

The Mills Riverside Park covered bridge over the Browns River in Jericho, in October 2002. The bridge has long been the only public entrance to the Park. The Jericho Underhill Park District has sadly made the decision not to rebuild the covered bridge, as the cost is prohibitive. Our bridge will be missed by many who enjoyed the river in its shade.

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Mills Riverside Park bridge update

By Livy Strong

The Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) has been focused on the only public entrance to Mills Riverside Park, our bridge. Following the advice of engineers, the “covered” portion of the bridge was removed in November 2021 and safety rails installed at a cost of \$36,000. The concern was the roof’s integrity, especially with a snow load going into winter. The expectation was that the “covered” portion would be rebuilt subject to funding.

As the months rolled on, complications multiplied. According to an engineering study, the abutments were not sufficient to support new walls and a roof for many years. They would need to be rebuilt at an estimated cost of over \$300,000. State requirements for abutment replacement would also probably require the Park District to relocate the abutments and expand the length of the bridge considerably. This would necessitate a new deck. All of this work would shut the park down for community enjoyment for at least four months unless an alternative bridge was built across the Browns River. This temporary span had an estimated cost of \$62,000.

The more information that the Park District received, the more we realized that the cost to replace the “covered” portion of our bridge, and therefore, the abutments and a new deck, was just too expensive. The decision was made to not rebuild the covered bridge at this time. The existing abutments are sufficient to support the newer deck and side rails for pedestrian traffic and occasional light vehicular use.

The park’s popularity continues to grow year to year, with over 370 visitors per day using this vital span during the warmer months. At some future point, we certainly hope to add the special entry to Mills Riverside Park that only a covered bridge can bring.

Westford Community Wastewater Project update

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner

It’s been quite a while since we’ve delivered an update on the Community Wastewater Project. Several months ago, we told you about the closure of Green Mountain Engineering, and the Town’s need to secure a new engineering team to carry the project forward. We are happy to report that we have a commitment from Stone Environmental, Inc. of Montpelier to lead the engineering work and continue their other critical work on the project. Stone’s Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) is not yet fully executed, but the Town is working to achieve that goal by January of 2023.

Here are some updates on where the project stands and the new timeline that is in place.

Finding of No Significant Impact: As part of the October 17 Planning Commission meeting, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) held a public hearing on the Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (NOI-FONSI) for the Westford wastewater system. This positive and crucial environmental review step, which is required for all projects that use Clean Water State Revolving Funds, means that the state has determined that the planned project has minimal impact on the natural environment in the proposed project/service area. Here’s an excerpt from the first page of the FONSI:

“The project has positive environmental impacts including the decommissioning of individual onsite residential septic systems in proximity to private and public drinking water wells in the Westford Village area, some of which have historically failed, or are currently failing, or are past useful life. This project will create a new discharge to groundwater. Appropriate design, construction, and operation of the community wastewater indirect discharge disposal system will mitigate potential impacts to groundwater. The proposed disposal system will be subject to the Indirect Discharge Rules in effect at the time an application for an indirect discharge permit is submitted.”

To read the full report, go online to http://www.westfordfuture.com/uploads/1/3/8/4/138498261/ww_environmental_report_2022_10_05.pdf.

Next steps: VT DEC will respond to comments received on the FONSI; make a final determination; and issue the finalized FONSI formally no earlier than the end of the 30-day public comment period (which ended on November 13). Once the FONSI is formally issued, VT DEC will combine the Environmental Information Document (EID) and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and issue a Facility Plan Approval. This will officially close the Step I project phase and allow the Town to be reimbursed by the State for all eligible costs incurred to date.

Once these crucial phases are complete, and the State and Selectboard approve and execute the ESA, Stone Environmental, Inc. can begin Step II engineering and design. Step II design will provide the detailed engineering and cost estimates needed for the wastewater system, along with allied services including property owner outreach, detailed bedrock depth evaluations, and development of a wastewater ordinance to govern a system if and when it is constructed. To put it simply, Step II design is how we get closer to understanding project components, costs, the specific layout of the system, situations for individual property owners, and Town policies. This information will inform the language of the bond vote to be presented to taxpayers and voters in 2023.

A bond vote: A bond vote is anticipated in the fall of 2023



CATCH 22 donates to Howard Center

Jericho residents Gail and Tim McKenna made a generous contribution of \$3333 to Howard Center from their CATCH 22 Flag Football fundraiser. 2022 marks their eighth consecutive year of giving to Howard Center. Their donation amount and giving date represent important numbers in their lives. The contribution will support Howard Center’s critical work in the community that helps individuals and families with mental health, substance use, and developmental services. Pictured are the McKennas with Catarina Campbell, M.Ed., Howard Center Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as she accepted the contribution from Catch 22. Since the McKennas’ Catch 22 Football fundraiser began more than 20 years ago, the organization has made donations to several community organizations, including the Shriner’s Hospital and the Vermont Children’s Hospital.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tri-County Christmas bird count, December 17

Over a hundred years ago, people around the U.S. started counting birds in mid-winter. This survey, which became known as the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now involves traveling birders and folks who watch their backyard feeders, all over North American and in more than a dozen



A rough-legged hawk soars over the Browns River, years ago. On Saturday, December 17, watch out for people looking up, or into brush or trees, as they take part in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

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NEWS BRIEFS

Plowing alert from the Jericho Road Crew

By Paula Carrier, Jericho Assistant Town Administrator
Plowing alert to Jericho residents: Due to staffing shortages the Jericho Road Crew will focus first on clearing snow off the roads for bus routes — which means morning, noon, and afternoon runs.
We will get to your road but it's likely to be later than you are used to. Please be patient with us.
Thank you — the Town of Jericho

Essex/Colchester VT RT. 2A, 289 resurfacing project update

December 1
This project is complete for the 2022 construction season. Updates will resume prior to work beginning in the spring 2023. Have a safe winter!
Completion date: November 2022
Please email sbarrett@coibsync.com, reference VT Route 2A - Essex, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

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at the earliest. We understand that this is quite a ways away, and that this project has taken much longer than anticipated to get to this point. But in order to properly estimate the costs and understand the system's details, we needed to get over many hurdles including pandemic delays, our original engineering team closing up shop, and backlogs with the State. Additionally, under Vermont law, there is a period of a minimum 10 weeks from the Selectboard's first receipt of the proposed amount of the bond vote until the actual vote occurs, during which there are several public meetings and hearings. It's vital that we understand the costs and implications before bringing to a vote — the town needs the facts and details in order to make an informed decision together.

As always, the best way to get up to date information and project details is to visit the Wastewater project website www.westfordsfuture.com. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page has just been updated with the latest information about the project: http://www.westfordsfuture.com/faq.html.

LVRT construction updates

By Laird MacDowell
At a recent Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, Jackie Cassino of VTrans provided an update on construction of the remaining unfinished sections of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT):
• Cambridge (VT Rt. 109) to Sheldon Village will have been completed by Tuesday, December 13 by Dirt Tech Company, a distance of 18.4 miles. This trail section will be open for use after December 13.
• Morrisville to Hardwick Village: completion has been delayed until the end of January 2023 due to a major rockslide in Wolcott. SD Ireland is the contractor. This section is 12.44 miles long.
• Hardwick Village to West Danville (Joe's Pond) was completed last month by GW Tatro Construction, a distance of 17.85 miles. This section is open for use.
Jackie also reported that the VAST snowmobile season opens on Thursday, December 15, but obviously a significant amount of snow is needed for packing by trail groomers before snowmobiles can operate on the LVRT (and the Greenway).

Cambridge 2022-2023 winter parking ban notice

By Jonathan DeLaBruere, Cambridge Town Administrator
Vehicles shall not be left on village streets or in the town right-of-way, this includes on-street parking spaces and edge of roadway. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
This ban went into effect December 1, 2022 and continues through April 15, 2023. The ban is enforceable from 10:00 PM – 7:00 AM daily.
Fences and/or barriers within 25 feet of road center during snow removal operations will be the responsibility of the landowner.
Trees and/or brush within 25 feet of road center interfering with snow removal operations will be cut and disposed of.
Residential and commercial snow removal from driveways and side roads will not be allowed to move snow into or across town rights-of-way.
No one will have access to the town salt/sand pile for commercial sanding/salting for hire.
Questions? Contact the Cambridge Highway Manager, Eric Boozan, 802-363-2146 or eric@cambridgevt.org.

Jericho Listers' Office vacancies

By Paula Carrier, Jericho Assistant Town Administrator
The Town of Jericho has two vacancies on the Board of Listers. These positions are appointed by the Town of Jericho Selectboard. The Board of Listers' primary responsibilities are to assess as accurately and equitably as possible all real property in town in compliance with the VT State Statutes. Listers work as the job requires. If you think this could be you, please send Letters of Interest to: Lori Dykema, Lister, P.O. Box 39, Jericho, VT 05465, or drop off at the Town Hall located at 67 VT Rt. 15, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (if after business hours, put in the drop box located outside of the Town Hall).

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other countries. Tens of thousands of volunteers drive, walk, sit, snowshoe, ski, canoe, and even bicycle — while looking for and counting birds. The yearly "bird census" provides scientists with invaluable information about avian populations and locations.
This year during the 123rd Audubon CBC, a local group of bird-lovers will be doing a Tri-County census in parts of Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille counties. On Saturday, December 17, people might see slow-moving cars and/or folks with binoculars in the Cambridge, Westford, Milton, Fairfax, Fletcher, Underhill, Jericho, and Jeffersonville area.
The group invites everyone in those areas to flag us down and tell us about interesting birds they've been seeing in towns and fields, forests and backyards, or on rivers and lakes. All the sightings and reports will be compiled and sent to Audubon, and then it will be made available to everyone on the web.
The Tri-County group will also send a summary to local newspapers so that everyone can read about the rich bird life in our area, even in winter. If you're looking to participate in this year's count, there are two ways:
• travel and count birds along a predefined route in our circle; or
• count birds on your feeder at home.
If you're interested in our routes, please contact Judy, grgis@gmail.com, and if you're interested in a feeder count, please contact Jason, mwongera@hotmail.com.

Applications open Property Tax Credits for Historic in Underhill

By Nick Atherton
Underhill Planning & Zoning Administrator
Underhill residents: the State of Vermont's Agency of Commerce & Community Development has announced a special funding opportunity for owners and occupants of certain older buildings! \$800,000 in state income tax credits will be available for a variety of projects, including general rehabilitation, code compliance, flood mitigation, and façade improvement.
Basic program overview:
• Applicants must own or lease a qualifying building located in either of Underhill's Designated Village Centers (Underhill Flats and Underhill Center).
• Qualifying buildings must be at least 30 years old and not currently used as a single-family home.
• Applicants may be an individual, business entity, or non-profit organization.
• Project budgets must exceed \$5000.
• Applications are due by EOD on Monday, January 16, 2023.
For more information or to apply, please visit the Agency's website to download a complete program guide and application: https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits.

Not sure whether your property is eligible? Visit the Vermont Planning Atlas for an interactive map showing designated Village Centers (and much more): https://maps.vermont.gov/ACCD/PlanningAtlas/index.html?viewer=PlanningAtlas.
Still have questions? Feel free to reach out to Nick Atherton, Planning & Zoning Administrator at the Town of Underhill, for guidance, at natherton@underhillvt.gov or 802-899-4434 x5.

Get a free reflector and be bright at night

From the VT Department of Health
Whether you walk, drive, or bike, shorter days and longer nights mean it's especially important to see and be seen on the road.
DRIVERS: Be extra careful at night and watch for pedestrians. Slow down and never drive distracted, drowsy, aggressively, or under the influence.
PEDESTRIANS/CYCLISTS: Wear reflectors and light-colored clothing, along with lights so drivers can see you.
Need some reflective gear? Vermont Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will hand out thousands of free personal reflectors (while supplies last) at events around the state starting this weekend. Learn more: https://safestreets.vermont.gov/be-bright-night.

UJFD news, calls in November

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) responded to many calls in November. Here is how they break down by type:
• 5 fire / CO (carbon monoxide) alarms
• 1 chimney fire
• 1 structure fire
• 1 vehicle fire
• 4 vehicle accidents
• 1 extrication from the woods
• 2 power line / tree issues
• 14 EMS calls in Underhill
• 33 EMS calls in Jericho

It's getting colder and heat is being turned on. Please clean your chimney regularly; make sure the batteries are good in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, and replace them if needed.
Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Underhill's second annual Big Tree Contest

Do you have a really big tree in your woods or on your lawn? Measure the big trees on your property and enter this town-wide contest to find the big trees of Underhill.
Winners will be announced at Town Meeting Day and will be placed on our ongoing roster of big trees. This year, winners will be selected from several categories including largest deciduous tree, largest coniferous tree, and largest white ash tree.
To enter the contest, measure and record: tree circumference, tree species, location, and take a photo of you in front of the tree (optional). For each tree species, enter the data on the form (via the Town of Underhill website), or send the information to underhillbigtrees@gmail.com.
Deadline for entries is Wednesday, February 15, 2023.
Specific instructions on measuring and submitting trees can be found at the Town of Underhill homepage, https://www.underhillvt.gov/.
Sponsored by the Underhill Conservation Commission and the Underhill Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee.

WOLCOTT VERMONT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
CAMBRIDGE LIGHT PARADE ROUTE STARTING AT THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH CENTER AND ENDING AT THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER DECEMBER 10 4:30-6:30
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OUR SCRUMPTIOUS LAKE PHYTOTASTIC!
Sandy Murphy Karen Neeson
Illustrated by Marc Hughes Karen Neeson

Local Underhill authors, Sandy Murphy and Karen Neeson recently published the fiction science-themed graphic novel Our Scrumptious Lake PHYTOTASTIC! which focuses on the interdependence of Lake Champlain and its fragile aquatic ecosystem. Drawing from their experience as mothers and educators, their story is crafted to stir empathy, evoke laughter, give hope, and inspire lake stewardship. Whimsical characters take you on a journey revealing Lake Champlain's cultural and natural history facts while addressing contemporary social emotional topics. It is a perfect holiday gift for readers young and old, particularly suited for upper elementary and middle school students but it also appeals to all water lovers. Available at local bookstores, or go to www.phytotasticlakes.com. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

JERICHO HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW
Saturday, December 17 11 am - 5 pm
Jericho Community Center
Local artisans will be showcasing their work: POTTERY WOODWORK JEWELRY ARTWORK HERBALS FIBER ARTS & MORE!

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 14

Jeri Hill XYZ Seniors Christmas luncheon, 11:30 AM, Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., Jericho. All local seniors are welcome to this catered luncheon. For more information contact Doug Keith, 802-899-2582; Loreen Teer, 802-899-1363; Murray Hunt, 802-324-9641; or Joanne Blodget, 802-899-2040.

The Impact of Climate Change on Vermont, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. This panel discussion of Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture and Ecology, moderated by Tom McKone, will focus on the effects of climate change on Vermont landscapes. Panelists include Jillian Liner, Vermont Audubon; Jim Shallow, Nature Conservancy; Abbie Corse, Corse Farm Dairy and VT Climate Council; and Josh Faulkner, UVM and VT Climate Council. Attendance is free and open to the public, but guests must register at www.kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs.

Thursday, December 15

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. New location and time! Our gatherings are open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! This is a great time to do your Holiday crafts. 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.

Saturday, December 17

Jericho Holiday Craft Show, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Local artisans will be showcasing their work: pottery, jewelry, artwork, woodwork, herbals, fiber arts and more — and the Jericho Community Center will be selling its 2023 calendars! For more information contact Anna, 802-899-3441.

Christmas Market, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Country Church, 440 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. Enjoy fun and festive shopping with a great variety of items offered by local vendors. holiday crafts, artwork, jewelry, fresh roast coffees and bakery goods, bath and body products, farm fresh items, maple syrup and much more! Homemade soup on the stove!

Wednesday, December 21

CSWD FY24 Budget Hearing, 6:00 PM, Williston Town Hall. At this public hearing on the proposed preliminary FY24 budget, each CSWD member town Select Board votes to accept the budget before it can be implemented.

Thursday, December 29

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. New location and time! Our gatherings are 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.

Tuesday, January 3

Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, 738 VT Rt. 15, Hyde Park. This meeting is the day before the 2023 General Assembly begins in Montpelier, and will be a great opportunity to hear what is in store for the upcoming legislative session and how our local representatives feel about the issues. A light breakfast and coffee from a local restaurant will be followed by a short briefing by the legislators and an audience Q&A. Sponsored by the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Lamoille Chamber of Commerce. For more information and to register, go online to <https://lamoilleeconomy.org/breakfast/> (scroll down).

Saturday, January 7

Third annual Cambridge Fire Department Blood Drive, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville. You can save lives, too! Come be a life saver — sign up to reserve your spot by going online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=alexthefighter>. Appointments go quickly and we rarely have space for walk-ins, so make your appointment today!

Thursday, January 12

Craft Group, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial



Sometimes Nature gives you a Sky Menorah. Hanukkah begins the evening of Sunday, December 18. Happy Hanukkah!

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. New location and time! Our gatherings are 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.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The Talk, Vermont

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and *The Talk, Vermont* invite you into a wide range of topics and conversations concerning bias and bigotry in our state and the ways people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities may overcome them. *The Talk, Vermont* is sponsored by the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, Mount Mansfield Community Television, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and is financially supported by the VT Humanities Council. Hosted by the church and streamed online at 7:00 PM on certain Wednesdays, October 2022-January 2023 and moderated by the Reverend Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Past talks are archived for those who wish to stream them (see below). The program schedule runs through January 2023 as follows:

Postponed to a later date in 2023, not yet determined: December 14, 7:00 PM: Children of Color Who Grew Up with White Parents. In a racially divided nation, and one of the whitest states in the country, the challenges of White parents raising children of another race are daunting. However, the challenges of those children of color being raised by White parents in a racially divided nation in one of the whitest states in the country are equally daunting. Parents and children of such families will share their experiences. Recommended readings: [What White Parents Should Know about Transracial Adoption](#) by Melissa Guida-Richard; [In Their Voices: Black Americans on Transracial Adoptions](#) by Rhonda M. Roorda. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dLwZfIpTT6SepDDtkcdQow

January 18, 2023, 7:00 PM: A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., 39 Steps. *39 Steps*, a play written by Michael Green, founding producer and director of Shades of Truth Theatre in Harlem, NYC, is about the last week of Dr. King's life before his assassination in Memphis, TN, during which we will explore the personal dimensions of the civil rights leader's thoughts seldom seen in the public eye. Recommended reading: *The Radical King* edited by Cornel West. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fWkQccLmTfyYSJCQitSTM9Q

Other topics, with dates to be determined, include:

February 2023: The Voices of Latinx Vermonters. Latinx Vermonters share their common and varied experiences of living in Vermont. Recommended reading: [Drown](#) by Junot Diaz.

March 2023: White Supremacist Groups in Vermont. We shall discuss the growing prevalence of White supremacist groups in Vermont, the difference between free speech and intimidating hate speech, and what is being done to protect BIPOC residents. Recommended reading: [White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide](#) by Carol Anderson.

April 2023: Developing Black-Owned Agriculture in Vermont. Black farmers share their hopes and challenges of developing Black-owned agriculture in Vermont. Recommended reading: [Freedom Farmers](#) by Monica White.

May 2023: The Experience of Interracial Families in Vermont. What are the experiences and challenges interracial families encounter in Vermont, especially in areas of the state where the BIPOC population is scarce. Recommended reading: [Race, Sex, and the Freedom to Marry: Loving v. Virginia](#) by Peter Wallenstein.

June 2023: A Conversation with the Vermont New American Advisory Council. Members of the Vermont New American Advisory Council talk about the hopes, struggles, and support networks of New Americans in Vermont. Recommended reading: [Call Me American](#) by Abdi Nor Iftin.

All programs are archived to stream on demand through the Mount Mansfield Community Television website, at https://archive.org/details/@mount_mansfield_community_television?query=Racism+in+america.

October 5: Black Republicans in the Era of Trump.

October 12: Progressive LGBTQ Church in a Red State.

November 2: The Hopes and Challenges of Black Democrats.

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 Rd. 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 www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant community. We are young and old; straight and LGBTQIA; singles, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. We are an Open and Affirming and Reconciling church, which means all ARE truly welcome. We are the Old Fashioned Harvest Market Church, the Clutter Barn Church, and a church of fellowship, mission, and service. We gather to worship together virtually and in-person every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM for a traditional but lively service with music, and Sunday School and nursery for the children. We welcome you to join us for worship or just come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary email secretary@uccu.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 10:30 AM. 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>

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at www.goodshepherdjericho.org or contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas at 802-899-3932 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church in Jericho has now resumed worshipping in person on Sundays at 9:30 AM. If you would like worship service information, please contact the parish administrator at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com, or call 802-899-0453. All are warmly invited!

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.

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.

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



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SnowflakeChocolate.com

The Mountain Gazette

6558 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

802-453-6354

mtngazette@gmavt.net

Deadline January 5, 2023

Published January 12, 2023

Brenda Boutin - publisher, ad design/delivery
Writer - Phyl Newbeck
Editor - Sara Riley

Letter Policy: Maximum 450 words

One letter per writer, per calendar month.

Must be signed for attribution with writers address and phone number. Send your news to

mtngazette@gmavt.net

HEALTH NEWS

Cambridge Fire Department annual blood drive January 7

You can save lives too! Please join the Cambridge Fire Department for its third annual blood drive — and be a life saver! The blood drive will be held at the Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville on Saturday, January 7, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Sign up online early to reserve your spot. Due to the popularity of our blood drive, appointments go quickly and we rarely have space for walk-ins so make your appointment today!

Link online directly to Blood Drive at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=alexthefighter>.

Lions thank blood donors

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club thanks everyone who gave the gift of life and donated blood at our blood drive on Wednesday, December 7. The Red Cross was very pleased that they were able to collect 57 units of much needed blood. As always, the club is very grateful to the Covenant Church for donating their facility for this event.

We wish the entire community wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at our blood drive in April.

Celebrating sober

From the Howard Center

We send our good wishes to all for their seasonal celebrations and offer resources to help our communities celebrate sober. Here are some tips for Celebrating sober:

- Plan ahead: Identify potentially stressful situations ahead of time. Recognize that even some happy situations may cause someone to overindulge.

- Plan activities that don't involve alcohol or drugs. Choose to spend time with friends who want to celebrate substance-free.

- Take care of yourself! Be sure to get enough sleep, eat well, and exercise.

- Plan an exit strategy: Understand your transportation options and know where you're staying, so if you feel pressure to drink or use substances, you can exit gracefully.

- Get support: It's important to have people who know your story who you can talk to, if/when things get tough.

Visit our website at <https://howardcenter.org/celebrate-sober/> for a list of resources, including videos and articles about substance use, and a listing of local, state, and national resources.

First Call for Chittenden County

Our trained, professional staff are available 24/7/365, regardless of the type of service. When you call First Call, you can expect phone support, crisis intervention and assessment, referrals to appropriate services, and connection to follow-up care. We will collaborate with emergency responders during a crisis as needed. If you or a loved one is experiencing serious emotional distress, please call 802-488-7777.

Need help or services?

If you need support or information, please contact our Access and Intake Main Number, 802-488-6000; Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM, and Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Our staff will help you to find supportive resources and services.

Strategies for holiday eating

By Dr. Mary Kintner

The holidays — a time of extra activities and rich food. This can cause irregular eating that often means eating more “empty calories.” This leaves us malnourished while gaining weight! The holidays do not have to mean an extra five to ten pounds by January. Strategic planning can help avoid these holiday pitfalls.

Do not set yourself up for failure by setting unrealistic expectations such as, “I won't eat any ____.” (Fill in the blank with your personal pitfall such as sugar, chips, pastry, bread etc.) Have enough of what you enjoy to avoid the sense of deprivation. A little of something can often be more satisfying than a lot. Savor what you eat; enjoy it and then stop. If you do overindulge, isolate the event. Start the next meal or day with new resolve. One slip is not going to derail your goals unless you let it be the beginning of a new habit.

If you are at a social gathering, sample what you want and then “move away from the food.” Visit with people. Use your mouth to converse rather than consume. When selecting what to eat, be sure to add fresh fruits and vegetables to your choices. They provide nutrients, plus their fiber makes you feel full. And fruits and vegetables take longer to eat.

Remember to thoroughly chew your food. Chewing is the first step in the digestive process. Salivary enzymes are mixed with the food and the teeth mechanically break down the food. The

more slowly you eat, the fewer calories you consume.

Thirst can be mistaken as hunger. Make sure you are well hydrated. If your holidays include alcohol, replenishing your fluids is especially important because alcohol can cause dehydration. One way to ensure adequate hydration while decreasing alcohol consumption is to begin your festivities with a glass of water, and for every glass of alcohol consumed — drink another glass of water.

When you are hungry, the first bite of food tastes exquisite. As you continue to eat the pleasure subsides and if you continue to consume, discomfort sets in. Be mindful when you eat. Stop when you have had enough. Do not continue to eat because it is on your plate. A good strategy is leaving a little on your plate.

Make sure you are well rested. People who are sleep-deprived tend to gain weight. So take care of yourself and get some rest. You will have more fun while avoiding weight gain.

The holidays are meant to be a joyous time of gathering with friends and family. Overindulging can wreck havoc with your health and waistline. By being conscious and making healthful choices, you can enjoy the festivities and stay healthy at the same time.

Happy Holidays!

Dr. Mary Kintner practices at 397 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. She is a Doctor of Chiropractic and uses nutrition and stress management in her care. Call her at 802-899-5400.

Colic and crying

Parents have been crying out to me for help in dealing with their infants' problems with colic. Read on for important things to know about colic, and possible ways to ease and reduce it when it occurs.

What is colic?

Colic can occur in about 20% of all babies. The term is defined as crying and irritability that lasts for more than three hours a day, for more than three days a week, beginning from about three weeks to three months of age, and often in the late afternoon. Anything less than this is considered normal, even if it is quite frustrating to a parent.

What causes colic?

Although we don't know for sure, it may be triggered by many different circumstances. These could include hunger, overstimulation, being too hot or too cold, a dirty diaper, gas pains, teething pains, or just being overtired. The good news about colic is that it is not a life-threatening medical problem and babies will outgrow it over a few months.

Ways to reduce severity and duration

Until colic goes away, parents should try some of the following supportive measures. These include:

- Try and figure out why your baby is crying. If this fails, then consider swaddling your baby snugly and handling the baby gently to minimize overstimulation.

- Reduce noise and light levels.

- Use steady smooth vibrations — such as a swing, rocking chair, or even a ride in a car, which can often quiet a colicky infant.

- Burp your baby frequently. Allowing at least two hours between feeds can help.

- Don't change formula, or at least don't do so without first discussing making a change with your baby's health care professional. Doing so is rarely, if ever, the answer.

- Continue breastfeeding — mothers of infants who are colicky should not stop breast feeding.

- Check for fever. Colic rarely turns out to signal a serious medical or surgical problem such as a hernia, but if you have questions or your baby has a fever in addition to the fussiness, then please call your baby's health care professional.

How about medications?

As to medications to treat colic, be aware that no medication has been found to treat colic successfully, and, in fact, many of them are quite dangerous and have been associated with some life-threatening side effects.

NEVER SHAKE A BABY!

Most importantly, never, never attempt to shake a baby who is crying to try to quiet them down. This is one of the most common situations that can cause physical abuse and unintended brain damage to a baby.

Colic is not a sign of bad parenting

Finally, remember that colic has nothing to do with bad parenting, so please don't blame yourself. If your baby continues to cry and you don't know why, and you feel you are losing control, please call your infant's health care professional for further help. You can also call a friend or family member to give you a break so you can collect yourself and avoid the exhaustion that will only frustrate your baby even more.

Hopefully, tips like these will quiet any concerns you have the next time you are concerned about your baby having colic.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for caring for Vermont's children in need

To the Editor,

We could not do this without you!

At this special time of year, each of us pauses to consider the numerous ways we have been supported, acknowledged, and recognized for the many ways we show up for each other — and particularly for the most vulnerable among us.

As a foster, kin, and adoptive parent, you have been flexible, patient, generous, and resilient this year in the most remarkable ways. For that, I want to say “thank you” on behalf of Commissioner Chen, myself, and everyone who serves within the Department of Children and Families.

Because of you, Vermont's most vulnerable children and youth have a family and home where they are safe, supported, nurtured, and guided. And, despite the many challenges that often come

with being a foster care provider, you have remained steadfast in your care and service to the State and to these precious children.

Throughout the year, I have seen how hard you have worked to care for these children, sometimes under difficult conditions. I've seen how the pandemic has changed our world and I've seen how you remain caring and compassionate despite all that has been asked of you.

We are so indebted to you. We are so awed by you. And we are, above all, deeply grateful for your continued willingness to care for Vermont's most vulnerable children. From all of us at DCF, thank you.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday and a peaceful new year.

Aryka Radke
Deputy Commissioner
VT Dept. For Children and Families
Family Services Division

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

New senator thanks voters

By Irene Wrenner, State Senator, Chittenden-North

December 1

I'm grateful to everyone who voted last month — and to the many town clerks, poll workers, and others who oversaw an election with such high turnout!

On Wednesday, January 4, 2023 I will be sworn in as Vermont's first State Senator representing the new Chittenden-North Senate District, which includes Fairfax, Westford, Milton, and part of Essex Town. This is a single-seat district of 22,000 people who were previously represented by multiple county-wide senators.

On that day, the number of female State Senators will increase

from 10 to 13, out of 30.

Soon after, I will be able to communicate directly with all CHI-N constituents using Front Porch Forum (FPF). You may also want to follow me on Facebook (Irene Ava Wrenner). To receive updates directly, please email me (irene@wrenner4senate.org).

Feel free to reach out for a conversation, whether or not you voted for me. Tell me your concerns and your ideas for how to address them.

I very much appreciate those who dedicated time, money, and energy to support my campaign.

To those who placed your trust in me, thank you. To all, I will work hard to earn it!

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

LEND A HAND. VOLUNTEER — United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, but opportunities are increasing. To learn more about these and other opportunities, go online to Volunteer Connection at <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/>.

SUPPORT BLOOD DRIVES — American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help with local blood drives. Blood Donor Ambassadors engage with donors to set the stage for a long-term commitment to regular blood donations, assist donors with rehydrating after donation and observe for post-donation reactions, and express gratitude to thank all donors for their donations. To join the team, sign up at <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html>.

SORT AND STOCK — Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity's Swanton ReStore needs help to sort, stock and organize donations that are coming in daily. Tasks include unloading donations, stocking shelves, testing electronics, or assisting customers. The store is open Thursdays and Saturdays,

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Volunteers aged 16 and older can help for an hour, a day, or daily. To volunteer, visit <https://vermonthabitat.org/volunteer/>.

MAKE IT KNOWN — Education and Enrichment for Everyone (EEE) is looking for ongoing volunteer help with publicity. The most pressing need is for creation and updating of a Facebook account and submission of a calendar of events to Front Page Forum neighborhoods. All tasks can be done remotely. Contact Carol Roach, 802-881-8376 or eeevermontorg@gmail.com.

RECONNECTION — Are you a mental health professional with a desire to work with the military population? Here's the chance to give back to this community in a meaningful way. The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist with virtual Reconnection Workshop modules to military, veterans, and their families in various community-based settings. Tasks include identifying opportunities for presentations and helping to plan meeting logistics, staying up-to-date on mental health research and practices for military, veterans, and their families, and being available to mentor and co-teach with new facilitators. Computer and communication skills a must. Sign up at <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html#step1>.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Now it's December

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The sun lies low beneath a thin scab of Prussian blue, waiting for the night. It takes short gulps of dying sunlight until suddenly you realize that it's gone, beneath the shadow of South Hill.

September is bouncy and has Fall to turn its happy face towards. And October bursts from it like it's in a hurry... a tourist show-off. It's a rush of cool air, a breeze which colors fly through... In November it is a hardy wind, prepared to stay for the winter.

December is not ours, though. It belongs to Christmas, to hymns jazzed up at the pharmacies and slowed down at the clothing stores. We are divided; churches beginning to play on our memories of faith, and some even have a Christian aura and a message tuned louder to try and let us know what message has been hidden, softened now with the flickering of candles, asking us to cradle the tiny new babe.

And it is cold, with no excuses of an "earlier-than-usual" snowstorm. We don't know to whom to write with a brief resumé of our ten-day Christmas Plan, and become engrossed in the shopping and planning. Which car will fit the most people and food to bring to Gramma, who is trying a new dressing for the awkwardly large turkey? Susan is bringing squash and Carrie, the dear girl, is bringing her first baked pie, which will be "delicious" even before it is served. The chosen car will bustle into the gloom of the oncoming night, guided mainly by its two obese headlights refracted by the falling snow.

From my bedroom window, I can see the denuded maples, bowing their bare, ungainly branches and interspersed with the green of balsam and fraser fir. It is snowing heavily now and covering the piles of summer's dead leaves. We now bless the pristine plain white snow that nicely covers over the detritus of fall... that we couldn't quite get to... except near the edge of the field there is a blank place where snowshoes and skis mark where a bushy balsam will never bloom again.

December will be eaten up by rituals, dates, human plans, with three kinds of pie: one pumpkin, hastily picked up at a local bakery by John; the traditional "holiday" apple crisp; and the extra-special twice-a-year pecan pie that is Gramma's — unsolicited, but expected yearly: deep brown and glossy with maple syrup. We go to church and pass lighted candles from one neighbor to another, trying to remember the lessons that make the future possible.

The woods are quiet. The hunters have gone and an owl comes out of the brightness of the afternoon into the deepening short days of winter, camouflaged in the juncture of bole and branch... watching for night creatures to appear.

December shivers into a blustery January and we will know more cold, softened by undulating drifts that muffle the cracking edges where the brook meets the frozen ground. Even January will not soothe our need for flowers, for something breaking open. Perhaps night will turn into day, snow into flowers, and the world may find a few places of peace where hymns are sung, along with Rudolph, bellowing about his red nose; and the snow is fresh and clean... a new beckoning unmarked sheet of paper to write down our wishes for January!

Managing forests for bats

By Ethan Tapper

Scientists from the University of Illinois recently studied the effects of removing bats from a forest, finding that a forest without bats had three times as many insects and five times as much defoliation as a forest with bats. The researchers postulated that this increased defoliation would increase forest vulnerability — making trees more susceptible to other stressors at a time when forests are already stressed from climate change, invasive species, deforestation, forest fragmentation, and more. This research made me consider the many pieces and parts that make forests work, and, more specifically, the role that bats play in forests.

There are over 1400 species of bats, accounting for about 20% of the mammalian species on Earth. Besides being diverse, bats are extremely numerous: about 25% of all the mammals on Earth are bats. Vermont's bat species can live 20-30 years or more (the little brown bat has been documented living as long as 34 years). Most species have only one pup (young) per year, making their populations especially vulnerable to decline. The United States is home to 50 species of bats, nine of which live in Vermont. Five of Vermont's bat species are state and/or federally threatened or endangered.

All of Vermont's bats are insectivores, eating about half their body-weight — as many as 1000 insects — per hour. Though there are many predators of insects, bats are the primary predator of nocturnal insects, including many moth and beetle species. In forests, insect defoliation is normal and natural, but insects exist in a dynamic balance with ecosystems and with their predators. Too many insects and too much defoliation — such as could be caused by the loss of bats — can create a major imbalance in our forests, with ecosystem-wide implications.

Bat populations in Vermont have been declining for a variety of reasons, but most dramatically from "White-nose Syndrome," a disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. White-nose Syndrome, first discovered in Albany, NY in 2007, has killed millions of bats, including 90-100% of the bats on some sites.

Of Vermont's nine bat species, six (five of which are threatened or endangered), congregate in large numbers in hibernacula — caves and abandoned mines — for the winter, while the other three migrate to southern climes. All nine species spend much of the summer in our forests, foraging, mating, and raising their young. Besides protecting hibernacula and water sources, managing forests for bats largely consists of encouraging two types of habitat: roosting habitat (where bats sleep during the day and raise their young) and foraging habitat.

In the forest, bats roost under shaggy tree bark, in crevices and cavities (holes) in trees, in the foliage of large trees, and on sunny cliffs and talus slopes. Active roost trees can be absolutely full of bats: some harbor hundreds of females with their flightless young. You can improve roosting habitat by leaving or creating dead-standing trees ("snags") in a variety of sizes and at different stages of decay. If snags aren't naturally abundant in your forest, you can create some by "girdling" a few unhealthy trees per acre.

Additionally, retain legacy trees — large and old trees that are allowed to decline and die naturally — and all shagbark hickory, which are a particularly important roosting species for the federally-endangered Indiana bat. If you are planning on cutting any potential roost trees, avoid doing so from April through October, when bats are active in the forest.

In general, great foraging habitat for bats consists of diverse, complex, and multi-generational forests. You can encourage habitat like this by cutting small groups of unhealthy trees, which will both create canopy gaps (an important foraging feature for both bats and insectivorous birds) and encourage the development of new generations of trees. Between canopy gaps you can improve bat habitat by thinning the forest: cutting unhealthy trees, which are in competition with healthier trees. As you manage your forest, make sure to leave plenty of legacy trees, snags, and cavity trees.

While it's easy to forget about them, bats are an important piece of the complex community that is a forested ecosystem. Managing for bats is another way to help safeguard the health and the future of our 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>.



There are over 1400 species of bats, accounting for about 20% of the mammalian species on Earth. Besides being diverse, bats are extremely numerous: about 25% of all the mammals on Earth are bats (we have nine species in Vermont — five of them endangered).

PHOTO BY ALYSSA BENNETT

The Star guiding Conservation

By Bernie Paquette

"If we're going to prevent further erosion of our natural systems and the extinction of more wildlife, humanity will have to adopt a new way of thinking, even a new set of values, not unlike a new religion." — *Revoyage of the Mayflower*, Herbert A. Raffaele

Dear neighbors,

Our approach to conservation sometimes is to save special places. The conservation easement at Davis Farm and the Mobbs Farm trails in Jericho are good examples and worthy of celebrating. However, a few islands of isolated blocks of land will not by themselves save nature, wildlife, and the life of species who deserve to have a place to forage, create a home, raise their young, and become part of and contribute to a working biological foundation for all life.

Scientists are learning more every day about plants and insects that expand our view of what their lives are like: bumblebees shown to take part in playful activities, insects shown to experience pain, plants deciding when to offer pollen and nectar, baby turtles making sounds while still inside their shells, insects capable of thinking beyond instinct to decide the best course of action. Our recognition of life forms and our knowledge of life behaviors in other species are growing, while respect for these diverse species' right to exist is slowly catching up.

The local effort to conserve land for both nature and people is a main part of the Jericho Conservation Committee's focus. They advise on best practices for the management of natural resources on Town Land, they are committed to public education and strive to help Jericho residents learn more about the natural communities within our town and beyond.

One important step is identifying and prioritizing blocks of land that are unique places that are critical in their value of protecting wildlife habitat, yes, but also as their role as pathways that are like bridges or passageways for animals to move from one habitat area to another. These blocks of land can be managed as natural resources being their highest value — partly through regulations but I would suggest, mainly through land owners' care for and desire for land stewardship. And I would add the community as a whole must aspire to protect the ecosystems and the many life forms that support them.

How we make that happen logistically requires creative solutions that favor the land owners' needs and desires, and come

from the heart of all who understand that nature is not a place to visit, it is home.

I think the town of Jericho might be well served to have periodically held, informal, face-to-face time with large-bloc land owners in order to have a better ground floor approach and working relationship when the land owners decide to sell and or develop their land. Find out what is important to them regarding their land, what their land ethic is, and what they need from their land.

Of greatest concern are the land blocs that are considered the most important to conserve if possible (due to nature connectivity and other environmental and to some degree aesthetic reasons).

My feelings are bolstered upon reading *Without A Farmhouse Near* by Deborah Rawson and absorbing the story (part of which Maeve had relayed to me some years ago) about the proposed "condo" or "housing for the elderly" on the Tillotson property. Appreciably the development was greatly downsized with a large portion of the land left undeveloped, and now well-managed by some members of the Tillotson H.O.A. Yet, what particularly strikes me is the lost opportunity to have the land (all of it) conserved (via the Land Trust). More so that this lost opportunity slipped away, perhaps due to hard feelings in a situation where the landowner felt ostracized (my words) from her own community (while the community never felt their quarrel was with her). Further, my feelings are bolstered by listening to the affordable housing challenges, which can place added pressure on the remaining undeveloped land in Jericho.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of professionals on the Jericho Conservation Committee who work hard to develop policies and, as importantly, seek public engagement to conserve land for nature and people.

To find that guiding star that leads us to the promised land, we need only step out onto any natural area that tells us we are home.

Just as land connectivity is important to animals, so too is a connected network of community members, landowners, and policymakers speaking and listening to each other, understanding each other's needs, working together for common solutions and best land practices, and continuously developing well-thought-out and planned processes leading to wise conservation actions.

I hope you will join me in a call to have more face-to-face informal meetings with landowners. Also, I invite you to join me in taking advantage of the many offerings on the JCC website to help you with each of your land stewardship actions.

HOLIDAY XMAS SERVICES 2022

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho: Come share the joy of this Christmas season. All are welcome! Masks are optional.

Saturday, December 24, 3:30 – 4:00 PM: Outdoor Family Candlelight Service. The story of Jesus' birth through story and song, as led by our children. Enjoy carol singing and good cheer for all ages. (Indoors if weather is inclement.)

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This lovely service with Holy Communion celebrates the good news of Christmas with candlelight and choral music. Worship is in the beautiful post-and-beam sanctuary, erected 30 years ago this month, in 1992.

Sunday, December 25, 9:00 AM: Christmas Day service. This service with carols and Holy Communion celebrates the Incarnation, and God's presence within us and among us.

Sunday, January 1, 9:00 AM: Christmas Lessons and Carols. This festive service with Holy Communion celebrates the birth of Jesus through a series of Bible readings interspersed with carol singing.

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho will hold a Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24.

United Church of Underhill, 7 Park St., Underhill (at the intersection of VT Rt. 15 and Park Street):

Saturday, December 17, 2:00 PM: Christmas Concert. Ensembles and musicians share seasonal music. (No live stream.)

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 AM: Advent IV: Love. Intergenerational worship, followed by an offering for UCC Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative, and the final collection for PINS mitten tree.

Saturday, December 24, 3:00 PM: Live Nativity. Outdoor retelling of the story with animals, cocoa, and carols. (No live stream.)

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM: Candlelight Service. Traditional lessons and carols with offering to benefit CVOEO's warmth support program (heating assistance).

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Day worship for all ages, downstairs at UCU with simple snacks and fellowship to follow. (No live stream.)

Jericho Congregational Church, 3 Jericho Center Circle, Jericho Center offers two events on Christmas Eve:

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 – 6:00 PM: Christmas Pageant. Come join the festivities as the youth of our church share in fun of our annual Christmas Pageant!

Saturday, December 24, 9:00 – 10:00 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Join us as we gather to celebrate Christmas Eve with carols by candlelight.

St. Thomas Catholic Church, 6 Green St., Underhill Center, and **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, 312 North Main St., Cambridge.

Sunday, December 18, 9:30 AM: Christmas Party at St. Thomas.

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 PM: Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas.

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM: Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary's.

Sunday, December 25, 9:00 AM: Christmas Day Mass at St. Thomas.

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 AM: Christmas Day Mass at St. Mary's.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

They Care For Us AND They Care About Us

"The difference at Mansfield Place is that they TRULY CARE for us...You can see it in their eyes, their smiles and their actions."

-Mansfield Place Resident



Mansfield Place is the perfect community to support your changing needs, enrich your life with fun and fellowship, and bring peace of mind to your family members.

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MansfieldPlaceVT.com

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Uniform Consumer Disclosure is available upon request.

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is open, no appointment needed: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM. All programs meet in person at DRML

You are invited to enjoy a lovely art display at DRML. The library loves hosting local artists; feel free to leave your name if you are interested in displaying.

Ongoing

Free COVID test kits

Need an at-home COVID test kit? The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library is offering them ONLY through curbside pick-up for community safety. Kits will not be available inside the building. Contact rawsonlibrary@drml.org or 802-899-4962 to arrange a pick-up so we can have them ready. Let us know the number of kits you need up, to four kits. Each kit contains two tests. We will let you know what bag number is yours.

Support the Friends of DRML! Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you could be supporting the Friends of DRML with your purchases! Simply shop as you normally would at smile.amazon.com, select Friends of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library as your charity, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase at no additional cost to you!

Check out these great programs! All programs meet in person at DRML

Adult programs

Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month's selection is *Call The Midwife* by Jennifer Worth. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Wednesdays, December 14 and 28, 6:30 –

8:30 PM: Mah Jongg. Please join us as we explore the 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! If you plan to attend, please email program_assistant@drml.org.

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM: Board of Trustees meeting, held in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com) to receive the link.

Youth programs

Ongoing

Fridays, 11:00 AM (except December 23): Stories and Songs with the Londons. [Preschool] Come sing, dance, and listen to stories with the Londons!

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Story Time. [PreK-K] Afternoon story times seem to have fizzled out so let's try the morning. We hope you can join us Tuesday mornings in December for stories, songs, and felt board fun.

Check out these great programs!

All programs meet in person at DRML. Masks are recommended, but optional.

Thursdays, December 15 and 29, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club. [ages 8+] Come learn the principles of animation, watch cool stuff, play drawing games, and create your own short movies. Space is limited! You must sign up by stopping by the library or by contacting 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Friday, December 16, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. [ages 6+]. Build a doorway to a secret world, or a space garage sale. We want to hear the stories of your creations at LEGO Club! Space is limited. Please sign up by stopping by the library, or by contacting 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, December 17, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Gift Crafting. [all ages] Come make something for someone you love this holiday season. Drop in to fill ornaments with all kinds of wintry goodies. Ages 8 and up. Please sign up by stopping by the library, or by contacting 802-899-

4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Sunday, December 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons. [ages 8+] This collaborative storytelling game has gotten so popular that we've added another session. There is room for up to two more players. Whether you have experience or you're new to the game, this is the perfect time to join. Email youth_librarian@drml.org if you're interested.

Wednesday, December 14, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: Read to Wyatt. [all ages] There is nothing better

Libraries continued on page 7

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Library news continued from page 6

to do in the winter than snuggle and read with local therapy dog Wyatt the Bernese Mountain Dog. He loves to hear you practicing your reading, and doesn't mind if you mess up the words. Sign up for a 15-minute spot when you stop by the library, or by contacting 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org.

Thursday, December 21, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Nintendo Switch Games. [ages 8+] Skateboard down a big hill in Switch Sports, or drive an epic race in Mario Kart. Come check out all our games and hang out to play.

Please visit drml.org for the most up-to-date information on programs at DRML. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml.org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

JERICO TOWN LIBRARY

We are open 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday. We are completely mask-optional and fully reopened.

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

Did you know that you can borrow snowshoes from Jericho Town Library? We have 20 pairs in a variety of sizes that will fit your whole family, from preschoolers through adults! Snowshoes can be checked out by all Jericho Town and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library cardholders. Stop by the library to check them out, or read more at https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/beyond-books.html.

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM: Playgroup for kids under 5. This fall, we'll have playgroup on Wednesdays instead of traditional storytime. Playgroup will take place in the children's area on the second floor of the library, and will be an informal program for kids to just PLAY and enjoy our great collection of toys! This is a wonderful opportunity for children under 5 to socialize, and for families to connect with other parents and caregivers in the community.

Our amazing second-floor play area was transformed a couple years ago with a generous gift from the King family, commemorating the life of beloved Jericho resident Kelly King. The second floor also features the Makerspace and some beautiful mosaics by local artist Mary Lacy. Some fan-favorite toys in the play area are the grocery store, kitchen, puppets, and of course,

the train set! The play area is open whenever the library is. Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@jerichotownlibrary) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections. 802-899-4686, library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

Libraries continued on page 8

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2 columns x 1.5" \$18.00 each

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Must purchase 5 consecutive issues \$90.00 prepaid.

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Contact Brenda Boutin at mtngazette@gmavt.net to reach readers in our regular coverage area of Bolton, Jericho, Underhill, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Westford, plus Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Essex and Essex Junction.

Sarah Waterman, MD Joins Copley's General Surgery Team

"Dr. Waterman is an outstanding addition to our medical staff who brings a deep understanding of, and commitment to, providing expert and modern general surgical services to our community."

Chief Medical Officer, Donald Dupuis, MD

In addition to a wide variety of general surgery procedures, Dr. Waterman's practice also includes:

- Breast care • Colonoscopies • Hernias • Gallbladder • Appendectomies

A native Vermonter from East Montpelier returning to her roots, Dr. Waterman is committed to helping others.

To make an appointment with one of our specialists, call 802-888-8372.



Stay Safe This Holiday Season and Throughout the Winter

Know How to Detect a Gas Leak

- Smell: Natural gas is normally odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.
See: You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
Hear: You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing, or whistling.

If You Suspect a Leak:

Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 1-800-639-8081, or call 911, with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the gas or result in a dangerous condition.

Do not assume someone else will report the condition.

Protect Meters and Vents from Ice and Snow

Don't push or pile deep snow around meters and ensure whoever removes snow from your property knows meter and appliance vent locations. Use extreme care when clearing snow surrounding, or large icicles above, meters and vents. If your meter gets encased in thick ice, please call us.



ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Call to Artists: Serenity. After a hectic election season rolling into the holidays, it is time for serenity. However you envision what is serene or calming, emerging and established artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography for *Serenity*. This exhibit will run from January-April 2023 in the Jericho Town Hall as part of the Jericho Town Hall Art Project. The main requirement is that the work be able to be hung on a gallery hanging system, not a picture hanger. Registration forms are due by Friday, December 30, 2022. Work will be received and hung Monday, January 9, 2023. For registration materials and information contact Catherine McMains, catherine.mcmains@gmail.com. Registration materials and other information can also be found on the Jericho Town website, jerichovt.org. This exhibit is part of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort

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

Jericho through the Eyes of an Artist: Present, Past and Future at the Jericho Town Hall presents an exhibit of established and emerging artists scheduled to run through Saturday, December 31, 2022. For more information see the Jericho Town website, <http://jerichovt.org/>. The exhibit is one of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort between the Town of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members include Catherine McMains, SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander, gallery owner; and artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

The 33rd Women's Festival of Crafts is thrilled to announce

that we are still here creating and have gone virtual again for the 2022 Holiday Season! Shop with over 70 unique Vermont artists from the comfort of your home! We will be showcasing many past vendors and an array of new artists this year. No need to sign up for anything, just head to our website (<http://www.womensfestivalofcrafts.com>) at your leisure for direct links to all of this year's vendors. Make sure to follow our instagram (@womensfestvt) and FB (@womensfestivalofcrafts) for special promotions, product features, and giveaways, running now through Friday, December 16. We hope that you shop small and local again this holiday season! We miss seeing all of our customers in person and we thank you for the many Women's Fest events you've supported in the last 33 years!

Art / Music / Theater continued on page 9

Libraries continued from page 7

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

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

Tuesdays, December 13, 20, 27, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: CrafterNoons.
Wednesdays, December 14, 21, 28, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Toddler Time.

Wednesdays, December 14, 28, 4:00 – 6:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons.

Thursdays, December 15, 22, 29, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

Thursday, December 15, 4:15 – 5:15 PM: Guitar Adventures with JJ.

Saturday, December 17, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Tai-Chi for Fall Prevention Series.

Wednesday, December 21, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Crochet Circle.

Wednesday, December 21, 4-H LocalVores Monthly Meeting. Must be member prior; please see website for full details.

Thursday, December 22, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Read with Me Program with Therapy Dog. Must pre-register; see website for full details.

Friday, December 23, 11:00 – 3:00 PM: Cookie-Palooza. Come decorate cookies for the festive season with us and take your creations — or just eat them in hand!

Tuesday, December 30, 5:00 – 6:00 PM: Feathered Friends. All about Birding.

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask.

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday-Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. (Hours can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

The Varnum Library is not totally ADA compliant, but does offer an entrance ramp.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Westford Public Library will be closed on Saturdays, December 24 (Christmas Eve) and 31 (New Year's Eve).

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

New art is up at the Library, through the end of February, titled *Creative Minds*, a collection of artwork created by Essex High School AP Art and Art 4 students. In this collection, the observer will embark on a journey through the minds of teenagers and experience the diversity of the concepts they've explored. Meet the artists on Friday, January 6, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Book Giving Trees: Choose a star from one of our book giving trees. Each star contains the name of a book that the Library would like to have. There is also an online list on our Facebook page and on FPF if you cannot make it in to the library. Books can be dedicated to a special person or family. Purchase the book anywhere; or Phoenix Books (any location) will give patrons 20% off the book if you bring in the star. Books purchased at Phoenix will stay there. Purchase/deliver books by Tuesday, January 17.

Children's events

Thursdays, 11:15 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. Ms. Bree presents fun stories, crafts, songs, and movement for children from birth to pre-school. December 15: Cookies. December 22: Christmas. December 29: Winter.

Friday, December 23, 1:00 – 5:00 PM: Hang-out and Play Day! There's no school, so why not make a plan to hang out at the library? We will have LEGOs, Keva planks, and crafts set up to entertain. Kids 9 and up are welcome to get dropped off, others should plan to come with an adult. Stay part of the time or all day! Families are encouraged to come together.

Adults' events

Tuesday, December 20, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Every first and third Tuesday of a month, come to the library for Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy — whatever your game, we will play it! Meet up with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards and a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card-playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group. This month we will share favorite reads, find new authors, and just talk for an hour about books! Come prepared to talk about three book suggestions for the group and you will walk away with a bulked up winter reading list. I also challenge you to read a book, for this meeting, that you have wanted to read and have been putting off. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if you just listen for good ideas. We will share the list with the community. The January Book Group on Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 PM, will read Anthony Doerr's *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. This is a long book, so if you want to get started, we have print copies available. It is also available on Libby.

Events for everyone

Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:00 PM, Fiber Arts is back as the Maker Group, now open to all makers — whether you knit, crochet, make jewelry, sketch, paint, paper craft, or any other art — or if you're a tinkerer — all are welcome!

The Westford Public Library is part of an early cohort of VT libraries to pilot the Palace Project! Made possible by the VT Department of Libraries, the Palace Project App offers access to a rich collection of eBook and eAudiobook content for all ages and in multiple languages. Westford Public Library cardholders are welcomed to join us in trying out this new product. To get started, download the Palace Project App to your smart phone or tablet. Select "Westford Public Library" as your home library, followed by your library card number and password. Your password is your last name with the first letter capitalized. Please note that this is a relatively new, evolving product. At present, Palace does not support browser use on desktop/laptop computers, and is not currently available for Kindle. Users cannot use the app to reserve or place holds on items. And there may be other hiccups too, along the way! At least it's free!

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (January 4), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (December 17, January 21), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library will be closed Saturday-Monday, December 24-26 and Saturday-Monday, December 31-January 2.

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; please sign up at least one week before the program date; call 802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

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

Youth events

Wednesdays, December 14, 21, and 28, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Wednesday, December 14, 1:00 PM: No-Sew Pillows. Make a cozy, squishy pillow without having to sew! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Saturday, December 17, 10:00 AM: Snowmen Building Crafternoon. Join us for an extra-cozy Crafternoon! Kids will be challenged to make their very best snowman out of a variety of materials. Materials, food, and drinks will be provided! Ages 6+ but we encourage the whole family to attend! Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, December 21, 3:00 PM: Gingerbread Houses. Construct and decorate your own gingerbread house! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Thursday, December 16, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. This month the book club will be reading *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan. Book club will meet in-person at the library; a Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Library has a new website. Same address, different look: <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>. We're still adding new content, but you'll find the same links to the catalog, digital resources, and program announcements.

Weekly children's programs at the Library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from infant-5 and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

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

Monthly, third Fridays (December 16; January 20): Hora De Cuento (Spanish Storytime). Are you interested in hearing some great stories in Spanish? Join Spanish speaker Chichi Barrett for thirty minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us in the Community Room.

Stitch it Up! Need to do some sewing but don't own a sewing machine? Library to the rescue! Borrow our Brother XM2701 Sewing Machine. Ask for it at the desk.

The library has a variety of other "non-book" items to lend:

a firewood moisture meter; blood pressure monitors; a Kill-0-Watt electricity meter; snowshoes for adults and youth. STEAM kits include a singing drum and meditation kit, a bird-watching kit, and other kits. StoryTime Bags contain five picture books and songs on various themes such as Friends, Pets, The Seasons, Things That Move, Numbers, and more.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group: contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or gwenne1972@yahoo.com, for information on participating.

Mystery Book Group: contact Maureen Parent, 802-434-2055 or mspparent@gmavt.net, for information on participating.

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

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

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Library Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The library will close at 2:00 PM on Thursday, December 15 for the Town Employee Holiday Gathering.

The library will be closed Friday-Sunday, December 23-26 for Christmas.

The Giving Season is upon us! Please help us support our neighbors who utilize Aunt Dot's Place. We are collecting shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry and dish detergent, and other cleaning supplies through the twelfth day of Christmas (Friday, January 6). Thanks for contributing if you can!

COVID Test Kits are available while supplies last, up to four boxes per person ages 2+. Call, stop by, or fill out the form on our website.

The library has a WiFi Hotspot — Franklin T10 from T-Mobile, with 4G LTE for students, travelers, and anyone who needs a portable hotspot. Service area dependent on T-Mobile availability.

Children's area

Tuesday, December 20: Craft Station — Wooden Bookmark Decorating. Come put your artistic skills to use and decorate a wooden bookmark, just in time to read through the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice! Use stamps, glitter glue, and ribbons to decorate a wooden bookmark so that you don't lose your place during your winter reading. One bookmark per child, event open while supplies last.

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, in the Children's Area: Storytime with Ms. Emily.

Ongoing: Exploration Station. Check out the blue table for this week's challenge!

The weather is getting chilly. Check out a puzzle or game for cozy indoor fun! But, if you're up for an outdoor adventure, Excellent Ed's STORYWALK ® is located along the fence in the back garden.

Grab 'n Go Craft Kits on Fridays while supplies last!

Fairy Village - Winter is coming to the fairy village. Keep an eye out for changes as the fairies prepare for snowy weather!

Adult area

Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, beginning January 9: Contract Bridge. Calling all players! Looking for a friendly game? We're looking to fill a table or two. Please RVSP to essexfreelibrary@essex.org.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Tech Time. Want to learn how to download audio and ebooks? Use a Chromebook, laptop, or cell phone? Learn a language online? Use free library digital resources? 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.

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Hand and Foot Canasta. Printed rules and score sheets provided. No need to RSVP, just drop in and meet up with other players at the reserved table in the Mezzanine.

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM beginning December 2: Rummikub for Adults. No need to RSVP, just drop in and meet up with other players at the reserved table in the Mezzanine.

Thursday, January 5: Noon Book Group. Vermont Humanities' 2022 Vermont Reads book *The Most Costly Journey/ El Viaje Mas Caro*. Stop by the library for your copy.

Museum Passes are available for year 'round fun! <http://Essexfreelibrary.org/MuseumPasses>

Requesting Donations: Seeking Games and puzzles for our Library of Things. Please call/email first due to limited space!

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram for updates on events!

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

OBITUARIES



On Friday afternoon, November 25, 2022, **William Sander** passed away at the age of 82. He was in the comfort of his own home in Cambridge, VT and quietly and peacefully passed away after years of declining health. Bill was born on October 20, 1940, in Yonkers, NY to Herbert and Dorothy Sander, joining his older sister Lesly Ann. He lived in Yonkers until shortly after his sister's death at age 14 in 1949. After this event, the family re-located to just outside of Phoenix, AZ, where they resided until 1951 before returning to the Yonkers area. Bill graduated

from Lincoln High School in Yonkers and went on to graduate from Hobart and William Smith College. He also obtained his Masters Degree from SUNY Stony Brook. In November 1966 he married Jan and they recently celebrated 56 years of marriage. They raised three children, Leslie, David, and Lisa. Before settling in Vermont, they lived in the Buffalo, NY area and the Glenwood Springs area of Colorado. Bill was consistently involved in community engagement. During his college years and the years immediately following he was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement, as he and Jan were doing all they could to help ensure the safety and quest for equality for many people that they knew. Upon settling in Vermont, they continued to run a group home boarding school for troubled youth that they had started in Colorado. After this he continued his career for 23 years for the State of Vermont in the Social Services division. He took immense pride in his work and received quite a few updates from past clients who thanked him for believing in them and encouraging them to persevere to make a better life for themselves, and often their children as well. He was also a consistent advocate for affordable housing in the State of Vermont. His commitment to community service extended to serving for many decades in the Vermont Democratic Committee; he served as the Chairman of the Lamoille County Committee for many years. He was especially proud to have been selected to be an Obama delegate for the 2008 National Democratic Convention. He was also chosen to serve on the Electoral College for Obama's second term as an Elector for the State of Vermont. Due to this honor, he was able to attend the inauguration for Obama's second term as well. He also dedicated many years to serving on the school board of Lamoille Union High School. He was a firm believer in improving education and the buildings where it was provided. He was heavily involved in the re-design of the Lamoille Union Middle and High School and Tech Center. He also served on the local select board for years and was just re-elected to serve as a Justice of The Peace for the Town of Cambridge. Bill's hobbies included antique cars and trains. He was involved with several clubs over the years, most notably The Vermont Auto Enthusiasts car club, which is known for putting on The Waterbury Car Show (formerly the Stowe Car Show). He was able to serve a term as VAE President. He was also quite involved with The New England MGT Register. His and Jan's own collection of cars included a collection of cars from various decades, including a Chrysler Prowler and a 1926 Model T. His favorite of all the vehicles was his 1990 Mazda Miata. He had an extensive model railroad set up that is utterly amazing to watch. He had also started building a ride-on train

track on his property; the track layout was never fully completed but all his grandchildren have fond memories of "riding the train" with Grandpa as the engineer on the locomotive. He was also a member of the Champlain Valley Chapter of The National Railway Historical Society. Bill is survived by his wife Jan, his son David and wife Roselie and their two sons Sean and Will of Richmond, VT, and his daughter Lisa and husband Jed Abair from Jeffersonville, VT and their children Connor, Aidan, Liam, Caellie, and Karlin Foley. He also shared a special relationship with several step-grandchildren, Courtney and Meghan Foley and Peter Abair. We all will miss him tremendously. Bill was pre-deceased by his parents Dorothy and Herbert, his sister Lesly, his stepfather George Stone, his aunt Grace Dietz, and was devastated by the loss of his daughter Leslie to cancer on her 22nd birthday in 1989. He was especially thankful to be in the comfort of his own home for the last year of his life. This was made possible with the amazing assistance and guidance of Lamoille Home Health and Hospice and several local agencies that provide in-home nursing aides. Nicole, Sara, Gisele, Melissa, Sherry and Angie from Lamoille Home Health, Crystal, Teandra, and Rachel from various agencies — we cannot thank you enough for all your care and assistance over the past year. We could not have done it without you. Memorial contributions can be made to Lamoille Home Health and Hospice or to The Leslie R. Sander Scholarship Fund, Bard College at Simon's Rock. Services will be held later, at a date to be announced. Please visit awrfh.com to share your memories and condolences.



Richard R. Niquette of Jonesville, VT passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, December 1, 2022 surrounded by loved ones. Rick battled pancreatic cancer with strength and courage. Rick is survived by his wife of 53 years, Donna, and their five children: Christopher (Heather), Michael (Jennifer), Heather (Brian), Benjamin (Megen) and Richard (Tessa); siblings Deborah, Lori (Dan), and Cynthia (Robert); his father, Raymond; and by grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rick was preceded in death by his mother, Barbara. Rick was born on June 13, 1951 to Raymond and Barbara Niquette of Winooski, VT. After graduating from Rice Memorial High School, Burlington, VT in 1969, Rick went on to study at The University of Vermont. After college, Rick worked for IBM, then left to work with Green Mountain Power where he stayed for 37 years, until he retired when he was 56. Rick thoroughly enjoyed annual hunting trips out of state accompanied by his youngest son, Richard. He and Donna were passionate about traveling together; visiting various parts of the U.S., attending concerts, staying at casinos, and relaxing on sunny beaches. Rick was a champion water skier in his early years and an avid fisherman. After moving to Jonesville in 1978, Rick worked tirelessly restoring his own home and multiple rental properties. A special thanks to Dr. Paul Unger and his team at Champlain Valley Hematology Oncology in Colchester, VT who cared for Rick after his diagnosis. A funeral mass was held at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond, VT on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 with a reception following in the church hall. There will be no visiting hours. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude



Children's Research Hospital. Rick's kind and generous spirit will continue to inspire all the lives he touched. Published by Gifford Funeral Home on Saturday, December 3, 2022.

Joan Edmunds (Colon) Duncan passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at her home in Underhill, VT. Joan was a true matriarch of her family and cherished her five children and their spouses, her seventeen grandchildren, and her two great-grandchildren. One of Joan's greatest pleasures was attending countless sporting events, plays, concerts,

and activities, no matter the location or the weather, to cheer on her beloved family members big and small. Her support for her family knew no bounds. Joan was born on September 15, 1936 in Athol, MA to Percy Colon and Katherine (Paige) Colon. Joan had two siblings: Frazier Colon of Martha's Vineyard, MA (deceased), and Bruce Colon of Lake Placid, NY. Joan loved animals of every kind, especially dogs and horses, and was an accomplished equestrian, participating alongside her mother and brother in events such as the 50-mile ride in southern Vermont. Joan was also a fierce competitor and accomplished athlete, excelling in field hockey, basketball, swimming, tennis, skiing, and sailing. She enjoyed teaching others to swim and coaching field hockey and soccer. Joan also was a volunteer at the New England Aquarium. Joan was an avid knitter, outfitting everyone with beautiful sweaters, hats, mittens, and socks. It was truly an honor to have one of her prized creations. She also was famous for her spaghetti dinners and homemade chocolate sauce on ice cream for dessert. Joan met her lifelong best friend and spouse of 61 years, Paul Duncan, at the age of seven in North Falmouth, MA. She loved traveling and seeing new things. She went on extensive tours of Europe, once with her best friend and another time with Paul and her in-laws. She loved visiting her beloved Bermuda, and bravely drove a small MGA from western Massachusetts all the way to San Francisco and back with a friend during a college summer break. Joan graduated from Athol (MA) High School in 1954 and went on to the University of New Hampshire (UNH), where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1958. After UNH, Joan went on to Wheelock College where she received a Master's in Education in 1960. Joan and Paul were married on December 28, 1960, and had five children: Frank Duncan and Fjola (Proppe) Duncan of Needham MA; Paige (Duncan) Manning and Emmet Manning of Underhill, VT; Anne (Duncan) Rogan and John Rogan of Foxboro, MA; James Duncan and Alicia (Vincent) Duncan of Kennett Square, PA; and Edith (Duncan) Story and Scott Story of Williston, VT. Over the years Joan and Paul resided in Newton, MA; St Albans, VT; Nashua, NH; Worcester, MA; Dover, MA; Petersham, MA; Boston, MA; Scituate, MA; and Underhill, VT. There will be a private service for Joan in the summer of 2023 to celebrate a beautiful life and wonderful legacy. Donations in Joan's name can be made to: Alzheimer's Association — help fight Alzheimer's and support the Alzheimer's Association as they continue their important work in providing Alzheimer's care and support, and accelerating research, via an Alzheimer's Association Tribute Donation. Published by A.W. Rich Funeral Home — Fairfax on Saturday, November 19, 2022.

Art / Music / Theater continued from page 8

The Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment, 802-899-3211.

BTV Winter Market at City Hall Park, Burlington, sponsored by Burlington City Arts and Love Burlington through Friday, December 23, on Fridays (2:00 – 6:00 PM), Saturdays (12:00 – 6:00 PM), and Sundays (12:00 – 4:00 PM). This European-style outdoor market will feature a rotating group of 20 talented local artists, makers, and food vendors in a festive atmosphere that will capture the spirit of the season in City Hall Park. Hot cocoa, cozy fire pits, and the glow of knowing you're supporting local makers will keep you warm and toasty while you enjoy this vibrant, joyful space for our community to gather and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. For more information: <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/event/btv-winter-market>.

Handbell concerts coming in the New Year: The Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble is pleased to announce a Winter 2023 concert series, *Bells of Good Cheer*. We hope you will join us to celebrate the season and ring in the New Year! Experience the beautiful sounds of handbells at any one of our three concerts in January:

- Friday, January 6, 7:00 PM, St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction;
- Saturday, January 7, 7:00 PM, South Hero Congregational Church, 4 South St., South Hero;
- Sunday, January 8, 3:00 PM, Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington.

Tickets are available at the door; admission is \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$30 for a family. We are proud to celebrate our performance of beautiful handbell music after a two-year hiatus. Please join us in the celebration!

Join the Idea Exchange for Teaching Artists. The Vermont Arts Council and Teaching Artists Connect have launched *Idea Exchanged for teaching artists*, a series of five virtual, bi-monthly meetings through May 2023, with goals to build community, provide support, share skills, and offer networking. Topics vary. Upcoming sessions, 4:00 – 6:00 PM, are:

- November 30, 2022: Teaching strategies and best practices;
- January 25, 2023: Nuts and bolts: The business of being a teaching artist;
- March 29, 2023: Marketing and communications;
- May 31, 2023: Successful collaborations.

Learn more and register at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/schools/teaching-artists>.

Creative Futures Grants call for applications: Funding is available for both non- and for-profits. During its 2022 session, the VT Legislature allocated \$9M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Vermont Arts Council for grants to creative sector entities that have sustained economic harm due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Awards of up to \$200,000 will be available to creative sector non- and for-profit businesses, including sole proprietors, that can demonstrate economic harm caused by or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding amounts will be based on 2019 (pre-pandemic) operating revenue. These funds are for any regular operating expenses including but not limited to payroll and benefits, utilities, rent, and insurance. Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria: severity of Covid-19 pandemic harm, community and cultural impact, economic impact. Full details are on the grant program web page. The seven segments of the creative sector economy (the collective enterprises, organizations, and individuals whose products and services are rooted in artistic and creative content) comprise Vermont's creative economy: culture and heritage; design; film and media; literary arts and publishing; performing arts; specialty foods; and visual arts and crafts. The program will be open for three rounds: the deadline for round 1 has passed. Round 2 opens January 3 with deadline February 28, 2023, notifications by mid-April; round 3 opens May 1, deadline June 30, 2023, notifications by mid-August. Applications that are not funded in one round may be reconsidered in the next round. Virtual Grantseeker Workshops to help applicants find out about the Creative Futures grant program and the application process, get tips for a strong application, and get questions answered. Workshops will be recorded and posted on the Council's website after the event; closed captioning will be provided. We invite you to contact us with specific accommodations you need to facilitate your participation in the workshop. Contact Michele Bailey, 504/ADA coordinator, mibailey@vermontartscouncil.org or 802-402-4614. Voice and relay calls welcome. For questions about the grant program, contact creativefutures@vermontartscouncil.org.

Burlington City Arts (BCA) Center fall exhibitions: Our current exhibitions are *Valerie Hird: The Garden of Absolute Truths* and *Bill McDowell: Roxham Road to North Elba*. On the first floor, Hird uses large-scale paintings, animated videos, and three-dimensional sculptures to present a provocative visual exploration of humanity's shared myths in *The Garden of Absolute Truths*. And on the second floor in *Roxham Road to North Elba*, McDowell's powerful photographic installation

thoughtfully engages with the ongoing legacy of racism and social justice in America. At the Burlington City Arts Center, 135 Church St., Burlington, Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM.

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS MONTH

FOSTERING | VERMONT
December 8, 2022

"If you want to go quickly, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together." – African Proverb

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

SCHOOL NEWS

EWSD Portrait of a Graduate community meeting postponed

By Ben Dickie, EWSD Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Essex Westford School District and Beth Cobb, EWSD Superintendent

We are reaching out to let you know that we have decided to postpone the upcoming Portrait of a Graduate (www.ewsd.org/portraitofgraduate) community meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday, December 14. This meeting, the third in a series of four, will take place on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, and will be in person from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Essex High School, Educational Drive, Essex Junction.

The fourth meeting, which was previously scheduled for January 11, will also be rescheduled for a later date. This fourth meeting will be virtual.

The November Portrait of a Graduate participant feedback strongly indicated that we needed to gather more community voices, especially from students and from our diverse populations. In order to do this, the EWSD School Board and leadership team made the decision to delay the December meeting.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

SENIOR NEWS

Jeri Hill XYZ Seniors holiday luncheon

The holidays are coming and Jeri Hill XYZ Seniors invite all local seniors to join us on Wednesday, December 14, at the Catalytic Church on Raceway Road, Jericho, where the catered luncheon will have a Christmas theme. Lunch starts at 11:30 AM.

For more information, please reach out to Doug Keith, 802-899-2582; Loreen Teer, 802-899-1363; Murray Hunt, 802-324-9641; or Joanne Blodget, 802-899-2040.

Winter is almost here — MMV can help you weather the weather

Are you over 50? Live in Cambridge, Underhill, or Jericho?

Mount Mansfield Villages (MMV) is a local non-profit that provides services to its members through neighborhood volunteers. We offer grocery shopping, transportation, sidewalk shoveling, friendly visits or phone calls, social activities, light home maintenance, and technology coaching.

Our membership fee is only \$240 per year for an individual, or \$300 per year for a household. We have plenty of scholarships to cover the fees — just ask.

Come join us. We have 61 members and 51 volunteers. You can become either or both!

Please visit our website at <http://www.mountmansfieldvillages.org> or email us at Mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com and we would be happy to answer any questions.

Volunteers needed to support our older neighbors

Since 1974, Age Well has been part of Vermont's Area Agencies on Aging, coordinating services and care for older adults throughout Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. Age Well provides services and resources to older Vermonters (60+) such as Meals on Wheels, community meals, restaurant ticket programs, special events, care and service coordination, and health and wellness opportunities like Tai Chi. All programs and services are offered at no cost to those that receive services.

Age Well continues to seek new volunteers to visit with older Vermonters in their homes. You can help older Vermonters by providing a regular friendly visit, grocery shopping, errands, assistance with medical appointments, delivering Meals on Wheels, organizing, bill paying, caregiver respite, minor home repairs, and veterans visiting other veterans, and more. Volunteers feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact they have on those they support.

Time commitment is based on your availability — it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM). If you are interested please contact Age Well's Volunteer Department, 802-662-5249 or volunteer@agewellvt.org.

SPORTS NEWS

Mansfield Nordic Club's BKL youth ski program

Registration is now open for the Mansfield Nordic Club's Bill Koch League (BKL) programs, which are all about having fun while learning agility, balance, and coordination on skis. Students learn and practice cross-country skiing through instruction, games, activities, and going on ski tours. We have different groups based on age, ski level, and interest. Programs are one to three days per week, depending on ability and interest levels.

Program sessions for youth pre-K through grade 8 are held at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ongoing now through March 16 (or snowmelt), 3:45 – 5:15 PM. The Racer Group also meets an additional day on weekends.

Find out more and register online at <http://www.mansfieldnordic.org/bkl/kids/>. Scholarships are available; look for information on the website.

Send us your news

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday safety

(To the tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*):

*Hark, it's time for me to sing,
Holiday safety is my thing!
I've got tips that you can use,
So no one has to sing the blues!*

What better gift can I share than a few reminders to make this the healthiest and safest of holiday seasons!

Tree safety

If you are going to have a tree in your home, secure it well to keep it from tipping, and keep it away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources.

Make sure it has water every day to prevent it from drying out and increasing its risk of becoming a fire hazard.

Inspect your light strands and replace any that appear damaged with wires that appear frayed, broken sockets for bulbs, or excessive kinking or wear in the cords. Keep no more than three strands of lights linked together, and keep the small bulbs and ornaments high up in the tree so smaller children don't try to eat them and choke.

If you have an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, or a person touching a branch will be in for a shocking experience.

Candle safety

December is the month with the most candle house fires. Avoid candles if there are children in the home — or at least, keep them out of reach of small children.

Do not put candles on trees whether or not children are present.

Turn off all lights and blow out all candles when you sleep or leave the house to avoid a potential fire hazard.

Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are working.

Holiday plants

Most holiday plants are safe, but remember that mistletoe and holly berries eaten in excess can be dangerous. If your child does snack on a holiday plant, you can always call the New England Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Party reminders

If you are hosting a party in your home, don't forget to clean up the night of the party so your young child doesn't discover alcoholic beverages or small snack foods left out that can be choking hazards the morning after.

To wrap things up (to the tune of *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*):

As you decorate your homes,

Safety hazards you will rid,

This is pediatrician Dr. Lewis First,

Hoping you'll be FIRST with kids!

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

Send thanks to recovering soldiers

By Louise Miglionico

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these soldiers would get!

Operation Fire Cuffs 2022

By Andy Forsberg, EMS Supervisor / Captain, UJFD

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) invites the community, family, and friends to join us in Operation Fire Cuffs 2022, and help UJFD to bring love, hope, joy, and smiles to pediatric patients at the University of Vermont Children's Hospital.

If you are able to donate it will be greatly appreciated. A list of ideas:

- Teen/School age: LEGOs, headphones, card games/puzzles, teen fidget/activities, teen/adult coloring books for older kids;
- Arts and Crafts: Playdough, kinetic sand, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors;
- Infant/Toddler age: toddler toys, character specific toys (Paw Patrol, Pokémon, Cocomelon, Peppa Pig, etc.), board books for infants and toddlers;
- Gift cards: iTunes, Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy, Hannaford, Price Chopper, or local restaurants; kids like to order take out pizza, etc.

Donations can be dropped off to the Underhill Fire Station at 420 VT Rt. 15 or to a member of the department by Monday, December 19. They will be delivered to the University of Vermont Children's Hospital as a part of Operation Fire Cuffs 2022.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Donate to CVCOA

From the Central Vermont Council on Aging

At Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA), we've been reflecting on what *home* means to older adults during this season of giving. Home is not only a space to welcome friends and loved ones. It is also a place of belonging, a warm feeling, or access to outdoor spaces and meaningful activities. As one person recently noted, "Home is community." Your contribution to CVCOA helps create communities that are "home" for older adults.

If you are a caregiver, home might mean opportunities to interact with your loved one in a fun and relaxing environment. Perhaps a volunteer-led exercise class keeps you connected to your community while also improving your well-being. Or maybe a warm meal delivered to your door creates home for you. Find more opportunities online at www.cvcoa.org.

Make a difference today by donating to CVCOA during this season of giving. Your contribution has a tremendous impact and is vital for programs and services that help older adults age in place. Learn more about our special fund options and donate online at <https://cvcoa.networkforgood.com/projects/174211-supporting-older-adults-at-home-cvcoa-year-end-giving> or mail a check to Central Vermont Council on Aging, 59 N. Main St., Suite 200, Barre, VT 05641. Thanks for your support!

2022 holiday giving and volunteering opportunities

United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact megan@unitedwaynwvt.org.

HOLIDAY GIVING

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

LUND'S HOLIDAY GIVING CAMPAIGN — We will be accepting new, unwrapped gifts again this year! There are a few ways you can support Lund families this holiday season:

- Set up a Holiday Giving display. This is a wonderful option for businesses/organizations to engage staff and clients in holiday giving. Lund will provide snowflakes, each with the wants, needs, and demographic information for a family. This opportunity helps community members better understand the family they are supporting and helps ensure that families are receiving the gifts they requested.

- Be Matched with a Family/Families. If you are unable to put up a display but still want to be matched with a family/families, this is for you. We will send you information based on the number of families you request.

- Host a Holiday Giving Drive. Lund will provide suggestions regarding wants and needs across our families, and will certainly accept new and unwrapped items that are not on the list. These gifts will help supplement the requested gifts we receive and help to ensure that every child and family has gifts during the holiday season.

- Volunteer! For the first time since 2019, we will be welcoming client families to the Hoehl Family Building at Joy Drive. We are looking for volunteers to help receive gifts donations, sort donated gifts, and assist staff and clients in selecting holiday gifts that match their needs and wants.

Visit <https://lundvt.org/ways-to-give/holiday-giving/> to learn more. If you are interested in a setting up a Lund Giving Tree in your place of business contact Sharon Lifschutz, Director of Development, 802-861-2580 or sharonl@lundvt.org.

COTS will be grateful for anything volunteers can provide for people, especially children, who are experiencing homelessness. Gift cards are an amazing way to allow parents to purchase gifts for their children. They are especially helpful when families move into shelter late in the season. There is also an Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/21V47NBALU5TE/guest-view>. The address to ship or drop off packages is COTS, 95 North Ave., Burlington, VT 05401. To schedule a drop-off time, call 802-343-6903.

TOYS FOR KIDS OF VERMONT — Vermont Marine Corps League is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys during the Christmas season, and oversees their distribution to children in need in Vermont. All money collected stays in Vermont and is used to purchase age-appropriate toys to supplement donations, and for older children. To contribute, find a collection barrel location, then bring new, unwrapped toy(s) to drop in the red barrel with white snowflakes. Volunteers who monitor the barrels collect the toys and distribute them to other charitable organizations like the Salvation Army, Light Ministries, and various church groups. Toys for Kids is the state's largest Christmas toy collection program for kids in need, and the program is 100% volunteer. Our signature red collection barrels with the white snowflakes on them collect toys for kids. Donations may be sent to: Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 4092, Burlington, VT 05406. To find red barrel locations for 2022, go online to <http://toysforkidsvt.com/barrellocations.php>.

STEPS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — If you are interested in supporting Steps Holiday Giving Program this year, please go online to holidayprogram@stepsvt.org for more details. Generally, parents will provide us with wish lists for their children and each child receives about four gifts totaling \$100. Volunteers/donors can donate one gift, a whole list, or as many as they want.

MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER — If you would like to Adopt-A-Family and provide presents for children in need this winter, please contact MFCC at gfonton@miltonfamilycenter.org or 802-893-1457 and let us know how many kids you would like to help. We will match you with a family and provide information about children's ages and wish lists, and then see that the items go to the right household. For more information: <https://miltonfamilycenter.org/2022/11/01/holiday-assistance/>.

SPECTRUM YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES — Gifts With A Purpose. Bring the joy and hope of the holiday season to local youth! Local teens and young adults are desperate for a safe and warm place to go. You can provide these young people with a day of safety, warmth, and care this holiday season. Purchase a gift from the gift catalog by Saturday, December 24 and it will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000. To see the catalog: <https://spectrumgiftcatalog.square.site/s/order>.

THE GIFT OF FOOD

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

Champlain Islands Food Shelf — 12 Hyde Rd., Grand Isle; champlainislandsfoodshelf@gmail.com

Colchester Community Food Shelf — Nonperishable food donations can be made on Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM, at 245 Main St., Colchester. Learn more at <https://colchesterfoodshelf.org>.

Enosburg Food Shelf — 142 Main St., Enosburg Falls

Fairfield Food Shelf — 124 School St., East Fairfield
Sara Holbrook Community Center Food Pantry — Accepting non-perishable items including low-sugar cereal, canned meat and beans, fruit (canned and boxed), soups, peanut butter, jelly, boxed pasta, personal care products, diapers, and diaper wipes. 66 North Ave., Burlington. Learn more at <https://www.saraholbrookcc.org/food-pantry>.

The Salvation Army Greater Burlington Food Pantry —

Holiday information continued on page 11

Holiday information continued from page 10

Accepting donations of non-perishable food, cereal and juice at 64 Main St., Burlington, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Monday-Friday. Learn more at <https://nne.salvationarmy.org/gtburlington/food-pantry>.

South Burlington Food Shelf — Accepting donations Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30 AM and 4:30 – 6:30 PM; and Fridays-Saturdays 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. 356 Dorset Street, S. Burlington. Learn more at <https://www.southburlingtonfoodshelf.org>.

Spectrum Youth & Family Services — Want to share your joy and give back? Sign up to contribute to the Christmas meal for the teens and young adults living in our supportive housing programs and warming shelter! We will have around 30 youth gathering at the Landing, Pearl Street Residence, and our Warming Shelter for Christmas dinner. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/2022holidaymeals>.

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

Winooski Food Shelf — Gratefully accepting non-perishable food, pet food, and hygiene products. The have an urgent need for baby care products such as diapers, baby food, wipes, and toiletries. Donations can be made at J & J's Corner Market and the Winooski Senior Center. Learn more at <http://www.winooskifoodshelf.org>.

RED BARREL MONITORS — Toys for Kids of Vermont needs volunteers to check the red "Toys for Kids" toy donation barrels at various sites throughout Chittenden County. Volunteers will be assigned one or more barrels to check through Wednesday, December 21 with most of the toys coming in the last couple of weeks

in December. Collected toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Burlington or a Williston collection site. A great job for a family. You do need your own transportation to the barrel and collection sites. To volunteer, contact toysforkidsvt@hotmail.com.

CHRISTMAS MEALS — Burlington Dismas House is looking for volunteers to help prepare portions of their Christmas meals at both houses. Volunteers are invited to join residents for the meal. For the Buell St., Burlington location, contact Hailey Leisten, 802-658-0381; for the East Allen St., Winooski location, contact Justin Adair, 802-655-0300.

H.A.N.D.S. Cardmaking — Although we won't be able to deliver a meal this year, we'd still like to offer some nourishment and joy to older Vermonters. We're bringing volunteers together to create personalized cards and then send those greetings, with a grocery gift card tucked in, to help with food bills over the holiday season. Please join our new "Season's Eatings" initiative because we'll need YOUR help to make this happen. To make a donation, please go online to <https://www.handsvt.org/lend-a-hand-2>. Thank you very much! If you have cheery, non-denominational holiday cards to donate, or would like to be added to the volunteer list for the cardmaking sessions, contact Jess Hyman, jessicahymanvt@gmail.com. Thank you, always, for helping us get food to older adults who are low-income!



The Town of Jericho has 2 vacancies on the Board of Listers. These positions are appointed by the Town of Jericho Selectboard. The Board of Listers' primary responsibilities are to assess as accurately and equitably as possible all real property in town in compliance with the VT State Statutes. Listers work as the job requires. If you think this could be you, please send Letters of Interest to:

Lori Dykema, Lister, P O Box 39, Jericho, VT 05465 or drop off at the town hall located at 67 VT Route 15 between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (If after business hours, put in the drop box located outside of the Town Hall.)

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY January 26, 2022 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Randall & Christal Clark to reaffirm a previous DRB approval for an approved two lot subdivision. The property is located at 83 Browns Trace which is in the Low-Density Residential Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB by Peter & Vera Benes for a final plat review for a proposed two lot subdivision. This property is located at 49 Orr Road which is in the Low-Density Residential Zone 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

CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your classified ad in the Mountain Gazette for a nominal charge.

The first 25 words for \$6.50 and ten cents for each additional word.

Contact Brenda Boutin at mtngazette@gmavt.net to reach readers in our regular coverage area of Bolton, Jericho, Underhill, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Westford, plus Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Essex and Essex Junction.

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OFFICIAL WARNING

**ANNUAL MEETING
JERICHO UNDERHILL LIBRARY DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the towns of Jericho and Underhill in the County of Chittenden and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, Vermont on Thursday January 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles:

- Article 1. Election of a Moderator
- Article 2. Act on the Report of Trustees
- Article 3. Shall the District authorize the Trustees to borrow money for the temporary needs of the District?
- Article 4. Adoption of the budget
- Article 5. Other business thought proper when met

Dated at Jericho, Vermont, November 17, 2022

Sven Lindholm, Chair

Connell Gallagher

Ellen Arrowsmith

Sharon Lockwood

William McMains

Barbara Yerrick

Carolyn Greene

Nancy Karlson

Jen Greenwood

The Board of Trustees, Jericho Underhill Library District

Holiday Events

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

This annual event supports the Troop activities for the year to develop our leaders of tomorrow. Please come and support the Scouts of Troop 627. Sales are weekday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, and weekends from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

BSA Troop 635 Christmas Tree Sale in Essex: BSA Scout Troop 635 is sponsoring a Christmas tree sale at Essex Discount Beverage, 72 Center Rd., Essex Junction. The cost per tree is \$55 — and the troop is also selling wreaths.

The proceeds of the sale will go toward the operating budget of the troop. You can support the troop and purchase a Christmas tree all at the same time. Thank you for your support and have a wonderful holiday season!

Handbell concerts coming in the New Year: The Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble is pleased to announce a Winter 2023 concert series, *Bells of Good Cheer*. We hope you will join us to celebrate the season and ring in the New Year! Experience the beautiful sounds of handbells at any one of our three concerts in January:

- Friday, January 6, 7:00 PM, St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction;
- Saturday, January 7, 7:00 PM, South Hero Congregational Church, 4 South St., South Hero;

• Sunday, January 8, 3:00 PM, Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington.

Tickets are available at the door; admission is \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$30 for a family. We are proud to celebrate our performance of beautiful handbell music after a two-year hiatus. Please join us in the celebration!

Annual Christmas Lights and Sound Show, 4:30 – 9:00 PM (or so), nightly until New Year, 61 Poker Hill Rd., Underhill (about half a mile from VT Rt. 15, on left). Tune your vehicle radio to FM 87.9 to listen to the show! (There's a sign by the road indicating the radio frequency.) If you stop and listen, it is okay to pull into the driveway and park on the left (two spots available). There's a radio by the front door audible from the parking area. If you do choose to get out of your car, please do not go near the lights. There are potential tripping hazards that are easily missed.

Wunderhill Holiday Light Show, 5:30 PM and repeating until the last show, which starts at 8:30 PM. Shows are about 45 minutes long, through Saturday, December 31 on Upper English Settlement Road (come via VT Rt. 15 and Poker Hill Road). More information and any cancellations will be posted on the "Wunderhill Lights" Facebook page.

The Efficiency Vermont 2022 Holiday Gift Guide is here! If you're looking for gift ideas for the energy savvy (or efficiency curious!) folks in your life, check out this list. There are plenty of clever, unique, energy saving items that will help to fill your loved ones with cheer. <http://www.encyvermont.com/blog/how-to/top-gift-ideas-for-the-energy-saver-in-your-life>

Wednesday, December 14
Jeri Hill XYZ Seniors Christmas luncheon, 11:30 AM, Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., Jericho. All local seniors are welcome to this catered luncheon. For more information contact Doug Keith, 802-899-2582; Loreen Teer, 802-899-1363; Murray Hunt, 802-324-9641; or Joanne Blodget, 802-899-2040.

Saturday, December 17

Jericho Holiday Craft Show, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Local artisans will be showcasing their work: pottery, jewelry, artwork, woodwork, herbals, fiber arts and more — and the Jericho Community Center will be selling its 2023 calendars! For more information contact Anna, 802-899-3441.

Christmas Market, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Country Church, 440 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. Enjoy fun and festive shopping with a great variety of items offered by local vendors. holiday crafts, artwork, jewelry, fresh roast coffees and bakery goods, bath and body products, farm fresh items, maple syrup and much more! Homemade soup on the stove!

BTV Winter Market at City Hall Park, Burlington, sponsored by Burlington City Arts and Love Burlington through Friday, December 23, on Fridays (2:00 – 6:00 PM), Saturdays (12:00 – 6:00 PM), and Sundays (12:00 – 4:00 PM). This European-style outdoor market will feature a rotating group of 20 talented local artists, makers, and food vendors in a festive atmosphere that will capture the spirit of the season in City Hall Park. Hot cocoa, cozy fire pits, and the glow of knowing you're supporting local makers will keep you warm and toasty while you enjoy this vibrant, joyful space for our community to gather and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. For more information: <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/event/btv-winter-market>.

Sunday, December 18

Ballet Wolcott performs *The Grinch*, 2:30 and 6:00 PM, Lamoille Union High School Auditorium, 736 VT Rt. 15, Hyde Park. Ballet Wolcott performs a ballet rendition of the classic bad-boy-turns-good Christmas story. This promises to be a great show! Reserve tickets at bwvtstudio@gmail.com. Lamoille County Food Share will have a box at the performance for folks to contribute non-perishable food items. Please don't be Grinchy with your non-perishable donation!

Seasons Greetings & Happy New Year

Wishing you all the best for a happy holiday season!

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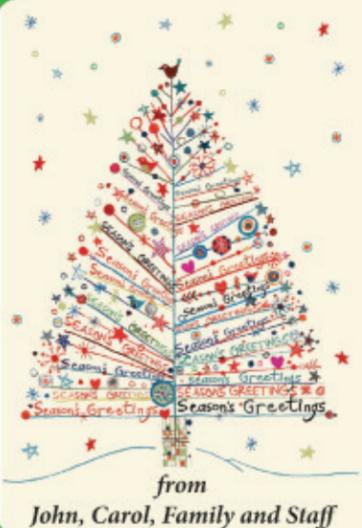


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Season's Greetings from Brenda and Sara at the Mountain Gazette



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

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