager to foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment while working closely with students, staff, and families. Please join us in congratulating David Marlow on his appointment as Principal of Underhill Central School.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bolton Spring Festival at Smilie School May 11

Please join us Saturday, May 11, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, at Smilie Memorial School, Theodore Roosevelt Highway (U.S. Rt. 2), Bolton for a Spring Festival. All proceeds will go towards the school's new playground and the fourth grade field trip.

There will be a craft fair, indoor flea market, ice cream stand, face painting, food, fire trucks, plant sale, and bake sale. There will also be a car wash at the Bolton Fire Station.

We are seeking craft vendors for our Craft Fair. If you are interested in selling your handmade items please contact Savanna Phillips, 802-595-0867 or savanna.phillips@mmuusd.org.

We are also seeking garden veggie plant donations, perennials, and herbs. They can be dropped off from 8:00 – 9:00 AM on May 11. Please label each plant so we know what we are receiving and reselling.

If anyone is interested in setting up their own yard sale, we have ten lawn spots available on a first-come, first-served basis for a small fee.

Please mark this date on your calendar and come and have a blast with us!

Questions? Contact Smilie Community Associations leader Savanna Phillips, 802-595-0867 or savanna.phillips@mmuusd.org.

Rotary Youth Leadership Conference Scholarship from CAR

Cambridge Area Rotary (CAR) is sponsoring two students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA). Spend a weekend with students from VT, NH, and Québec to develop leadership skills and have fun!

The weekend-long RYLA Conference will be held at the Vermont State University, Lyndon Campus, Friday, June 21, 8:00 AM through Sunday, June 23, 1:00 PM.

To apply, current high school sophomores should complete a short application to be considered; details are online at [https://portal.chubrunner.ca/4785/Page/Show?ClassCode=Page&Slug=rotary-youth-leadership-academy-\(ryla\)](https://portal.chubrunner.ca/4785/Page/Show?ClassCode=Page&Slug=rotary-youth-leadership-academy-(ryla)).

The experience is priceless! but you pay \$0 if selected.

MMU student trip abroad to Portugal in April 2025

Imagine a seven-day adventure to Portugal with EF Tours (and trip leader Gregory Martin, BRMS School Counselor).

Wind your way along the Atlantic coast while experiencing the cosmopolitan flair of Porto and Lisbon alongside the rustic charm of rural Portugal. Traverse through city and sand, mountain and beach, see for yourself how culture and beauty merge in this unique part of the world.

There will be an informational meeting in the Huntington Room at Mount Mansfield Union High School on Tuesday, May 7, at 6:00 PM. Additional information and registration are also available at gmartinvt@gmail.com or <https://www.efitours.com/tour-website/2715618EC>.

Learn more about the EWSD budget online

By Ben Dickie,

Communications/Public Relations Coordinator, EWSD Visit the new and improved Essex Westford School District (EWSD) budget website — it's your one-stop shop for:

- presentations and videos from Board meetings;
- budget line item details;
- news stories on the school budgeting process in Vermont;
- annual meeting warning;
- budget archives and more.

Check it out online at <http://www.ewsd.org/budget>.

MMUUSD's last day of school June 18

From John Alberghini, MMUUSD Superintendent

Planning for summer care and camps has become increasingly difficult for families over the past several years as school cancellations due to weather, flooding, and other emergencies have extended the school year. In an effort to support families in effectively planning for the summer, we are setting the last student day for this year on Tuesday, June 18.

Based on the number of emergency school closures so far this year, we will meet our traditional number of 178 school days. The state requires 175 student days. Therefore, if we have additional school closures, MMUUSD will repurpose the student days for staff professional development and set the last student day on Tuesday, June 18. This is a practice that will continue in subsequent school years.

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities now open

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service.

Applications, due on Wednesday, May 1 for three \$2000 scholarships, which will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher. Applications can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails>. Students need to submit two essays (500 words), one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required, <https://bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec>.

The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on Saturday, June 1.

Questions can be directed to Becky Miller, lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com.

Help with child care costs

From the Vermont Department for Children and Families

Does your family need help paying for child care, preschool, or afterschool services? The Child Care Financial Assistance Program helps Vermont children access quality child care by covering some or all child care costs for eligible families.

To be eligible for financial assistance, families must:

- have child(ren) age 6 weeks to 13 years (19 years for those with special needs);
- have an approved reason for needing child care, like work or training;
- meet Vermont's income guidelines (even a family of four making \$105,000 qualifies);
- be a Vermont resident;
- have less than \$1 million in assets; and
- have child(ren) with an eligible citizenship status (not required starting Monday, July 1).

Does this sound like your family? Visit the program's webpage (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap>) to learn more.

If you have questions, you can contact your local Community Child Care Support Agency (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/contacts/partners/cccsa>). Agency staff can also help you find child care, preschool, or afterschool services.

Change is coming! If you don't meet the income guidelines now, you may on Sunday, April 7. New guidelines will expand eligibility based on family size and income. More families may qualify for assistance; for example, a family of four making \$124,800 will qualify. Subscribe to receive news/updates on our homepage at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>.

The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is a service of the Child Development Division, a part of the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

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

Holocaust education workshop draws over 50 VT teachers

Educators from throughout Vermont are meeting this time of rising antisemitism and intolerance with new insights and shared lessons gained from the Fifth Annual Holocaust Educators Workshop here recently. The professional development workshop, *It Starts With Words: Teaching the Holocaust to Combat Hate*, organized by Vermont Holocaust Memorial (VTHM) with the support of Echoes and Reflections, a national organization for teachers, was the most successful in VTHM's seven-year history, according to president and cofounder, Debora Steinerman.

"The teachers' strong response and enthusiastic participation demonstrated that Vermont educators are not standing still in this rapidly changing atmosphere of hate and racism threatening our nation and its democracy," noted Steinerman. "Through innovative resources and new approaches to teaching a difficult, painful time in the world's history, we can expect that hundreds, if not more, Vermont students of all ages will be well served by these teachers' experiences here today."

Lindsay Levesque, a history teacher from Brattleboro Union High School who has been a frequent attendee at the VTHM workshops, noted: "I always learn something new — and I enjoy the community of teachers and to keep connections with the small group of other Holocaust educators."

One participant observed that the professional development workshop afforded "ideas for how to reach my 7th and 8th grade students, meet them where they are at emotionally, while teaching the gravity of the Holocaust and making it relevant to their world today."

Many attendees agreed that teaching students empathy with others is a new and critical challenge for educators.

An assistant principal in attendance pointed out that, "Given our political and social standing today I feel it is a crucial time to teach Holocaust and genocide... we need to show students how the propaganda at that time is similar to what they are now experiencing."

One teacher at the workshop noted a student denied the existence of the Holocaust and they were there to learn ways to deal with such issues.

"Vermonters of good conscience, and the Jewish community in particular, are taken aback by the extraordinary surge in hatred and antisemitism," said Steinerman. "Vermont is not immune to this kind of intolerance — motivated educators can be Vermont's first line of defense, given the proper tools and support."

Through the Vermont Holocaust Education Week (April 1-5), their speaker's bureau, mobile exhibits, Leaf Project, and educator workshops, VTHM (the only Holocaust education memorial in the state) is committed to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust by honoring lives lost and sharing stories of survival. "We encourage standing up to hatred wherever it appears. It is our hope that the Vermont Legislature will pass the Vermont Holocaust Studies Act (S.87 / H.294) this session, to ensure these timely lessons will be shared in our schools for our students' futures," says Steinerman.

VTHM is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization which envisions a time when bigotry and hatred is replaced with respect for all. For more information on VTHM offerings and events please visit: www.HolocaustMemorial-VT.org.

The Vermont Holocaust Memorial is grateful to Burlington's Ohavi Zedek Synagogue and the Lost Mural Project (www.lostmural.org) for partnering in this year's workshop.

The workshop was facilitated by the educational nonprofit Echoes & Reflections. The organization is regarded as a premier source of Holocaust educational materials to support teachers. Echoes & Reflections (www.echoesandreflections.org) is a joint program of the Anti-Defamation League, The USC Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem.

Saxon Hill School registration open for 2024-2025

Registration is now open to new families for the 2024-2025 school year! Come join Saxon Hill School (SHS), a family-cooperative preschool offering three NAEYC accredited programs, including kindergarten, for children ages 3-6. Our school is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy and is a unique and wonderful place for young children and their families. Saxon Hill is located in Jericho, where it has been serving Jericho and the surrounding communities since 1964.

Our mission: Saxon Hill School is committed to working in partnership with families and communities to educate and support children while heeding their individual needs for growth and development.

For more information please visit <https://saxonhillschool.org/registration.html> or email Registrar@SaxonHillSchool.org.

Total Solar Eclipse

Monday, April 8, 2024

Are you ready for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse?
The Westford Public Library is here to help! We are so excited to be part of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). This means we have had training, equipment and solar glasses for FREE thanks to the generous sponsors below.

Eclipse Timing for Westford:
Partial Eclipse begins: 2:14
Totality begins: 3:26:20
Totality ends: 3:29:42 (that's an incredible 3 minutes 22 seconds of totality!)
Partial Eclipse ends: 4:37

Please note that these exact times are for Westford — depending on your exact location, precise timing will vary, so use your eye protection or pinhole projector and be safe!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SENIOR NEWS

Westford Senior Luncheon moved up one week to April 8

The Westford Senior Luncheon for April was scheduled for Monday, April 8. With all the events, activities, and potential traffic associated with the eclipse, we decided to have our Senior Lunch a week earlier, on Monday April 1.

Meals on Wheels Lamoille update

Lamoille County Meals on Wheels has a lot going on: Spring Bulb Fundraiser (www.mowlc.org/events) — Order your spring bulbs now, and Meals on Wheels will receive 50% of each purchase.

Cupcake Decorating with Deb on Wednesday, April 10, 1:00 – 2:00 PM. Free for anyone 60 or older! RSVP to 802-888-5011 ext. 1. Everyone will make two cupcakes to take home. Come early and join us for lunch from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Annual Pancake Breakfast Friday, April 26, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Pancakes, VT syrup, bacon, sausage, fruit, coffee, juice. RSVP to 802-888-5011 ext.1

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County seeks substitute volunteer drivers and volunteers to help package pet food each month. Did you know we also deliver pet food to over 40 pets monthly? Meal pick-up is at 10:30 AM at 21 Munson Ave., Morrisville, and coolers are returned at the end of the delivery route. Most routes take one to two hours to deliver. Meals on Wheels pays mileage, and you are welcome to enjoy a free lunch; deliver weekly, monthly, or seasonal, whichever works for you. The volunteer application is online at www.mowlc.org/volunteer, or you can stop by to fill one out. Call Nicole to find out more at 888-5011 ext.1



The Mountain Gazette is a hometown newspaper serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford; it has been doing so for the past 23 years.

The newspaper works to deliver information of interest to a wide variety of readers, including but not limited to news and news briefs, health information, legislative reports, letters to the editor, library news, obituaries, art/music/theater, senior citizens, school news, and sports. We present columns written by community members and others we deem interesting, such as one by Chittenden County Forester Ethan Trapper.

The paper is a vehicle where readers can submit poems, short stories, and photos for publication. Another column features college news and notes.

In June we print the photos of the graduating class from Mount Mansfield Unified Union High School.

We would like to invite you to join our advertising community.

Your ad would appear in our printed paper. We store- and business-drop (and place in libraries and town offices) printed papers in our core communities of Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, as well as in Essex, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, and Fairfax.

Each edition of the *Mountain Gazette* is loaded to the home page of our website www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com; the website also maintains an archive that preserves the entire paper including advertisers for every edition since 2008. For each edition, we post a link to the current edition on our website to our Facebook page.

Please contact Brenda Boutin,
publisher and advertising manager,
at 802-453-6354
or mtngazette@gmavt.net
for more information
or to discuss advertising.

Thank you.

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin
at 802-453-6354

for more information

or email

**mtngazette
@gmavt.net.**

Age Well Grab'n'Go meals

Age Well provides services to individuals 60+ and their spouse or caregivers, and a disabled person(s) living with the senior, regardless of financial status. Suggested donation is \$5.

Bolton will now have Age Well Grab'n'Go meals delivered to the Bolton Fire Station on the second Wednesday of each month — April 10 — pick up times between 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. To order a meal, please contact Robin Pecor-Brunell, 802-434-3042 or rpecor@hotmail.com, by the Friday before the meal is to be delivered.

Jericho's next Grab'n'Go meal will be on Wednesday, April 10, with pickup between 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Community Center in Jericho (CCJ), 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center. These are nutritious "heat and eat" meals; this month, the menu is chicken in gravy with mashed cauliflower, diced carrots, southern biscuit with butter, carrot cake with icing, and milk. Suggested donation \$5; register by Friday, April 5 by contacting CCJ Manager Jen Greenwood, 802-274-4024 or cjvermont@gmail.com.

Send your news to
mtngazette@gmavt.net

Feeling stretched as a caregiver? Age Well has a class to help

Age Well is offering a *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* class beginning this April.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series designed to provide you with the tools you need to take care of yourself. This program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, improve communication, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions, and locate helpful resources.

The caregiver class consists of six sessions held once a week for 90 minutes. Two experienced Class Leaders conduct the series (many are experienced caregivers themselves, who have successfully applied the techniques they teach). Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the "tools" you choose and put them into action for your life.

Participants will receive a book, *The Caregiver Helpbook*, free of charge.

For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Harbison and Emily Raymond at ptc@agewellvt.org. You can also call Age Well's Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 and ask to speak with someone about the upcoming *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* class. Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required.

Classes will be held the Age Well Colchester Office, 875 Roosevelt Hwy, Ste 210. Sessions are held for six Thursdays in a row and will run from April 4-May 9. Classes will take place from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2024

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

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

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

TOTAL REGULAR CIRCULATION - 4500

(During the pandemic it has varied at the present time we are back up to 3500
and rising we plan to be back to full circulation by May 2022.)

OPEN RATE

\$8.25 COLUMN INCH
Column width 1 7/16"

Listings below are measured width x height

Business card - \$33.00
3 1/4" x 2"

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

1/12 page - \$66.00
3 1/4" x 4"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prepaid contracts available - Save up to 20%.

Purchase six ads of any size and run within 12 months.
Call Brenda Boutin, advertising manager at 802-453-6354 for details

Subscriptions \$35.00 per year - 24 issues

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

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

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

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

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will **CONTINUE** the public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY April 24, 2024 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Bradley Malouin for a conditional use review for a new camp. The property is located at 64 Hiram's Crossing which is in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zoning District.

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

**BUSINESS
DIRECTORY**

HANDYMAN/CONSTRUCTION

Jay and Jeremy
HANDYMAN
emeryj1882@gmail.com
802-373-0018 or
802-370-8704
Fully Insured - References

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

All Phase Property Maintenance, LLC
Residential
Sanding & Salting Services  **24 HR Service**
Commerical
Lawn Care & Gardens, Fence Installation/Repair, Pressure Washing, Stone-Concrete Walkways, Walls and Patios, Firewood, Light Trucking, Driveway Installation & Repair York raking, Brush hogging, Snow Plowing, Sanding & Salting, Electrical & much more...
Office: 899-2919 - Cell: 734-8247
Stephan Griffiths Jr. - Owner
Fully Insured allphase87@email.com Essex, VT 05452

Home and Garden 2024

Special section in The Mountain Gazette

Appearing May 2, 2024

Every newspaper, television station, and media outlet wants you to advertise in their Home and Garden issue. Why choose ours? We want to promote YOU!

We will print your ad coupled with an article about who you are, what you do, and how well you do it. Let our readers know what you specialize in, what makes you right for the project they want to complete.

Our prices are right - way below those of other media. We cover and distribute our newspaper in Bolton, Jericho, Underhill, Cambridge, Westford. We also store drop in Richmond, Hinesburg, Essex, Essex Junction, and Fairfax.

The Mountain Gazette post the paper on our web page at www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com and on Facebook pages of neighboring towns.

Deadline April 29, 2024

OPEN RATE
\$8.25 COLUMN INCH

Column width 1 7/16" Listings below are measured width by height



Business card - \$33.00
3 1/4" x 2"

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

1/12 page - \$66.00
3 1/4" x 4"

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

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

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

SPORTS NEWS

Mansfield Nordic Club members among winners at Lake Placid



Ten teams representing regions across the United States competed in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Junior National Championships for cross country skiing last week in Lake Placid, NY.

Team New England took top honors as the strongest region in the country, outpacing their nearest competitors from the Intermountain division (Idaho, Montana, Utah, western Wyoming) and Alaska.

Mansfield Nordic Club, based in Jericho and supporting skiers from across northwestern VT, qualified 10 athletes to represent Team New England. Across a week of competitions including three individual events and a team relay, Mansfield Nordic Club (MNC) skiers took home eight All-American (top-10 individual, top-5 relay) awards, as well as 22 individual top-30 finishes.

Top MNC finishes included Greta Kilburn (Burlington) winning three national titles in the U20 women's classic sprint, U20 women's classic mass start, and U20 mixed relay, in addition to taking second place in the U20 women's freestyle. Anders Linseisen (Shelburne) took home a bronze medal in the U18 men's classic sprint. MNC finished the week ranked as the 7th strongest junior club in the nation.

Then MNC athletes and their hometowns are: Kate Carlson (Jericho); Virginia Cobb (Westford); Gillian Fairfax (Burlington); Jonah Gorman (Jericho); Brooke Greenberg (Moretown); Nico Hochanadel (Burlington); Greta Kilburn (Burlington); Anders Linseisen (Shelburne); Elsa Sanborn (Burlington); and Julia Thurston (Waterbury).

For more information, see https://mtvanhoevenberg.com/event/xc2024lakeplacid/ and https://bullitttiming.com/events/USSA-JN-2024.

Athletes at opening ceremonies in Lake Placid. L-R Julia Thurston, Jonah Gorman, Virginia Cobb, Anders Linseisen, Brooke Greenberg, coach Adam Terko, Elsa Sanborn, Nico Hochanadel, Gillian Fairfax, Kate Carlson, Greta Kilburn. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Training offered April 6 for new hunter education instructors

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is offering a New Instructor Training Course for people interested in volunteering to teach Hunter Education courses in Vermont.

The training will take place Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM – 4:00

PM at the R.E.C. Zone, 94 Harvest Lane, Williston, VT 05495.

All applicants must complete their instructor paperwork and online homework before attending the course. Instructor application paperwork can be found at: www.tinyurl.com/2pfr7c44, or call 802-828-1193 prior to the course date.

Policies and procedures, field techniques, and teaching methods will be covered to give instructors the tools to teach future hunters how to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Lunch will be provided. Be prepared to be outside for at least part of the day.

Applicants are required to pass a background check with a Vermont State Game Warden and apprentice-teach with a chief instructor before they will receive their full State of Vermont Hunter Education Instructor certification.

"Our hunter education instructors are all volunteers, donating their time to pass on a cherished Vermont tradition," said Hunter Education Training Coordinator Nathan Lafont. "The hours our

instructors put in will leverage federal dollars that enable the Hunter Education Program to function."

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available for free upon request. Requests should be made as early as possible; please call the office staff at 802-828-1193 (voice) or 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

Mount Mansfield Girls Lacrosse Club – 2024 registration

Welcome to the 2024 season of middle school Girls' Lacrosse. This program is for girls in grades 4-8. The season starts at the end of March (depending on snow) and runs through first week of June.

Practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, at Browns River Middle School on River Road, Jericho. Games are Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June.

Please email melissamutolo@live.com for registration.

Advertisement for Rebecca Lemire, Realtor, Seniors Real Estate Specialist, with contact information and Coldwell Banker logo.

Real estate advertisement for Nancy Jenkins Real Estate, featuring property photos with prices (Monkton - \$558,500, Shelburne - \$800,000, South Burlington - \$549,500, Ferrisburgh - \$475,000) and contact information.

Real estate advertisement for Champagne Real Estate, featuring a photo of Janice Battaline, her contact information (janbatt7859@gmail.com, 802-448-0540), and the slogan 'Your community Realtor since 1983'.