



Coming in the June 4,
2020 issue: MMUHS
Senior Photos

Vol. 19 No. 22 Serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, VT May 21, 2020

Westford Town Office news and notes

Absentee ballots: Due to an emergency amendment to the election laws, the Essex Westford School District Directors are permitted to warn all annual meeting items, including floor vote items, to be voted on by ballot. All voters are encouraged to vote by mail by requesting an early/absentee ballot. You must explicitly request absentee ballots; you will not receive ballots automatically. To request a ballot, email townclerk@westfordvt.us or call 878-4587 and leave your name, phone number, address, mailing address (if different), and which election(s) you are requesting the ballots for (i.e., all local elections, August primary, November general); or enter your request online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> (but note, not for the EWSD Annual School Meeting vote). You can submit a request now for all elections through December 31, 2020; requests must be renewed each calendar year. The Town Clerk's office will mail your requested ballot(s) as soon as they are ready for the upcoming elections.

Senior Luncheon: There is no luncheon in May due to COVID-19. No decision has yet been made about a June 8 Senior Luncheon. Please contact / leave a message for Carol Frank, 878-3090 or carolfrank2@comcast.net.

Dog licenses: Licenses were due April 1, but late fees were waived through June 1. After June 1, late fees will be assessed. A current rabies certificate is required. You may contact the Town Office, townclerk@westfordvt.us or 878-4587, to find out if a current certificate is on file. You may mail or drop off the fee and certificate along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and the license will be mailed to you. Fee: \$17 intact dog; \$14 spayed or neutered dog.

Town Office hours, Memorial Day through Labor Day: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day), Friday 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM.

From the Listers: Although the VT Income Tax filing deadline has been extended to July 15, homeowners are encouraged to please file their HS122 Homestead Declaration Form no later than June 15, to ensure that your property tax bill will reflect the residential rate. Homestead Declarations filed after June 15 will require the Town to mail revised tax bills for those properties; this can cause confusion for taxpayers and escrow companies, and adds extra work to town staff for processing. You can file your Homestead Declaration online at <https://myvtax.vermont.gov/>.

Lister Visits: Property owners who received a building permit for the past year, or have one from a prior year, can expect a visit from the Listers. This inspection is separate from the Zoning Administrator. Inspections of new homes and additions are scheduled prior to coming. Smaller projects, such as decks and sheds, will not be scheduled but the listers will leave a note that they were there. Notices of Change of Appraisal will be sent in May. Questions? Contact lister@westfordvt.us.

Pop-up COVID-19 testing sites for those without symptoms

Anyone who lives or works in Vermont and does not have symptoms of COVID-19 can be tested for the virus at pop-up testing sites around the state.

We especially encourage health care workers, first responders, child care providers, and people returning to Vermont — such as college students, people who winter out of state, and second home owners — to consider being tested.

Find a clinic near you and register ahead of time at <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/popups>. NOTE: Some sites are currently full, but you can sign up for a waitlist to receive information in case of a future clinic in your area.

If you are returning to Vermont, you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. If, during your quarantine, you have not had symptoms of COVID-19: On or after Day 7 you can be tested at one of the pop-up testing sites. If your test is negative, you can end your quarantine period, as long as you continue to have no symptoms.

The testing clinics are part of the State of Vermont's efforts to ramp up testing and prevent the spread of COVID-19. This nasal swab test will tell you if you have a current infection. It is not a serology/antibody test, which means it will not tell you if you were infected in the past.

Anyone with even mild COVID symptoms should call their health care provider to get tested. Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19>.

Get more details about what quarantine means at https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-chart-observation-isolation-quarantine_final.pdf.

Village and EWSD agree to mail out ballots

By Ben Dickie
EWSD Communications
and Public Relations Coordinator
Essex Westford School District

The Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees and the Essex Westford School District (EWSD) Board took an unprecedented action on Tuesday, May 5 by agreeing to mail ballots to all active voters in Essex and Westford. The ballots will allow residents to vote on annual meeting business, including the respective budgets and elections for the Village and EWSD.

Annual meetings were postponed in April for health and safety precautions around the COVID-19 pandemic. The new annual meeting date for the Village and EWSD will be Tuesday, June 2, 2020. The Village will have an informational meeting the evening of Monday, June 1, with more details to come about how residents can participate remotely.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont Legislature, VT Secretary of State Jim Condos, and Governor Phil Scott gave communities significant flexibility with voting procedures to ensure the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order could be followed. That flexibility includes the ability to mail ballots.

The polls will still be open on June 2, with reduced hours (10:00 AM – 7:00 PM). By mailing ballots, however, the Village and EWSD hope to significantly reduce the foot traffic typically seen on an election day.

As Village President Andrew Brown said, "Taking this proactive step will not only ensure the health and well-being of our residents and poll-workers by preventing the need for in-person voting, it will also eliminate nearly every existing barrier to voting. As an elected official it is our duty to do what is in the best interests of our community while ensuring our community can exercise its civic duty as easily as possible."

EWSD Board Chair Martha Health added, "It has long been the school board's interest to increase voter participation. The desire for keeping everyone safe and healthy, combined with making voting more accessible, made the option of mailing ballots to everyone very attractive to our board."

Essex and Westford voters will receive their ballot in the mail by mid-May. Voters will need to complete the ballot and certification and mail it back to their respective clerk within the pre-addressed and stamped certification envelope. Voted ballots must be received by the clerks no later than Monday, June 1, or taken directly to the polling place on June 2 before the polls close at 7:00 PM.

If a voter chooses to vote in person, the voter MUST bring the unmarked ballot that was mailed to them, including the certificate and return envelopes, to the polls. The unmarked ballot and envelopes will be given to the presiding officer and a new ballot will be issued. While this is a right of the voter, the boards encourage voters to return the ballot by mail to protect the health of their community.

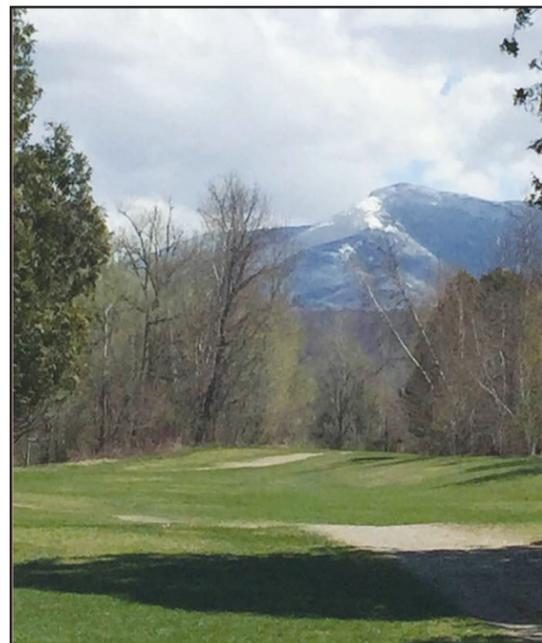
Only active voters will receive mailed ballots. An active voter is defined as a registered voter whose voting status has not been challenged. If residents are unsure as to their registration status, they should contact their respective clerk:

Essex: Susan McNamara-Hill (879-0413 or clerk@essex.org); or

Westford: Nanette Rogers (878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us).

Both Boards extend their thanks and appreciation to Essex Town Clerk Susan McNamara-Hill and Westford Town Clerk Nanette Rogers for their willingness to take on this task. Mailing nearly 15,000 ballots in Essex and about 1600 in Westford will be a significant and unanticipated workload increase.

For more information on the Village of Essex Junction FY'21 proposed budget, please visit www.essexjunction.org/departments/finance/budget. More information on the EWSD FY'21 proposed budget is available at www.ewsd.org/budget.



COVID rules for enjoying Mills Riverside Park

Governor Scott's "Play Smart and Play Safe" Executive Order, (Stay Home/Stay Safe), has been amended to allow Vermonters to leave home to get fresh air and exercise and resume limited social interactions and gatherings of 10 or fewer, preferably in outdoor settings, provided that physical distancing and protocols for hygiene consistent with guidance from VDH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are observed.

What that means at Mills Riverside Park is:

- Small groups of ten or less people. Social distancing is expected... so show trail etiquette by making room for others to pass. Do not congregate.
 - The pavilion is closed for now and there are no porteleets.
- We will continue to monitor any relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions and make changes accordingly.
- There are no organized sports scheduled at this time.
 - We have not canceled the summer concert series in July thus far.

Enjoy the park, be mindful of others and stay safe.

NEWS BRIEFS

Keep an eye out for turtles

VT Fish and Wildlife Department

It's springtime and Vermont's turtles are on the move. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is asking for the public's help in keeping them safe. Female turtles are looking for places to deposit their eggs, sometimes choosing to lay along the shoulders of roads, which can end tragically.

Turtles often cross roads as they search for a nest site. They are a slow-moving animal in today's fast-paced world, so they have a tough time making it safely across the road. Turtles grow slowly and live a long time, so losing a mature breeding female is a huge loss to the turtle population.

Turtle nesting activity peaks from late May through June. At this time of year, drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles in the road, especially when driving near ponds and wetlands.

Importance of the 2020 Census during COVID-19

By John Mandeville, Executive Director,
Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

During the chaos of dealing with COVID-19 and all the concern and consternation it has caused, many of us have simply overlooked the 2020 Census form we have received in the mail or just haven't gotten around to filling it out — which takes about five minutes.

In fact, Vermont in general has the lowest response rate of any state in the Union. The Census determines the amount of federal funding each state receives. If a state is under-counted, it results in less funding being received by that state.

I urge everyone to please either fill out the form you received in the mail and drop it in the mail, or go to the online form available at the link below and fill out the 2020 Census online. Either way, it will only take about five minutes of your time.

Please, this is important folks, let's get this done!
www.2020census.gov

More News Briefs on page 2

Join the Mountain Gazette in honoring the MMUHS 2020 Senior Class.
We will publish all of the senior photos in the June 4, 2020 issue.
We invite parents and friends to submit congratulation notes.
Ad space is also available. Email mtngazette@gmavt.net.

NEWS BRIEFS

Underhill/Jericho Memorial Day will not be held this year

For those who have not heard, the annual Underhill/Jericho Memorial Day parade and ceremony will not be held this year due to COVID-19 concerns.

Memorial Day is a day set aside to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. While we cannot gather in the traditional way, we can still pay our respects to those that died to secure our freedoms. Consider visiting one of our towns' cemeteries to pay your respects at a grave decorated with a flag. Perhaps say a few words or plant a flower. In the meantime, stay safe and look forward to next year's parade!

Zoom discussion on *Bringing History Alive: 1936*

The year 2020 will undoubtedly be remembered in history — and it's only spring. Other monumental years have shaped our political, social, and aesthetic choices, and one such year was 1936. Please join us on Wednesday, May 27, 3:00 – 4:30 PM for *Bringing History Alive: 1936*, a lively discussion that will examine the many stories and perspectives of that year through political, social, scientific, and aesthetic lenses.

Imagine: America in Depression, Europe on the verge of war, Jesse Owens and the Olympics held in Germany, Spain engaged in a brutal civil war, the arts flourishing with jazz and swing music, Langston Hughes, Georgia O'Keefe, and much more. While looking back 84 years, we will be making connections to our current pandemic challenge and such pressing issues as human rights, distribution of income, race and gender imbalance, political extremism, and environmental anesthesia.

The Charlotte Library has compiled articles and images to read/look at in advance of our discussion. Please sign up through the library's website CharlottePublicLibrary.org. You will then be sent a link to a few articles and images to review in advance of our session on May 27. The Zoom invitation link will be sent separately to those who have registered.

The event is co-sponsored by the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Senior Center. For questions about this program and/or ideas of resources, or for folks who might want to share their expertise, contact Jonathan Silverman at jsilverman@smcvt.edu.

Burn permits in Underhill, Jericho, Westford

Underhill: Effective Saturday, May 9, Underhill Fire Warden Parker Ripley began issuing burn permits again in the town of Underhill. Permits for now will only be issued on Saturdays and Sundays. The goal is to open all legal burning as normal at the end of May. As a reminder any time you have an outdoor fire, a permit is required. To obtain a burn permit please call Underhill Fire Warden Parker Ripley, 802-734-7114, or Assistant Warden Nate Goldman, 802-363-3548.

Jericho: Open burning permits have been issued starting Saturday, May 9. Permits will only be issued for Saturdays and Sundays until further notice. Please call Jericho Fire Warden Sean McCann, 355-1044, to obtain a permit for the town of Jericho. And remember, all open fires must be always be attended. You must have the ability to maintain control over it and put it out upon request. And you may only burn natural materials. Please call for further details or clarification.

In Westford, burn permits are required prior to any burning. Burn permits are available online at <https://westfordvt.us/administration/fire-warden/>, from Fire Warden Dennis Angiono, 879-1231, or from the Town Office during regular office hours.

Greenmont Farms Vets' Outreach Post seeks wood donations

The Veterans Outreach Post Fire Wood Project at Greenmont Farms in Underhill Center is looking for wood donations, ideally 16-18" blocked wood or log length. The sale of fire wood supports local veteran projects.

Please contact Donna Laperle, donna.laperle@gmail.com, or John Connell, jc6greenmont@gmail.com for more information.

Browns Trace closed to through traffic May 18-26

Starting from #17 Browns Trace to approximately #101 Browns Trace, the Town of Jericho Highway Department is going to be replacing six culverts that go across the road. This project will start on Monday, May 18 and go through Tuesday, May 26. (Monday, May 25 is a holiday, so no work will be happening.) The road will be closed to thru traffic from 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM every weekday and will open back up at night. If people live in that section of the road, you will be able to get out of your driveway. No through traffic will be allowed during the time given.

Westford Rec

Please contact Tonya Calley, 802-324-7132 or recreation@westfordvt.us with any questions for the Rec Board.

The Recreation Board has an open seat. If you are interested in this volunteer position that helps shape the community's rec programs, please contact Tonya.

All programming is still on hold.

All Westford Trails are open, and you are welcome to have fun and explore. Some of the Misty Meadows (school) trails have been marked as temporarily closed due to extreme muck and mud. Please let Rec know if you encounter any other impassable trails, whether due to mud, downed trees, debris, or other reasons. *Please respect social distancing guidelines currently in place — THIS INCLUDES YOUR ANIMALS.* A map of the town trails can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/westford-town-lands/>.

Ticks are out so take precautions by tucking pantlegs into socks, using tick repellent, and always perform tick checks after outside activities.

PPP FAQs; work safe conditions

To find the most up to date information on the PPP loan program from the SBA, please go online to https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

For a detailed explanation of the new conditions for business re-openings issued Friday, May 15 by Governor Scott's office, go online to https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order?fbclid=IwAR3FHa0cKAIUZOau0Aik_NG1Eyi6t8cfAJYzaiXzhK2fLbb7REQjP8NXnY.

Free pet food for those in need

Do you need financial help in feeding the furry four-footed members of your family? Here are some resources for free pet food:

Vermont Pet Food Resources by county, online at <https://volunteers.humanesociety.org/theHub/?downloadFile=1&table=resources&field=file&check=207b999e7a65a0e4af65e31a4ac32d3f&key=951>.

Vermont Pet Food Resources Map: a visual depiction of locations, online at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1a6usvjR0us70agSukfEq26jEVjOVbe0&usp=sharing>

Check the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/VermontDART> and the Humane Society of the United States Vermont office, <http://www.facebook.com/HSUSVermont>.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Green Up Day is May 30!

By Amy Grover
Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Reminder: Green Up Day has NOT been canceled — it has been delayed until Saturday, May 30. Residents are still encouraged to safely help Green Up our town!

However, Bolton's traditional Green Up Day BBQ has been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, safety concerns, venue issues, and doing our part to help keep our community as safe as possible. We'll see you next year!

We will let you know when the 2020 Green Up Day Bags have been delivered at the Town Office. As usual, filled Green Up Day bags may be brought to the Town Garage, or left alongside Town Highways for pick up. Thank you in advance for your continued help in Greening Up Bolton.

Join Team CCV! Green Up Day Saturday, May 30

It seems like so much has happened these past couple of months, but there is still one event that can happen while social distancing: Green Up Day! This year, CCV and Green Up Vermont are both celebrating 50th anniversaries. Join us as we Green Up our Vermont "campus" on Saturday, May 30! Register online at <https://ccv.edu/greenup>. Free t-shirts while supplies last!

To be clear, this is *not* a virtual event. We actually plan to meet in person with our teams on Green Up Day, but we will abide by any social distancing restrictions in place at that time. Probably the biggest one will be the six-foot rule. Luckily, we can still pick up trash together while remaining 6' away from one another!

Contest challenges kids to grow giant pumpkins

Looking for a fun summer project? Then sign up now for the Vermont 4-H Pumpkin Challenge.

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H is sponsoring a statewide pumpkin-growing contest for youths, ages 5-18. Upon registering, you will receive one or more varieties of "mystery" pumpkin seeds to grow throughout the season. Selected varieties are suitable for a northern climate, may be direct sown, and will mature at 140 pounds or less.

Although free to participate, and membership in 4-H is not required, you must register by May 25 to receive seeds and a 4-H Pumpkin Challenge record book. Please contact Martha Manning, UVM Extension 4-H educator, preferably by email at martha.manning@uvm.edu; or call 802-827-3913. Include your name, address, email address, age, and phone number.

You will be asked to weigh your pumpkin at home on September 20. Ask a family member to take a photo of you with your pumpkin, and then send that photo and its weight by email to Manning.

Prizes will be awarded for the heaviest pumpkin of each variety. A list of prizes will be available later this summer.

You may start your seeds indoors or direct seed into the garden when warm enough. You are allowed to use any gardening strategies you want — including adding compost and fertilizer, mulching, setting up a special watering system, or using other tricks to make your pumpkins gain weight.

Throughout the growing season, you will be asked to record and share your observations. UVM Extension 4-H will host several pumpkin-growing online discussions and virtual garden tours of participants' pumpkin patches. Online links and discussion dates will be shared with all registered participants later in the season.

Challenge your friends to sign up, too, to see who can grow the biggest pumpkin this summer in this fun competition. See you in the Pumpkin Patch!

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& online at Bitly.com/MmctvVideos

MtMansfieldCtv.org

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Community food information

In difficult times, good food is a both a basic necessity and a real comfort — please don't go without!

If you find you're short on groceries, don't hesitate to check out the Richmond Food Shelf, serving households in Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington. They're there to help in a pinch, so give them a call at 578-4283 or email richmondfoodshelfvt@gmavt.net. The food shelf currently has enough volunteers and is not accepting food donations, but monetary donations — used to buy fresh food and supplies locally — are always welcome. Click here to donate: <http://www.richmondfoodshelfvt.org>.

For those stuck at home, Bolton volunteers are offering no-contact food deliveries from the food shelf and local grocery stores. For deliveries, or to volunteer, contact help@boltonvt.com.

School's out, but school breakfasts and lunches are still available at no cost to anyone 18 and under, for pickup or delivery, through the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District: <https://sites.google.com/mmuusd.org/covid-19information/food-service-plan>, or call 434-1010.

For the more self-sufficient, it's the season — local gardening centers are now open! Consider planting a Victory Garden this year — including a little extra for your neighbors. If you're new to gardening, check out the Vermont Victory Gardens Program (<https://www.UVM.edu/extension/mastergardener/gardening-during-covid-19>) or the Vermont Community Garden Network (<https://vcgn.org/>).

Hunting and fishing are also in season, and most state and local fishing access areas are open. Licenses are available online through the VT Fish and Wildlife Department (<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/covid-19-related-information>). Foraging for personal use is also allowed on state and town land, but always check with private property owners!

If you can, please support local farms and businesses that offer groceries and take-out — including some great local pizza! Too many to list, but you can find them online:

Seven Days Good-to-Go: <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/Vermont-Digger-Whats-Open>: <https://vtdigger.org/business-directory/>

For general questions and assistance, dial 2-1-1. Additional food-related program, resource, donation, and volunteer information is available through:

United Way of Northwest VT, <https://unitedwaynwvt.org/covid19-community-response> (grocery store information — at risk hours, pickup/delivery services)

Vermont Foodbank, <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/> or 1-800-585-2265 (state food programs, assistance)

Hunger Free Vermont, <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/> or 865-0255 (general information, federal assistance programs)

Age Well Vermont, <https://www.agewellvt.org/> or 1-800-642-5119 (senior services, Meals on Wheels)

Waterbury Sr Center, <https://www.wasca.org/> or 244-1234 (senior lunches, Meals on Wheels)

Cambridge Community Food Shelf

Just a reminder that the Cambridge Community Food Shelf is here for you. Our philosophy is that no one should go hungry. In this time of uncertainty, we are committed that members of our community should be able to get the food they need.

The Cambridge Community Food Shelf is located in the basement of the 2nd Congregational Church in Jeffersonville. Our hours for distribution are Monday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, and Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Our volunteers offer curbside assistance, keeping both clients and volunteers safe.

If you know of neighbors who might need food assistance, please let them know about us and where and when they can receive food assistance. If you need food assistance, please do not hesitate to come to us for assistance.

There is no shame in asking for help. Together, we are Vermont Strong. We are here for you.

Richmond Food Shelf, Thrift Store

The Richmond Food Shelf and Thrift Store are grateful for the generous donations from our communities, which allow us to continue our mission in these uncertain times.

If you need delivery, please call 578-4283. We will continue to be open for food with outside pickup:

- Tuesday, May 19, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM;
- Thursday, May 21, 4:00 – 6:00 PM;
- Saturday, May 23, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

The week of May 26, we will welcome our food shelf clients into the store, one person at a time, masked. (If you need a mask, they will be available.) Our volunteers will be wearing masks and using gloves to handle food.

At the beginning of June, our Board will determine when and how the thrift store will open. We feel as though we need to proceed cautiously for the protection of our clientele and volunteers.

Jeffersonville village beautification project for fall

The Village Beautification Project is looking to decorate the pots in the villages in the fall with ornamental gourds and Indian corn as some of the annuals die off.

We have the seeds but need some volunteers to plant/raise them in their own gardens. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please email totogbo@juno.com.

Crane Brook Conservation District Japanese knotweed control

By Steve Webster
Underhill Conservation Commission

The Underhill Conservation Commission has established a test plot on the Crane Brook Trail to explore a non-toxic method for controlling Japanese knotweed. As you may know, knotweed is an invasive plant that is widespread in much of Vermont. According to Vermont Invasives (<https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/a-new-way-to-treat-knotweed>):

“As it grows, knotweed forms extensive, dense mats of roots and stems, eliminating native vegetation. The loss of native shrubs, trees, and flowers impacts the insect, bird, and mammal populations that depend on those plants for food and nectar. Additionally, as the insect populations decline, the fish, birds, and mammals that feed on those insects suffer as well. And as native plants are eliminated from along the riverbanks, their root systems are, too. The ground beneath the thick patches of knotweed leaves bare soil, increasing the risk of soil erosion into the waterways. And finally, the impenetrable vegetative wall created along the riverbanks all but eliminates the ability of wildlife to travel along the river corridor, a space which many species rely upon to safely move across the landscape.”

The Underhill Conservation Commission is particularly concerned about the threat that Japanese knotweed poses to pristine watersheds in Underhill such as the Crane Brook. We are continuing our efforts to control the spread of knotweed and are working to keep knotweed out of the Crane Brook itself.

The article linked to above describes a non-toxic, relatively non-labor-intensive method for controlling and hopefully eliminating small, well-defined patches of knotweed. Specifically, the article suggests covering a knotweed patch with hardware cloth with 1/2" openings. Knotweed stems grow through the openings and expand in diameter as they grow. Eventually, the stems push against the metal strands of the hardware cloth and effectively “girdle” themselves and die. This process is repeated as new stems emerge throughout the growing season. Hopefully, this will eventually exhaust the nutrients stored in the rhizomes (a.k.a. roots) and the plant will die.

The Conservation Commission is currently testing this technique on a small knotweed patch. We plan to monitor the plot weekly and will document and share what we learn.

In the past two years, the Conservation Commission has explored multiple non-toxic methods for controlling knotweed, including repeatedly cutting stems, digging rhizomes, and smothering with black plastic. We intend to continue to employ such manual methods this summer, and we'll be soliciting your help, soon!

In the meantime, you might want to help control the spread of Japanese knotweed by eating it! Here is a link to an article with an assortment of recipes you may want to try: <https://practicalselfreliance.com/japanese-knotweed>. The article also briefly addresses possible medicinal uses of knotweed. Please let me (stevev831@gmail.com) know if you have a favorite recipe and I'll compile an invasive species cookbook of sorts.

Food Shelf thanks supportive neighbors

The board of the Essex, Jericho, Underhill Food Shelf is humbled by the tremendous outpouring of community support over the past two months of the pandemic. Individuals, municipalities, service groups, and churches have provided much needed financial support, and shoppers have continued to fill our food shelf drop bins at Hannafords, Price Chopper, and the Jericho Market with non perishable food items. Please accept our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported our mission to help feed those in our communities who are food challenged.

Your generosity has enabled us to provide an ample supply of food for those who visit our food shelf at our monthly food distributions, which are held the third Saturday of each month, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho. Like many businesses and service providers, we have altered our distribution model to adopt a safe curbside pick up procedure. Food recipients are able to remain in their vehicles while masked and gloved volunteers place several bags of groceries and personal items in their trunk.

To contact the food shelf online, please go to ejufoodshelf@gmail.com. If you would like to make a contribution in support of our continued efforts, please make checks payable to and mail to EJU Food Shelf, P.O. Box 65, Jericho, VT 05465.

Again, we thank our communities for their relentless compassion and generosity in these challenging times!

Your Essex, Jericho, Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Board

Veterinary care during COVID; live meetings archive

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Wondering how veterinary care works these days? Here's the latest short video in our series about local innovators during the pandemic, focusing on the Richmond Animal Hospital: <https://archive.org/details/virtually-yours-richmond-animal-hospital>.

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) streamed the following remote local meetings live on Comcast Channel 1086 and on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/MMCTV15/live>), and makes them available in its archive at MtMansfieldCtv.org: Richmond Selectboard (Monday, May 11); Jericho DRB (Wednesday, May 13); Underhill Planning Commission (Thursday, May 14).



Farmers Market opens June 4

The 2020 Jericho Farmers' Market will be held every Thursday afternoon from 3:00 – 6:30 PM at Mills Riverside Park from June 4-October 1! We are beyond excited to welcome our friends and neighbors to a diverse selection of local veggies, groceries, crafts and prepared food from many of your favorite past vendors, as well as some awesome new faces!

Our goal has always been to run a market where community members and vendors feel welcomed and safe. To this end, due to the current COVID-19 crisis, there will be some modifications aimed at maintaining this level of safety as well as complying with the governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order.

These modifications include:

- Reserving the first half hour (3:00 – 3:30 PM) to serve our senior community members as well as those who identify as high-risk.
- Expanding the market layout to provide opportunity for proper social distancing practices.

- Limiting the market flow to a single direction with a clear entry and exit.
- Encouraging pre-purchase of items when possible.
- Requiring all food be consumed off-promise.
- Encouraging shoppers to wear face coverings and observe new “shop-and-go” practices.

In addition, in compliance with the governor's order, we will be suspending our Music and Kid's POP Club for at least the first part of the season.

Given this is an ever evolving situation, please visit our website jerichofarmersmarket.com or follow us on Facebook or Instagram (JFMVT) for the most up-to-date information.



Mountain High Pizza Pie

Curbside pickup only
Menu available at mthighpizzapievermont.com

Monday 4:00 - 8:30 PM
Tuesday - Thursday 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Friday 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
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HEALTH NEWS

Your health is important, don't delay care

A lot has changed. And we've all made sacrifices to keep each other, our families, and our neighbors safe. But your health shouldn't be one of them. A small problem now can become a serious problem later.

UVM Health Network is here for you.

Urgent care and emergency departments are open and ready to provide care. Additionally, secure video conferences and online messaging with your provider, drive-up testing and treatment, and enhanced safety measures are in place if your provider needs to see you in person.

We are here, and ready to care for you.

Your health is important. Don't put your care on hold.

Contact your provider by phone or through MyChart (<https://www.uvmhealth.org/pages/mychart.aspx>) to determine the best option for your needs.

To learn more about video visits with your provider, please visit <https://www.uvmhealth.org/Pages/Coronavirus/Staying-Healthy/Get-Care-You-Need.aspx>.

Bees, trees, and anaphylaxis

By Ashley Williams
Essex Rescue

As spring blooms so do allergies and sometimes anaphylaxis, a very severe and life threatening allergic reaction. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, one in 50 Americans will suffer from anaphylaxis and the number may be much higher.

What is anaphylaxis? Anaphylaxis is a severe reaction to an allergen such as a bee sting or peanuts. Signs of anaphylaxis include hives, itching, swelling of the tongue, throat, and airways leading to difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and fainting. Not everyone is aware that they are allergic to something before they have an anaphylactic reaction. You can develop allergies and thus anaphylaxis at any time during your life.

What should you do if you or someone you are with begins having symptoms of anaphylaxis? If they have an epipen administer it or help them to administer it. Call 9-1-1. Have them lay down with their feet up. Monitor them to ensure they are conscious and breathing. Should they stop breathing, follow directions given by the 9-1-1 dispatcher.

When the ambulance arrives, we will assess the person who is having the anaphylaxis. If it is determined that they are indeed having an anaphylactic reaction, we will help them to administer their own epi-pen or administer our own epinephrine. We will likely start an I.V. and give fluids, and we may give a breathing treatment to help open the airways. Even if the person has already taken their own epi-pen it is important that they are transported to the emergency room, preferably by ambulance. Epinephrine only works for 10-20 minutes and then they may have symptoms again.

As the weather warms and weekend warriors emerge, injuries and other medical emergencies are going to become more frequent. Should you or someone you are with become injured, please do not hesitate to call an ambulance. Many people are avoiding emergency rooms at all costs due to COVID-19. Understand that hospitals are taking all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus to individuals who are not already ill. There has been an increase in the number of people who are having heart attacks and strokes and not receiving care due to being afraid to go to the emergency room. This leads to poor outcomes, decreased quality of life, and sometimes death. Please do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 should you or a loved one need medical care. Essex Rescue and neighboring agencies are working very closely with our medical directors to ensure that those who need to receive emergency care are able to do so safely. Your health and safety are our top concern.

Helping teens cope

With the coronavirus still among us, one group that needs attention is our teenagers. They may not be as visibly anxious as younger children might be, but teens may still be stressed by the virus. This week I'm providing some mature advice for helping teens cope with COVID-19.

First, be aware that if teens are not talking with you about coronavirus, they have easy access to everything that is going on through their smart phones and social media. Unfortunately, not everything they may hear from friends on social media is accurate, so it is important to make sure adolescents understand the facts from the fiction regarding this virus. How can you do this?

Learn the facts yourself, especially regarding the virus

Building a regional food supply system out of the pandemic

By Bill Schubart

Opportunities lurk in every downturn. To recover and move forward, we must do more than scramble back to the past, we must ferret out and explore better and more secure ways to live and thrive.

Such is the case with our food-supply chain. As in so many areas of consumer consumption, we have since the '60s sought to minimize price and maximize profits by using "just-in-time" and "lean" manufacturing processes, creating a cadre of unaccountable monopolies over which we have little practical control. When nature rebels, as she always does, our sophisticated human processes show little resilience and often break down.

Dairy farmers here and elsewhere are dumping milk, some of which leaches into our riverine systems and lakes. Around the U.S., industrial truck farmers are plowing under crops they have no seasonal workers to harvest. Beef and pork producers are discussing euthanizing their animals as industrial meat-processing facilities close down when COVID-19 infects their workers.

We blame the animal wet markets in China where the virus appears to have come to life, but our own hyper-efficient food-chain technology is equally ripe for nature's attacks. One cannot visit a modern hog farm without surgical suite protocols, bio-hazard clothing — not to protect the visitor but to protect the pigs living cheek-by-jowl in small pens. Remember the fifty-odd industrial hog farm manure lagoon overflows during Hurricane Florence that poisoned the water systems of people miles away?

Feedlots gorge steers with corn and grain to create the fat marbling that we relish in our steaks. But the nature of bovines is to forage for a mix of grasses. Diets too rich in corn and grain overwhelm the rumen's microbiome, causing acidosis and diarrhea. Feedlots where steers are fed in close proximity to their own excrement require them to be treated with subtherapeutic antibiotics. Long considered essential to good soil maintenance, manure from the beef industry's feedlots is treated as toxic waste because of the antibiotics, medicine, and ionophores (*) it contains.

Vermont's small farms operate in stark contrast to the industrial food chain. Steers, lambs, goats, and poultry graze in open spaces living off what nature provides while enriching the soil on which their feed depends. I remember the 4H fairs and Grange meetings where young Vermonters paraded the beloved farm animals they were husbanding, even though they were being raised to provide food.

As consumers watch the news and see in savage detail the disrupted supply chain that has delivered their food to supermarket shelves, they're turning in greater numbers to their neighbors for food and local farmers are seeing an upsurge in direct local buyers. Farmers' markets and on-farm food stands with advance ordering and payment and distanced pickups are burgeoning. The Intervale Food Hub, drawing on the food resources of multiple Vermont farmers, has quadrupled in size since the pandemic began.

I remember some years back visiting with a Danish friend and hearing of Copenhagen's sophisticated farm-to-table supply chain. Danes log on in the morning to see what seasonal food products are available at over 500 Danish farms, place and pay for an order, then pick it up on the return commute, driving through a plaza not unlike our highway toll stations. One's multi-farm order is consolidated in a pick-pack warehouse and left at the toll station for drive-through pick up... pre-pandemic social distancing.

Vermont's farm and food economy has grown over the

past decade through intentional production increases, market expansion efforts, and increased consumer demand — from \$7.5 billion in 2007 to \$11.3 billion in 2017. Some 65,000 Vermonters earn a living from our 11,000 farm and food enterprises. But still Vermonters only spend about 14% of their food budget (\$310 million of \$2 billion) on local food. Imagine the economic impact on our rural communities if we increased our spending on local and regional food to 50%.

At the behest of the Legislature, The Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets (AG Agency) in partnership with the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund has produced *An Economic Development Plan for the Stabilization, Diversification and Revitalization of Agriculture in Vermont*. The plan is forward-looking and thorough, although perhaps additional attention might have addressed the technical, transactional, and co-warehousing/fulfillment options that could enable our 600 farms to expand their direct-to-consumer service options.

Vermont farmers are also seeing opportunity in regenerative agriculture, a set of farming principles and practices that restore and enrich farming soils and watersheds. Industrial farming ignores commonly accepted principles of humane animal husbandry in favor of process efficiency and low cost. Monocropping requires chemical applications, some of which have been found to be cancerous or otherwise deleterious to human health.

Now that our dairy industry is inextricably bound to the broken national food supply, we are actively reimagining Vermont's and the region's food supply in a way that stimulates family farms, their communities, and the State economy, while offering reliable quality food options for Vermonters. Rather than trying to shore up our vast dairy farms currently losing money producing milk for which there is a declining market, the AG Agency should continue to focus on the growing number of diversified, regenerative farming operations. Our large-scale dairy operations can also de-commodify to current market demand, then specialize and diversify, which many are trying to do.

Like the banks in 2008, our massive national food supply monopolies have become too big to fail. The outsized influence and profit in the current system prevents it from rightsizing to market, resilience, and sustainability.

One of our local CSA/farmstands in Hinesburg is Trillium Hill. Another is Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman's Full Moon Farm. Both sell direct to local Hinesburgers and Trillium sells wholesale to Lantman's Market next door. There are over a hundred community farms selling direct to Vermonters and local grocers. It's in our best interest to support them and the rural economy they're supporting in our harder-hit communities.

It's intriguing to catalog the emerging farm descriptors, precisely because they reflect the real concerns of customers: humanely-raised, antibiotic-free (ABF), grassfed, free-range, cage-free, all natural, organic etc. With the exception of the ill-defined descriptors like "all natural" and "organic," our national food supply is incapable of responding to these marketplace demands.

If we let emerging market forces prevail, our agriculture systems will continue their move to local, diversified, regenerative agriculture that supports our working landscape.

(*) ionophores is a word new to the Editor; I looked it up. Ionophores are additives used in corn/grain cattle feeds to increase feed efficiency and body weight gain. They are compounds that alter rumen fermentation patterns, and have been used widely in the beef and poultry industry for feed efficiency and control of coccidiosis. Ionophores have a very wide safety margin for humans and cattle; however, dogs, pigs, and horses can become very sick, very quickly if exposed to ionophores. Cardiac muscle, skeletal muscle, and the neurologic system are affected by ionophore toxicity.

VT Department

of Health notice – face masks

As the state begins taking measured steps toward re-opening, we should make wearing cloth face coverings a habit to protect one another.

There are certain places Vermonters are now required to wear coverings over their nose and mouth, including on public transportation, when visiting medical offices, and some other businesses or organizations.

When should you wear a cloth face covering?

Any time you're around other people, such as on a trip to the grocery store, pharmacy, or another business.

When don't you need one?

You don't need a face covering if you are walking or exercising outside and it's not too crowded. But bring one in case you encounter other people and stop to chat. Please use your best judgment. You don't need one at home unless someone is sick.

We all still need to stay at least six feet away from people (even when wearing a mask), practice good hand hygiene, and follow the state's *Stay Home, Stay Safe* guidance.

The advice to wear cloth masks is based on data about how COVID-19 can spread before a person has any symptoms. Wearing a face mask may help keep people from spreading the virus.

Some people should never wear a mask, including children under the age of two and anyone who has trouble breathing or can't remove the mask without assistance.

Medical-grade mask supplies are needed for our health care workers and first responders. Please use cloth or other recommended face coverings for yourself and loved ones.

Find more information visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19>.

For our full guidance on face masks, including how to make one, visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-VDH-mask-guidance.pdf>

Need to buy a face covering? Visit <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering>

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Dr. Mary H. Kintner

and the preventive measures we are taking and why we are taking them. The CDC website is a good one to refer to, as are the websites for the Vermont and New York Health Departments and our local hospitals.

Ask your teens what they know about the virus, and what if anything worries them.

Answer their questions honestly. If you don't know the answer, suggest working together to find the answer online or by calling your or your teen's health care professional.

Don't simply say, "We'll be fine," because that may not be the case. Instead, validate that you are also worried, how hard it is right now to go through this, and then point out what is being done globally, nationally, and even locally at places like the University of Vermont to investigate new medications or vaccines to eliminate this virus.

Focus on preventive strategies. Although we may be tired of hearing about hand washing and physical distancing, we must not stop doing them until the pandemic has run its course.

Parents, don't react if your teens ignore your overtures for conversation. Stay calm, and just wait for the next opportunity, perhaps while watching or hearing something on the news to again initiate a conversation. This allows you to share your own worries and concerns, and in turn, for your teen to share theirs. In this way, your adolescents will realize you are right there to support them as you hope they will be there to support you, too.

Hopefully, tips like these will enable your teens to grow and develop in their understanding of not just what the coronavirus is all about, but in their recognizing that it is a team effort that will allow us to get through it together.

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

Send us your news. Email mtngazette@gmavt.net
or call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6254

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Fire, cheating, scamming,
and lying partner

By Doug Boardman

In 1962 we built a house with four bedrooms because we had a newborn and three others. It was necessary to move out of our two-bedroom condo to something bigger. Despite my working 40 hours a week at Central Hudson and book-keeping, income tax on the side, I still didn't have savings, but the bills were always paid. We built the first house in a new development and picked the largest lot at ¾ acre. I did a lot of work on the house myself, and got plumbing and heating from Eureka Supply, the company I worked for at nights and on weekends.

I borrowed \$1000 for a down payment, had the first mortgage with the bank and a second mortgage with the builder. I respected my father and mother more after I started at Central Hudson because they never stayed home from work unless severely sick, never collected unemployment, and stayed at the same job for 37 years without complaining. That's why I volunteered to work whenever they needed me to, because of others' sickness or retirement.

Eventually, Wilhelmina Lucas offered me full-time employment at Eureka and I accepted, thinking that I wouldn't have to work so many hours. But because I was the manager, I still worked as many hours as I had before with a lot more headaches. Finally, with an investment partner, we were able to purchase the plumbing supply company from Mrs. Lucas. We were 50/50 partners, but I was the one who was working all the time.

My partner spent his time going to antique gun shows during work. He would buy new muskets and deliberately make them look like antiques. He also had horses and went to horse shows. A friend of mine once said a horse show was "a bunch of horses showing their asses to bunch of asses showing their horses." He was also cheating on his wife.

Actually, when I think back, things ran better when my partner wasn't there. He read a book about management and came into the office to ask what I was doing. I told him and he questioned everything I was doing and how I was doing it. Finally, I asked him if he had better ideas, and if not, then he should get out of there and go work at the counter. He said that by questioning me on everything, he was trying to help me think "outside the box." I just looked at him and he left the office.

I've had to think outside and inside the box ever since I invested in my own business. I did the all the books, inventory, sales, and buying, and did deliveries after hours. I met salesmen when I was having my lunch. Every Thursday night we stayed open until 8:00 PM and usually ordered pizza, but sometimes we went out to eat and get a couple drinks. After dinner I would go home, and my partner would go to his girlfriend's house. His wife figured if he was with me, he wouldn't be messing around. This worked for a while, but one night she called my house at 1:00 AM and I answered the phone. She was surprised that I was home and asked if I knew where her husband was. I truthfully told her that I left him at the restaurant bar at 10:00 PM. She asked me if I knew where he was. I said I did not know, which was true, because

I didn't know where his girlfriend lived and didn't want to know. So, I didn't lie, but that was the beginning of a long divorce.

Unfortunately, I put up with a lot of other juvenile behavior because I had to hire kids just out of high school. When they learned to thread pipe, etc., and became of some use to me, they would try to go elsewhere to get more money. I had a couple of guys that I paid more money because they were both good help and I didn't have to train them that much. I found that to be true in lots of business. You train someone from scratch and then when they can be of help, they go to a bigger firm to get more money. When you have a smaller type business, you can't hire seasoned employees and have to train new people.

On July 6, 1974, I got a call that my business was on fire, so I rushed to Eureka and found my whole warehouse was on fire. Our business bordered Arlington Junior High School, with a chain-link fence between us. The fence was a favorite place for kids to sit and smoke. One of them threw his cigarette into a box containing sewer fittings which were made of black tar and paper. Most of the fittings were in cardboard boxes and the tarred surface gave the fire a head start. It got so intense that it blasted through the windows in the warehouse. It was a concrete building; however, the roof was built-up tar. When the fire broke through the windows, it got into the roof and the whole roof came down on various fiberglass tubs, showers, etc. He had double and triple stacked plumbing and heating supplies, and our insurance covered those items, but we were not insured for the hot-air sheet-metal ductwork which I had figured wouldn't burn. But I also hadn't figured on the whole tarred roof coming down on everything. What the fire didn't burn or warp, it covered with tar, so we couldn't even give most of it away.

My partner and I lost \$40,000 each. Our showroom and office were okay, but all things suffered smoke and water damage. We had to throw boxes away and couldn't sell everything without a box and clean all the fittings, so we had to sell at a big discount. The warehouse was a complete loss. We had stacks to the ceiling in most areas and after the fire everything was three or four feet high with the roof on top of it. The insurance agent came, and we went to warehouse to take inventory. Within five minutes of entering the warehouse he got really sick. He turned to me and said to take the inventory and get back to him. So, I did the best I could in trying to figure what was there. To give you an idea of what it was like, when we got the okay to clean up the warehouse, we just got some dumpsters and a Bobcat and plowed out the entire warehouse to the loading dock and into the dumpsters.

There was an empty furniture store about 50 yards from us, and we were able to rent it and eventually sell our old building. Meanwhile, I had my office in a big room (80x100') with an office chair and five filing cabinets. I had nothing to sell, but I still had to stay strong for my family. The firemen never told me any names of the kids that started the fire, and maybe it is just as well. I wasn't feeling forgiving at the time. You do always remember who your true friends are in times like that.

I coached Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball, and my wife helped out at the school near us. We were well liked and

respected in the neighborhood. After the fire, my dad and mom came down from Vermont to Poughkeepsie to evaluate the situation and to ask what I was going to do. I had five people who actually came to help me clean things up and clean faucets, etc. so I had something to sell. I had some other friends that asked me if they could help, but never came to help. I had other friends that came to my house. At first, I thought they really cared, but they came to ask if my business was going bankrupt, or if I was going to sell and move.

We had a secretary for a while that my partner hired, and not for her secretarial skills. I would finish typing for her when she left for the day because she made so many errors. She would answer the phone and file. One day, she was on her lunch hour and a guy came in and wanted a job application form. There were a lot of people that would come into to get a form to basically have me sign the form but didn't want to work. The rule was that you have to apply for a job at three places and get turned down so you could get unemployment compensation. I looked in the drawer under state and "A" and couldn't find anything, so I told him he would have to come back. You could tell he really didn't want a job.

When our secretary got back, I asked her where the job applications were. She said she filed them under "Z" because Z was empty. I said she must not spell really well because if she could, then it would be "zapplications!" Anyway, she came to Eureka later that morning and said to me, "I guess this means I don't have a job?" I said, "Yes. You don't. I am out of business." I didn't let her know that I was going to fire her anyway. That was the first "hit" as they say. Then come five different manufacturer's salesmen saying, "We heard you had a fire." Instead of supporting me, they cut off my credit and said you have to pay C.O.D. I told them, "No I don't," and said, "I'll be back, but not with you guys."

We fixed the building back up, but meanwhile we rented a big building and stayed in business. Sitting in the middle of this huge area with my file cabinets, my chair, and with nothing on the shelves, I really felt like I had reached the bottom. Then the doors opened, and this couple walked in and asked if I was open for business. I said yes, but as you can see, all I have at the moment are catalogs. They said they were building a new house and want to buy all their stuff from me. I turned over a couple of five-gallon pails to sit on and gave my chair to the lady and got out the faucet, fixture, and heating books. We spent a couple hours together and I ended up with a \$12,000 order for the complete house, with a big deposit.

That was the start of my comeback, and I owe it all to my beautiful wife and family. I always had her to come home to, so no matter how bad my day was, I could go home, and she would be there to comfort me. As long as we were together, we would get through it.

We sold our old building and built shelving in our rented building. We cleaned a lot of fittings and sold boxed stuff that only had water and smoke damage. We never went bankrupt, and for a while we had to pay C.O.D. But we got our business credit back, and never had any personal charge cards denied.

Next column: double shots, big comeback, new partners, night stealer

It is spring

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

At least, I think it is. When I started this essay, the season was what it should be: the first warmth after a dismal winter. But, although we trust the development of the rotations of earth and sky, by the time I edit this, we will be back in the haggard browns and dead yellow grass of late winter. Robert Frost, from his years in New Hampshire and Vermont, said it best:

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.

You know how it is with an April day

When the sun is out and the wind is still,

And you're one month on in the middle of May.

But if you so much as dare to speak,

A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,

A wind comes off a frozen peak,

And you're two months back in the middle of March.

Here in Underhill Center, there is no green grass... sometimes a shadow feels green across a mowed lawn, but the fields are soggy and sloppy with snow melt. We hope for green and truly know that it will come, but still yearn for a few more positive signs of outright hues and colors. The brooks are roaring with a last hurrah to snow; the dull Gold-

finches will invade the feeders, chirping at the loyal Chickadees and sending them back to a grandfather pine, splintered by a stern winter wind. Snow still crowds around houses where it slid off the roofs when the western sun crossed over. There are piles by the roads, coated with sand and dirt from the last plowing. So how can we state, with joyful certainty: "Hey, it's Spring!" The sun helps out today, warming and loosening piles of maple leaves over the garden, turning benevolently to allow us chilled and grounded gardeners to attack the sloppy leftovers with rakes.

The winds tell me more about spring than they were probably meant to convey. I have never been convinced or even interested in the pronouncements about wines: "with notes of raspberry, a hint of apricot, and a finish of oak." But the spring wind does have a touch of warmth, with a hint of chills from the mountain, and a finish of wet earth. There is a mix of seasons: spring standing on tiptoe to reach the sun; snowbanks dribbling small rivulets into translucent puddles... perhaps in the back woods, turning into vernal pools fit for a salamander to thaw out. E.E. Cummings with his warm, pleasantly twisted phrases: "in Just spring, when the world is mud-luscious... and it's spring, when the world is puddle-wonderful."

Blue was never so blue! The sun climbs to the tops of the mountains... a simple powerful contrast of blue and white.

Soon, if I remember correctly, there will be a shy greening feel to the lower reaches of the forests that start up into the hills.

I don't look for flowers... way too early for that hope. And yet, when I drive Skunk Hollow Road, there are the tiny yellow dots of Coltsfoot that cling closely to the heat of the road. Not yet for Shad Bush: a 20 foot shrub that holds small white blossoms the size of stray snow crystals. It doesn't like deep woods, so waits on the edges for its one time to shine. Named by the first settlers moving onto the land, for the Shad - a salt water fish, that spawns in the Connecticut River, just when the first blossoms appear. Later, after the wind has scattered these fragile flowers, will come bright red berries, fought over by housewives starved for something colorful and sweet. Their adversaries will be flocks of Cedar Waxwings who can strip a bush quite thoroughly. These small trees are also called Service Berry. According to fable, they blossom throughout Appalachia about the time the itinerant pastors made their trips into the shadowed coves and small settlements of Virginia and the Carolinas, to hold services for those congregants who had died over the winter.

We look for the small changes that are Spring. And then, like a surprise birthday shout, it is here. How could we have doubted!

Centennial of Women's Suffrage
symposium on demand

Women's suffrage was a complicated and far-reaching event. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, in partnership with League of Women Voters of Vermont, the Vermont Commission on Women, and the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance, invites the public to explore this topic in a new, four-part virtual symposium, The Centennial of Women's Suffrage: One Event, Many Perspectives.

Debuting live at ethanallenhomestead.org/suffragesymposium on Saturday, May 16 and available on-demand afterward at the same online location, the four symposium video presentations set the historical context and tell the stories of the suffrage movement and its impact for African American women, for Indigenous women in federally recognized tribes, for Abenaki women in Vermont, and in the role of education for women and girls.

Kathryn Dungy presents on "...the courage of their convictions: African American Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage." Kathryn's talk discusses the role African-Ameri-

can women played in the struggle for women's suffrage, though they would not realize these benefits until many years later, and in many places still struggle for them. Kathryn is a professor of the social and cultural history of Latin America and the Caribbean; gender and race identity; the Atlantic World, and Antebellum U.S. at Saint Michael's College.

Beverly Little Thunder presents "On the Shoulders of our Ancestors and Mother Earth." Beverly discusses how Indigenous women have been marginalized and their voices removed through colonization, violence, and misogyny. She emphasizes the dire need for women to exercise leadership on our planet. Beverly is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Lakota Band from North Dakota, and travels widely to speak and share her traditions and work.

Melody Walker presents on "Navigating Freedom in Two Worlds." Melody examines political agency and the importance of women, children, and all living creatures having that agency in society, and in being noticed and heard when exercising it. Melody is an educator, activist, artist, and citizen of the Elnu Abenaki Band of Ndakinna. She is former chair of

the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs.

Susan Ouellette presents on "Emma Willard, Women's Education, and the Campaign for Women's Suffrage." Susan's talk looks at Emma Willard's trailblazing work, and how education played a major role in women expressing their political voice and advocacy. Susan is a professor of Early America at Saint Michael's College. Her recently published book *An Extraordinary Ordinary Woman* features research and analysis of the diary of Phebe Orvis, a 19th Century Bristol resident with ties to Vergennes and Middlebury.

This event is presented by the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Vermont, the Vermont Commission on Women, and the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance, and with special thanks to Burlington Cars, 802 Cars, One Day in July financial advisors, and People's United Bank for their generous support. View the symposium at ethanallenhomestead.org/suffragesymposium or on the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum's YouTube page.

COMING EVENTS

VIRTUAL AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED

Friday, May 22

18th Annual Farewell Reunion, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, <https://youngtraditionvermont.org/events/18th-farewell-reunion-featuring-the-zeichner-trio-the-youth-commission-ensemble/>. The Zeichner Trio is a family band based in central Vermont. The siblings play traditional Irish and Old-Time/Appalachian music, on fiddle, uilleann bagpipes, five- and four-string banjos, tin whistle, vocals, and Celtic harp. They have performed at festivals, concerts, and private events across the state. Yasi, Louli, and Oliver will be at home in Northfield and Romy and Ben at home in Cornwall, while the rest of us watch from wherever we choose. Proceeds benefit the Tom Sustic Fund. Join us and help support our year-round efforts to assist families with children in life-altering situations at UVM Medical Center in Burlington and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover. You don't have pay to watch, but we're suggesting a \$10 donation: <https://youngtraditionvermont.org/contact/support-ytv/> or mail to YTV, P.O. Box 164, Fairfax, VT 05454. More information is available from mark.sustic@gmail.com. Link to YTV's Facebook page @youngtraditionvermont.

Sunday-Tuesday, May 24-26

Stowe Jewish Film Festival: Crescendo. A world famous conductor takes on the challenge of forming an Israeli-Palestinian youth orchestra in an attempt to create harmony out of discord. Available to view from home over the three day period. A program of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe. Free! To register to view the film, go online to <http://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival/>.

Wednesday, May 27

COVE's Coronavirus Conference Call, 2:00 PM, information at <https://vermontelders.org/covid/>. Community of Vermont Elders (COVE) is hosting this "Navigating COVID-19" call to discuss scams, state policies, and other concerns. Join COVE every other Wednesday for a discussion of the latest information about scams, fraud, and general safety. We will share what we know and do our best to answer your questions. Learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones during this public health crisis. Have questions you'd like to ask ahead of time? Need help

getting connected? Email LauraB@vermontelders.org or Marichel@vermontelders.org. Join by phone by calling 408-428-9388, access code 298 225 125. Join online via WebEx: <https://meetingsamer2.webex.com/meetingsamer2/j.php?MTID=m04dfabdfb36d8de0a475ffa5d14fa048>, meeting number 298 225 125, password *cove802*. If you weren't able to make the call, you can listen to the recording of the April 15 conference call at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huiesS31PbE&t=630s>.

Thursday, May 28

Send a card for a 100th birthday! Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 social gatherings, friends and family will not be able to celebrate her birthday with a party. Please consider sending her a card and celebrating that way. We are actually believing that she will get 100 cards for her 100th! Won't you please be a part of that? If you can't get out to purchase a card, make a card! Just add a note of how you know her or what your connection is. Spread the word, spread the love, and make this happen! Carol Locke, P.O. Box 453, Jeffersonville, VT 05464. Thank you!

Sunday-Tuesday, May 31-June 2

Stowe Jewish Film Festival: My Polish Honeymoon. The highly emotional subject of Jewish tourism in Poland is surprisingly dealt with as a romantic-comedy seen through the eyes of a young couple seeking a connection to their ancestral home. Available to view from home over the three day period. A program of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe. Free! To register to view the film, go online to <http://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival/>.

Wednesday, June 3

Vermont Specialty Food Association (VSFA) Spring Meeting, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, <https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/events/>. Additionally, VSFA has launched an eCommerce series that began Wednesday, May 13 to lead into the association's spring meeting. The series is an effort to harness business education resources and offer information and support through webinars for specialty food producers, retailers, and the small business community. The Spring Meeting and webinar series are open to all, VSFA and Vermont Retail and Grocers Association members and non-members. For more information and registration, see <https://bit.ly/vsfawebinars>.

The Spring Meeting will feature two informative presentations: *Business Planning for the Unknown*, presented by Lawrence Miller, Principal, Five Vine Consulting; and *The Future of Wholesale*, presented by Allison Ball, founder, Allison Ball Consulting. This event is free to VSFA and VRGA members; \$10 non-member fee. To learn more about their speakers, sessions, and registration, see <https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/events/vsfa-virtual-spring-meeting>. Registration in advance is required for all VSFA events. Find information for all of these virtual events on VSFA's website at <https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/events/>. To learn more about the work VSFA does, visit their website at www.vtspecialtyfoods.org, follow them on Facebook & Instagram, or call their office at 802-839-1930.

Thursday, June 4-Friday, June 12

Slow Living Summit Virtual Conference, 1:00 PM each day M-F, <https://www.slowlivingsummit.org>. As climate change transforms the planet and affects our seasons, species, weather patterns, and water — the Slow Living Summit will explore how the large beverage, food, and local producers are utilizing new innovative techniques in their practices of production, farming, and agricultural practices that will help reduce climate change. Keynote speakers Bill McKibben (350.org), Frances Moore Lappé (author of *Diet for a Small Planet*), Tom Newmark (The Carbon Underground, and more), and Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. (biologist, author). Panel discussions on Cooperative Ownership, Climate Change & Policy, Regenerative Farming, Social Justice & Climate Change. Speakers too numerous to list. Hosts Lisa Harris (Executive Director, Strolling of the Heifers), Peter Doran and Jim Verzino (Windham Grows), and Jennifer Brandt (Slow Living Summit Coordinator).

Sunday-Tuesday, June 7-9

Stowe Jewish Film Festival: The Samuel Project. Art helps bridge a generational and historic divide as a talented teen helps his grandfather relate his traumatic wartime experience through an animation project. Available to view from home over the three day period. A program of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe. Free! To register to view the film, go online to <http://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival/>.

LRSWMD announcements

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District & Lamoille Soil serves the towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morrisville, Stowe, Waterville, Wolcott, and Worcester. Contact information: 29 Sunset Dr., Morrisville; 802-888-7317; www.lrswmd.org.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Thank YOU for flexing with us and maintaining your patience as you visit our facilities and interact with our unwavering site attendants. Please visit www.lrswmd.org for the most up to date hours of operation at our drop-off locations, main office and Lamoille Soil compost facility.

NEW FUNDING PROGRAM AVAILABLE: July 1, 2020 marks the date when food scraps can no longer be disposed of as trash in Vermont. Recognizing that this may be a new behavior for some of our District members, the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District is offering a limited funding opportunity to our twelve member towns. The goal of this grant program (up to \$500 per town) is to boost District-wide participation of member communities in reducing and/or diverting food scraps away from the landfill. Find all program details at <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/2015-03-22-04-24-34/communities>.

LAMOILLE SOIL COMPOST: We accept food scraps from residents at our six drop-off facilities and commercial generators deliver organic waste directly to the Lamoille Soil composting facility located in Johnson. Lamoille soil compost is produced using an aerated static pile (ASP) process where air is forced through stationary piles resulting in a high-quality finished compost.

The compost process is monitored continuously to ensure proper temperatures are attained to destroy pathogens and weed seeds. Lamoille Soil compost is tested for human pathogens, heavy metals, nutrient content, and use suitability, and meets all State of Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation standards. Lamoille Soil was created specifically to capture local, resource-rich organic materials and retain them in the community as a high-quality soil amendment for all garden and landscape projects.

Available by the cubic yard (\$50/yd): Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM without an appointment. Email compost@lrswmd.org if you need to pick up outside of these times. Check or cash only. <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/lamoille-soil>

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION: As the Stay Home, Stay Safe and COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to blanket us in uncertainty, we urge you to visit <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/hazardous-waste> to stay informed of the status of the Saturday, June 13 collection in Craftsbury.

IS THE JULY 1 FOOD SCRAP BAN ON YOUR MIND? If you said "Yes" or if you have other questions about the Universal Recycling & Composting Law and how it pertains to you, please send your questions to: outreach@lrswmd.org or executivedirector@lamoillechamber.com between now and Monday, June 8.

On Tuesday, June 16, "Zoom In" to hear your questions answered by a panelist of experts on the subject matter. More details of this co-sponsored event between the LRSWMD and the Lamoille Chamber of Commerce can be found on our website: <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/2015-03-22-04-24-34/businesses>.

Essex Drop-Off Center has reopened with new hours/fees

On Saturday, May 16, the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) reopened the Essex Drop-Off Center (DOC) with new limits on materials and quantities, new flat fees, and new hours of operation. The Essex location joins the Williston DOC as the second CSWD facility to reopen. All other CSWD Drop-Off Centers remain closed until further notice. For current information on open facilities, accepted materials, limits and fees, please visit <https://cswd.net/doc>.

Hours of operation at the Essex Drop-Off Center, 218 Colchester Rd., Essex Junction, are as follows:

- Tuesday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- Thursday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- Saturday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- CLOSED Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

Materials accepted, limits, fees:

- Household trash, up to eight (45-gallon) barrels or bags; \$10 (1-4 barrels/bags) or \$20 (5-8)
- Blue-bin recycling (in any container) included in trash fee; \$10 to \$20 without trash
- Food scraps (30 gallon max); included in the trash fee, \$10 without trash
- Leaf and yard trimmings (one pickup load per day); no fee
- Natural and untreated wood (equal to four 30-gal barrels/bags per day — NOT in bags); no fee
- NO TRAILERS or dumping mechanisms will be allowed

Safety guidelines:

- We request that all customers wear masks and stay six feet apart.
- Vehicles will be metered into the facility.
- CSWD chose the Essex DOC as the second location to reopen because:
 - The driveway can handle a long line without backing up onto the main roadway.
 - The site is large enough to reconfigure with extra stations for customers to dispose of trash and recycling to maximize throughput while providing space for physical distancing.
 - Essex is our most visited site, serving a large segment of our customers.

"Maintaining safe operations for our customers and staff is at the heart of our reopening plan," states CSWD Executive Director Sarah Reeves. "Beyond that, we are weighing how to satisfy the needs of customers in all areas of Chittenden County with more open locations and options to safely and economically manage items they can't put in the trash or recycling. Like the Governor, we're carefully monitoring the impact of each reopening to ensure we can sustain the next phase. We look forward to providing more options for our residents in the coming weeks."

Third Jericho Town History, 1963-2013

Whatever became of this, anyway? Jericho's third history has been nearly completed and ready for printing. Remaining to be finished up is the genealogy section. Initially folks were asked to complete a questionnaire, then later to provide a family history in narrative form. Many of you who submitted a questionnaire have already been contacted about the narrative option. If you'd prefer the latter, but I've somehow missed you, let's hear. Similarly, if you're one of those who intended a submission but haven't gotten around to it, here's your last chance!

Please contact stuart.alexander@comcast.net or 899-3111.

SWFI offers free training for eligible parents

The Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI), working with Vermont Technical College, provides no-cost training and support services to eligible parents seeking a career with benefits in the manufacturing sector.

Free SWFI training is available for eligible parents via a U.S. Department of Labor grant. SWFI aims to help working families get the skills and support they need to find better paying jobs. SWFI participants receive:

- No cost training in manufacturing. We'll help you get the skills you need to find a career with good wages.
- Support services while in enrolled in classes. We can help you with childcare, transportation, and more.
- Extra class support. We'll check in along the way to help you succeed.

To be eligible for SWFI, you must be a custodial parent who:

- is 17 years of age or older;
- has at least one child under the age of 14, or at least one child with a disability or developmental delay who is older than 13;
- is eligible to work in the U.S.

A custodial parent is:

- a married parent;
- a single parent with full or partial custody;
- an actively parenting stepparent;
- a divorced parent with full or partial custody;
- a foster parent;
- a legal guardian with custody;
- a grandparent with custody.

Available training includes: Certified Production Technician training (Tuesday, May 26, online), Adv. Mfg. Apprenticeship (Thursday, May 28, Williston), AWS welding (Monday, June 15, So. Burlington), and CNC machining (online). Email swfi@vtc.edu for details.

To apply, complete an online form at <https://www.vtc.edu/academics-continuing-education-workforce-development-programs/strengthening-working-families-0> or call 802-879-2348.

Looking for something to do in Cambridge?

Looking for something of value to do with your time? Want a service learning opportunity for you and possibly your child? Do you like the feeling of accomplishing something and especially when it helps others?

Our Cambridge Area Rotary Club and the Cambridge Trails Committee have opportunities to serve your community in the month of May. You can help at any convenient time for you during this month and do so as you keep safe.

These projects can be done by you alone or with your family. All you have to do is sign up by going to the Sign Up Genius link below, or you can call or email Peter Ingvaldstad, 802-793-7210, pingvaldstad@gmail.com.

Cambridge Junction Trail Head Maintenance Projects: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f45a9ac29a1f58-cambridge1>

Cambridge Community Center Trail Head Maintenance Projects: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45A9AC29A1F58-cambridge2>

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

DRML started curbside pick-up on Tuesday, May 12. The library will be offering curbside pick-up Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 – 5:30 PM, and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please email or call us with your requests. Staff will place items outside on our bench on the day you would like to pick them up, in a bag with your patron ID number on the front. Your ID number is located on the front of your library card following the “U2.” Only items that DRML owns will be available for pick-up. Our our catalog is available at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com/> — check here for items that the library owns. You can renew your items and your card over the phone. If you are a Jericho or Underhill resident and would like a library card, staff an issue a temporary card to use until we reopen to the public and you can claim your permanent card. When you come to pick up your items, please remember to abide by social distancing guidelines and wait for any other patrons who are currently picking up their items to return to their car before approaching. Also, while we know it has been a long time since you have seen some of your friends and neighbors, please do not use the parking lot as a socializing space. If anyone on staff becomes ill, this service will be discontinued immediately. Please use this service only if you are well.

The book drop is emptied daily, so feel free to return your items there, but only if you are feeling well. Please note that your items will not be checked in right away; we will be quarantining all returned items for at least 24 hours before returning them to circulation.

Coronavirus Community Archive Project — Libraries serve many functions in a community, and one of those is as a repository of a community’s history and experiences. We’d like to hear how your life has changed this year due to the novel Coronavirus. Send a blurb or photographs that illustrate your experience to program_assistant@drml.org. I hope to compile submissions into a resource that will give a very personal sense of how our community has been changed by this historical event.

Virtual Story Time for Preschool and Early Elementary — Join Ms. Abbey any time on YouTube for a virtual story time, at <http://tiny.cc/DRMLYouth>. New story times are posted to the DRML Facebook page Wednesdays at 10:30 AM.

Online Reading Program for Preschool to Teens: Check out our new Reader Zone program for kids and teens. Track reading and earn badges. It’s free and easy to start. Sign up at www.readerzone.com or through the app. Join the group using code 8b36b.

All our online services are up and running on our webpage, www.drml.org. As we find new and exciting things we will post them on the webpage and on our Facebook page.

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

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

RB Digital offers 9000 audiobooks and e-books! Download to your own computer, MP3 player, iPod, phone, or iPad using RB Digital’s website or mobile app. You will need the barcode from your active library card to register and create an account. The world’s most respected professors are just a click away! The Great Courses are available for immediate download via RB Digital. To register: Enter the barcode on the back of your DRML card. Choose a username and password. Enter personal information as requested. After initial registration, use your username and password for sign-in. To use: download the RB Digital media manager for desktop or the RB Digital app for mobile devices. Search for and/or click on a selection. Click “checkout.” Download audio books as desired; click play. Download ebooks as desired, click read. Return books by clicking on return. Please note: in order to access RB Digital, you will need a current library card (blue, expires in 2021). If you need to renew your library card, please contact rawsonlibrary@drml.org.

Cool links and free Internet hotspots and information: With many workers in isolation, Internet access has become more essential than ever before. But what if you don’t have access to WiFi at home, or your Internet service is vulnerable to outages? Of course, you can always access the DRML WiFi from our parking lot, but here you will find a complete list of free internet hotspots around the state: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/public-wifi-hotspots-vermont>.

Mango Languages, which allows patrons access to conversational language learning lessons in 22 languages. Be sure to create a profile with your email address when you log in for the first time. Our access to Mango Languages is made possible through a partnership with the Green Mountain Library Consortium. To register: Enter the barcode on the back of your DRML card. Choose Guest Access. In the upper right-hand corner click on the arrow next to “Hello Guest.” Choose a name, email, and password to sign up. To use: Click on a language. Choose a course and click on “Get Started.” Please note: in order to access Mango Languages, you will need a current library card (blue, expires in 2021). If you need to renew your library card, please contact the library — rawsonlibrary@drml.org.

Print & Play Games! What better way to pass some time right now than to gather with your household and play together? But if you are sick of all the games you have right now, fear not! The American Library Association has compiled a list of print and play games — free games you can assemble with a printer and some supplies you have around the house. This is a great opportunity to get crafty as you put together a fun new game. Go online to <https://games.ala.org/print-play-games/>. Don’t have access to a printer? Try the Board Game Remix Kit, a PDF that explains how to use some classic games — Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Clue, and Scrabble — to play interesting new variants or completely new games! See <https://bgrk.itch.io/the-board>

game-remix-kit.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Until further notice, the Jericho Town Library is closed, as we grapple with the spread of COVID-19. Please know that this action was taken to limit the exposure of our library patrons and community members to the virus. These decisions were made in support of the current initiatives suggested by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in an effort to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus. We love our community and we want to do the absolute utmost that we can to ensure your wellbeing.

While the library is closed to the public, we are here to help however we can. Need a library card to access free downloadable ebooks and audio books? We can sign you up over the phone or via email! Need help figuring out how to access on-line resources? We’ve got you covered! And be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular resource updates, including educational recommendations for kiddos and families navigating their time at home.

As a one-person staff, and with looming concerns about transmitting the virus via physical library materials, we are not currently able to offer curbside, home delivery, or pick-up. Please keep your currently checked-out library materials at home. We are a no late fee library, but have also suspended immediate due dates, and have enacted auto-renewals for the items you already have checked out.

Keep being kind to each other, keep reading, and keep washing your hands. With library love, Lisa Buckton, Director, Jericho Town Library

Jericho Town Library hours: Mondays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information on programs and library services, please visit our website www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or call 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Library is not open and does not have a date as to when that will happen. We are still receiving messages asking when books are due back. If you are getting messages saying that your books are overdue, you can ignore them for now. If you want to return your book, you can put it in the book drop. For those asking for us to renew books, it may be awhile since the staff is not in the library regularly anymore.

If you are wondering what your Overdrive/Libby information is, your login is your library card number and your pin is your last name all lowercase. If you do not know your library card number, we can look it up for you, but it may take us a while. Please be patient; we are overwhelmed with emails and messages.

For those that have asked if we can pull specific books for them, unfortunately that is not an option for us at this time.

Most importantly, we miss all of you so much! Not being able to see your faces and interact with our community is very sad for our staff. We hope you are all safe and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198,194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; thevarnum@gmail.com; www.varnumlibrary.org. Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Westford Public Library is closed. While we close with a heavy heart, we know we are doing our part in keeping our community safe.

Community Coloring Project during the month of May! Link to the coloring sheet at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wN05dZiGTWk81UzLu3rVT6fdVCYKZZE>. (There is also a link on the top page of the library’s website, <https://westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com>.) Talented Westford artist India Tresselt has created a one-of-a-kind image for this project. Copies of this coloring sheet are available on our Facebook page, Front Porch Forum, our website, and available for pickup curbside. Color this design with whatever you have at home, then place it in your window if you live near a road — or waterproof it with tape, a zip top bag, laminate it, or with a sheet protector and place it in your yard, by the road, near your mailbox for everyone to see. Kids as well as adults should get coloring! Color more than one! Show your community spirit — leave it up all month!

Services offered by the Westford Public Library during our closure:

The library’s WiFi will remain on 24 hours a day. It can be accessed via the parking lot, around the building, or across the street on the Common. Please use social distancing.

Please disregard all late notices, renewals, etc. All library materials can be returned via the dropbox, if you choose. If you are unable or unwell, please keep them at home.

Library cards can be renewed or created via email or the phone.

Curbside pickup of library materials: Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Wednesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Find the order form to choose your materials for pick up on the library website, <https://westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com>. Items can also be ordered over the phone: 878-5639, leave a message.

Virtual Storytime! Ms. Bree will post a fun story time on Thursdays.

- First episode: <https://youtu.be/syAXrq60acY>
- Second episode: <https://youtu.be/g95CkkE4FDs>
- Third episode: <https://youtu.be/v0yVXIKrXVI>
- April 16: *Cats!* <https://youtu.be/iCTbB4bRU1I>
- April 23: *Trucks.* <https://youtu.be/xarR5aoyAy0>
- May 7: This one is from the heart — it’s OK to be sad once in a while and it’s OK to miss your community! <https://youtu.be/Le715zGMSxY>
- May 15: *Dinosaurs!* <https://youtu.be/B1ka6C2y0AY>

May’s Adult Book Group, Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Location? Depending on local restrictions, we will be meeting either in person at the library, or digitally. Many of you expressed difficulty using Google Meet, so we will be using Zoom; the library will send out a link once we know more information about meeting guidelines. The book will be [Elephant Company](#) by Vicki Constantine Croke. There are physical copies of the book at the library; you can request one via the form on our website and then pick it up during one of our curbside pickups (Wednesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM or Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM). The book is also available as an ebook on Libby, but there will be a wait involved (the library has purchased a “Westford only” copy, but it will likely be checked out by someone). This book is also free to listen to as part of Audible’s trial period. Questions? Email Bree, westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Free Downloadable Ebooks and Audiobooks: Libby/Overdrive, free with your library card. Don’t know your number, card expired, don’t have a card? No problem! Can all be done over email. Here are two helpful links:

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

Project Gutenberg is a library of over 60,000 free eBooks (and some audiobooks), mostly older and classic titles. No library card needed. You can read in your browser or download onto a device at <https://www.gutenberg.org>.

The National Emergency Library has access to 1.4 million books with no waitlists! No library card is needed. Online at <https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary>.

Junior Library Guild at Home: unlimited access to read books online from any device. There is no limit to the number of users, and titles enter and exit the digital stream regularly, so there are always new picks available. Using a computer? Usernames and passwords are not needed! Simply click your book-stream choice. Streams are elementary, middle school, and high school. Many of the high school titles have cross-over interest for adults. No library card needed. Online at: <https://www.juniorlibraryguild.com>.

Universal Class — over 500 online learning classes (for fun or credit) covering art, business, language, and kids can even take a babysitting course! Online at <https://vermontstate.universalclass.com/barcode-login.htm?enter+code&loginspecial=>

Document created by School Librarian Beth Shelley and Public Librarian Bree Drapa, highlighting ways school aged children can get access to books. Online at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ka2m3uOaX1bCZdmsiiu6sG146LwziWGcWY0X-T9knHg/edit?usp=sharing>

A comprehensive (and exhausting) list of homeschooling and teaching from home resources put together by the Vermont School Library Association, online at https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-IvTE39Uh5GIvqcdijSDz36hIviH0whBRndWWuUN5LCSO54NoEhQ3wkU6isTjUUBzWaaJfShHsHXSBdG6/pub?urp=gmail_link

Mo Willems’ Lunch Doodles: New episode of doodling with everyone’s favorite children’s book author and illustrator. Episodes are live at 1:00 PM, and archived to watch later. Online at kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems

Famous authors and celebrities reading wonderful children’s books: <https://www.storylineonline.net/>

Library Hours: Wednesday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook. 878-5639; Bree Drapa, Librarian.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

We had been offering curbside pick-up of physical items. We have now discontinued that service until further notice. If you have any items out right now, don’t worry. Please hold on to them, if you can. In the meantime, please visit www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org and explore various offerings on the website.

All patrons may set up an account with GMLC Overdrive (<https://gmlc.overdrive.com>) and download ebooks and audiobooks with a valid card. If your card expired, please send us an email with your current contact information (name, address, phone, email) and we can get it renewed. Overdrive comes with a very helpful app called Libby. We recommend downloading to whatever device you’re using. (It’s not yet available on Kindles.) If you need some help navigating with Libby, this booklet should help: <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/libby-booklet.pdf>. Let us know if you need more help.

Are you missing storytimes at the library? While no digital display can replace the incomparable Wendy, Jennifer, and LJ, in the meantime please visit the Library’s Youth Services page, <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/youth-services/>. We have provided links to Tumblebooks, a read-aloud platform for all ages and to Scholastic’s Learn at Home packages (<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>) from grades pre-K to high school. We’ve also created a link to the Big List of Children’s Authors (https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm_content=1584565321&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwARIMy1AdDzO8OVmaKDQAdQUAU5fk2LHghASUfm-ZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc). There are also many links to authors of young adult books. Vermont’s Children’s Literacy Foundation has also provided an extensive collection of Literacy Resources for Learning (<https://wordpress.com/read/feeds/45713222/posts/2638693961>). You can’t check out a book from the library right now, but do check out all of these great resources. We’ll continue to add materials for entertainment, education and enrichment!

Are you or someone in the family home from school and needing help with various subjects or certification programs? LearningExpress is a highly acclaimed eLearning platform that provides support to students and professionals for academic skill-building, tutorials, occupational exploration, stan-

Library News continued on page 8

FROM MONTPELIER

Chittenden 8-3 legislative report, May 4 and 10

By Robert Bancroft
State Representative, Chittenden-8-3

May 4

Wednesday morning the House held a caucus of the whole. (Whole House caucuses are for informational purposes and there are no votes on legislation.) The morning caucus discussed a resolution and two bills that the body would be voting on in the afternoon.

The resolution, H.R.19, extended the House of Representatives declaration of a state of emergency until May 31, 2020. It was passed unanimously, in the afternoon session.

The first bill to be considered was S.182, which dealt with emergency medical services and public safety in response to COVID-19. It eliminated certain credentialing requirements for emergency medical personnel and extended ambulance license terms from one to three years. There was a provision to extend the licenses for electricians and plumbers up for renewal to September 30, 2020. Another provision allowed county sheriffs to use reserve funds for emergency needs. The bill passed its second and third readings after a suspension of the rules. I voted in the affirmative.

The second bill to come before the body was S.333, which establishes a moratorium on eviction and foreclosure actions during the COVID-19 emergency. After some discussion, it passed its second reading and the third reading was scheduled to be taken up on Friday. I voted in the affirmative.

The House reconvened Friday morning. The first order of business was to vote on the third reading of S.333. I voted in the affirmative. The next order of business was S.344, which gives municipalities the temporary authority to (1) extend the date property taxes are due; (2) decrease or waive penalties, interest, or fees for late payment of taxes; and (3) reduce the municipal (NOT education) property tax rate. It is entirely up to each municipality to decide whether it wants to exercise this temporary authority. The bill passed its second reading and its third reading, after a suspension of the rules. I voted in the affirmative.

On Thursday, the Commerce and Economic Development Committee held a morning and an afternoon video session. The primary focus of both meetings was to discuss possible legislation which would provide grants to assist manufacturers willing to quickly shift to the production of critical needed personal protection equipment (PPE), such as cloth face masks, surgical masks, and isolation gowns. The committee heard from several Vermont manufacturers, representatives from the Vermont Manufacturing and Extension Center, and the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development. It was decided to draft and introduce a bill. The committee will need to do some further research before giving the bill its final approval.

May 10

The House met on Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday's session dealt with the introduction of several bills and some announcements. It was a relatively short session followed by a Caucus of the Whole. The primary purpose of this caucus was to discuss the bills coming before the body on Friday.

Three bills were taken up on Friday. The first was H.947, which will give municipal legislative bodies temporary authority, if they choose, to adopt the municipal tax rate for the next fiscal year, provided that the municipality has not held an annual or special meeting to adopt the municipal tax rate. For the most part this will allow school boards to set the next year's tax rate if they have not already held a vote. With the exception of Brattleboro, I believe all of the school boards

that have yet to vote on their budget have made plans to conduct a vote, such as the case with the Essex Westford School District. The bill passed its second and third readings after a suspension of the rules. I voted in favor of the bill.

The second bill to come before the body was H.948, which allows municipalities to hold any quasi-judicial proceeding through electronic means and suspends the requirements for certain in-person inspections of property subject to an appeal. Several members expressed concern with the provision that allows the suspension of in-person property inspections. I did vote to pass the bill on its second reading, with the expectation there will be an amendment when it came up for its third reading next week.

The third bill addressed Friday was H.950, which permits remote witnessing of advance directives for a limited period of time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill passed its second reading and its third reading, after a suspension of the rules. I voted in the affirmative.

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) met on Wednesday and Thursday. The Wednesday session dealt with extending the July 1, 2020 sunset of a preemption exemption for the regulation of transportation network companies. The exemption dealt with the provision in 23 V.S.A. § 754(b), which gives the City of Burlington the authority to pass more stringent regulation of transportation networks such as Uber and Lyft. During Friday's meeting, an extension of the sunset to July 1, 2022 was approved by the committee.

The second topic taken up on Wednesday was an explanation of unemployment insurance (UI) "Penalty Weeks." Individuals who received excessive UI benefits are required to refund the excess. If they do not, the next time they apply for UI benefits the overpayments will be deducted from their benefits, "Penalty Weeks." In some cases, these "Penalty Weeks" are due to fraudulent claims.

In addition to agreeing to extend the transportation network sunset on Friday, the committee took up S.346 for discussion, which calls for the creation of COVID-19 Essential Employees Hazard Grant Program. As currently proposed the program would have up to \$60 million to pay out to individuals who worked during the state of emergency declared by the Governor and interact with the public. Examples of these positions are individuals who work in grocery stores, pharmacies, janitorial services, home and residential personal care, and first responders. The maximum amount an individual could receive is \$2000. The CEDC will be taking more testimony in the next week. There are many questions that need to be answered before the bill is ready for prime time.

Legislative update COVID edition

By Christopher Pearson
State Senator, Chittenden District

Zoom calls are the norm as legislators work to protect communities, end the outrageous unemployment backlog, and govern remotely.

We are committed to rescuing the state colleges but how? I say it's vital we develop a long-term solution for young people, businesses, and our workforce.

Meanwhile, how to tackle a \$400 million deficit in next year's revenue?

The Fed's generous \$1.25 billion relief package has enough strings attached to tie us up for months. But investing in working families, broadband, food security, and diversified local ag infrastructure is a must.

For now, Montpelier's got more questions than answers. Stay safe!

Legislative work on COVID-19 response

By Theresa Wood
State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

The last two weeks have seen several bills related to the COVID-19 response see action. A brief description of each follows here:

H.950 — this bill enables remote witnessing of advance directives for documents prepared between February 15, 2020-June 30, 2021; advance directives ordinarily require the physical presence of witnesses.

H.948 — during the state of emergency, this bill authorizes municipalities to conduct quasi-judicial hearings via electronic means and removes the requirement for physical inspection of property that is the subject of these hearings.

H.947 — during the state of emergency, this bill authorizes the governing body of a municipality (e.g., a select board) to adopt a budget and set a tax rate if it has not had an annual meeting in 2020. Some communities hold their annual meetings after traditional Town Meeting Day, but due to the state of emergency were not able to hold such a meeting in 2020.

S.344 — this bill authorizes the governing body of a municipality to extend the deadline for payment of property taxes and to modify or waive payment of penalties, interest, and fees for 2020.

S.333 — this bill places a temporary moratorium on foreclosures and ejecting people from rentals during the state of emergency and for a period ending 30 days after the state of emergency ends.

Vermont State Colleges (VSC) — all colleges will remain open for the upcoming school year and the legislature has committed to identifying resources necessary for this transition year so that a more permanent plan can be developed, recognizing the drop in enrollment, input from Vermonters, etc. An independent financial review of the VSC will also be undertaken during this time. Many people have submitted ideas about how to address the challenges facing VSC to the Speaker of the House; if you would like to read them, here's the link: <https://speaker.vermont.gov/2020-Idea-Bank>.

Essential Workers Hazard Grant Program — I have received several emails about this bill (S.346) that provides time-limited payments to certain essential workers. Most of the calls have centered around why certain classes of employees were included and others were not. To be clear, this bill has not passed the House yet; the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee is currently taking testimony on it.

And last, but certainly not least, all legislators have been assisting constituents with their unemployment issues. Unfortunately, there are still significant problems with the system. In a highly unusual move, a team of legislators have been deployed to assist the Department of Labor in contacting claimants. This group of 25 or so began work this past weekend. If you are still having issues with your unemployment claim, please let me know and I can submit your information for review through our legislative channels.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at twood@leg.state.VT.us.

Send us your news!
Email it to
mtngazette@gmavt.net

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dardized test prep, career certification test prep and more. Patrons will create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored. Brush up on your math, science or writing skills, study for the GED, SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, a variety of Allied Health Certifications, Firefighting, Plumbing and more. Explore the possibilities at Learning Express (<https://www.learningexpresshub.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/learningexpresslibrary/libraryhome?AuthToken=838C46F8-8709-4FFB-B5CC-EF4FA995C5C6>).

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

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
WILLISTON

The physical library is closed until further notice to keep our patrons and staff safe, but the virtual library is open! We have discontinued curbside pick-up until further notice. If you have any items out right now, don't worry. Please hold on to them, if you can. In the meantime, please visit www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org and explore various offerings on the website.

Looking for something to do with the kids? Check out our Kidspace page (<https://williston.lib.vt.us/index.php/kids-page>) for some fun programs with music and story times with our very own Miss Jess and her lovable pug, Petunia.

All patrons may set up an account with GMLC Overdrive (<https://gmlc.overdrive.com>) and download ebooks and audiobooks with a valid card. If your card expired, please send us an email with your current contact information (name, address, phone, email) and we can get it renewed. Overdrive comes with a very helpful app called Libby. We recommend downloading to whatever device you're using. (It's not yet available on Kindles.) If you need some help navigating with Libby, this booklet should help: <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/libby-booklet.pdf>. Let us know if you need more help.

Are you missing storytimes at the library? While no digital display can replace the incomparable Wendy, Jennifer,

and LJ, in the meantime please visit the Library's Youth Services page, <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/youth-services/>. We have provided links to Tumblebooks, a read-aloud platform for all ages and to Scholastic's Learn at Home packages (<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>) from grades pre-K to high school. We've also created a link to the Big List of Children's Authors (https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm_content=1584565321&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1My1AdDzO8OVmaKQDAdQUAU5fk2LHghASUfjmZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc).

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Fairfax Community Library is currently closed but has started some virtual programs and will be posting videos, hosting video chats, and sharing resources. If you have an idea for a virtual program — a skill you'd like to share, a craft you'd like to teach — let the library know!

NEW as of Wednesday, May 20 — curbside pickup is offered on Wednesdays, 1:00 – 5:00 PM! Please call the library at 849-2420, email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com, or send a message to our Facebook page to place a book order. There are two easy steps, which can be found at <https://fairfaxvtlibrary.org/curbside-pickup-service.html> — follow the easy instructions, then come pick up your book!

Story Time Tuesdays — a virtual story hour recorded and posted to YouTube and the library's Facebook page.

PJ Story Hour — a read-aloud and activities posted to the library Facebook page on the second Thursday of each month. Knitwits Online, Tuesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: join the knitting circle on Zoom to chat and create with others. Send the library an email telling of your interest, and receive back a link to the Zoom chat.

If you have books checked out, they will not need to be renewed and we will not send overdue notices during this time. We hope that this will be short term and that we will soon be back to normal operating hours and services. In the meantime, we are available to assist patrons by phone, email, Facebook messaging and through information on our website, www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org.

WiFi information: We invite everyone to use the FCL WiFi connection at the library. You will see these networks:

FCL_Public-2.4 or *FCL_Public-5* (either one is fine to use). The password is *F2P39AB4* and is posted on the doors near the sidewalk.

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, 802-849-2420. Call or email libraryprograms@fwsu.org. 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.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

After the urging from the Governor to "Stay Safe and Stay Home," Brownell has stopped all library operations. This means we will no longer be offering holds/check outs in the rear vestibule. The book drop will also be closed, so please keep your items (books, DVDs, etc.) at home. There are no overdue items being sent out at this time, and we never charge fines for late items.

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

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

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Contact Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

As a public health precaution, the Essex Free Library is closed, but our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. Our website www.essexfreelibrary.com has details.

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. 802-879-0313; essexfreelibrary.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reconsider re-opening plan for Vermont

Dear Governor Scott,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your reassuring and knowledge based leadership during the COVID-19 crises.

I am writing to you today to ask that you reconsider the reopening plan which you have outlined for Vermont.

As you can see in the enclosed article (<https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/achieving-herd-immunity-with-covid19.html>), we are nowhere near achieving herd immunity. Until we do, we must continue to maintain strict social distancing.

I understand the need for childcare in order to allow people to return to work. However, I think this is a formula for disaster to allow these facilities to open. This would apply to camps as well.

I know that an opinion has been expressed by some that we just have to accept that people will die in order for our economy to re-open. Well, who might those expendable people be? I suspect they would be the elderly, the medically compromised, the poverty stricken, and people of color to name a few.

In other words, we will be sacrificing the weaker and the more vulnerable. Is this who we have become? I hope not and I believe this is not who you are.

I wish you all the best as you navigate this crisis.

Sincerely,
Louise Miglionico, Ph.D.
Jericho

18th Farewell Reunion is online

By Mark Sustic

The 18th Annual Farewell Reunion happens online this year. We'll miss the acoustic wonders of Grace Church in Sheldon, but not the chance to see and hear some great music on the Friday evening prior to Memorial Day:

<https://youngtraditionvermont.org/events/18th-farewell-reunion-featuring-the-zeichner-trio-the-youth-commission-ensemble/>.

The Zeichner Trio is a family band based in central Vermont. The siblings play traditional Irish and Old-Time/Appalachian music, on fiddle, uilleann bagpipes, five- and four-string banjos, tin whistle, vocals, and Celtic harp. They have performed at festivals, concerts, and private events across the state. Yasi is President of Young Tradition Vermont and Manager of two of its programs: Trad Camp, and Young Tradition Festival. More information is available at <https://zeichnertrio.wixsite.com/zeichnertriowebsite>.

Romy Munkres has been playing fiddle with her brother Ben for more than six years, and together with their parents for over 10 years. She also plays flute and does many styles of percussive dance, including step-dancing from Appalachia, Cape Breton, and Ireland. Ben Munkres plays trad piano with his sister and jazz piano with the Middlebury Union Middle School jazz band. He also plays French horn at school and with the Vermont Youth Orchestra. Both have been part of the Touring Group for five years, participating in tours to Ireland, Cape Breton, Japan, Scotland, and metro NY/NJ, and won the 2017 YTV Contest.

Yasi, Louli, and Oliver will be at home in Northfield and Romy and Ben at home in Cornwall, while the rest of us watch from wherever we choose. Proceeds benefit the Tom Sustic Fund. Join us and help support our year-round efforts to assist families with children in life-altering situations at UVM Medical Center in Burlington and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover.

You don't have pay to watch, but we're suggesting a \$10 donation: <https://youngtraditionvermont.org/contact/support-ytv/> or mail to YTV, P.O. Box 164, Fairfax, VT 05454. More information is available from mark.sustic@gmail.com. Link to YTV's Facebook page @youngtraditionvermont.

SCHOOL NEWS

LUHS thanks local restaurants

By Brian Schaffer, Principal, LUHS

I wish to express my gratitude to the ownership and management of the following area restaurants that supported Appreciation Week at Lamoille Union High School.

In a time when we all could use a boost, know that we certainly received one because of your generous and thoughtful donations and discounts. We held a drawing every day and I know we all can't wait to show you our support! It is truly humbling to work in a community that supports our school.

Thank you, thank you, thank you all so very much!

Sending a #LANCERSHOUTOUT to: Morrisville McDonald's; Deb's Place; The Charlmont; Pizza on Main; Black Diamond BBQ; Lost Nation; and Sushi Yoshi.

Be well, Lancer Country!

Cambridge Elementary
Preschool/Early
Childhood Program

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2020? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program is now enrolling children for our pre-kindergarten program for school year 2020/2021. Our 5 STARS program offers a morning or afternoon session, Tuesday-Friday, 12 hours per week.

Register your child at lnsu.org. To inquire about our program, please call Liz Lamphere, 521-5613.

"Bentley's" fast food takeout

To the Editor,

Just a heads up to those living on or around Browns Trace, near the high school: "Bentley the bear" is back. If you have chickens, outside garbage cans, or composting bins, you may want to take some extra safety measures for a couple of weeks. Last night he got a craving for some tasty compost take out and decided to tear open our bin and enjoy some fermented morsels all over our driveway and on our front porch (feet from where we watch TV, with a thin window in between). It was a little too close for my liking. The compost is now in garage with the hopes he will move on. Just be aware he is hungry and looking for a quick meal. I do not want him to be comfortable around people. He is beautiful from a distance, and I want him to live a long life from a distance. Lesson learned, thought I would give every one a heads up.

Lydia Witham
Jericho

PEOPLE - COLLEGE NOTES

Madeline Daly of Underhill, VT was named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. Daly is majoring in Communication and Media Arts.

Max Bahr of Underhill, VT was awarded the Lisa Elwell Artist Encouragement Fund by Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA, this spring despite the postponement of the annual Student Showcase Ceremony until next fall. Bahr is part of Montserrat's class of 2022, and is concentrating in Animation and Interactive Media.

Jamie Benson of Waterbury, VT was presented with the 2020 Andrew "PJ" Kasprisin Fraternity Member Service Award recipient during the annual University of Vermont (Burlington, VT) Fraternity & Sorority Life awards. Benson, a member of Phi Mu Delta Fraternity, was honored for his sustained dedication to service.

Stowe Jewish Film
Festival goes virtual

Stowe Jewish Film Festival, a program of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, is pleased to present a virtual film festival in collaboration with Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. Each film is available to view from home, over a three-day period. Viewing the films is free but you must register to receive the links and instructions.

Sunday-Tuesday, May 24-26: *Crescendo*. A world famous conductor takes on the challenge of forming an Israeli-Palestinian youth orchestra in an attempt to create harmony out of discord.

Sunday-Tuesday, May 31-June 2: *My Polish Honeymoon*. The highly emotional subject of Jewish tourism in Poland is surprisingly dealt with as a romantic-comedy seen through the eyes of a young couple seeking a connection to their ancestral home.

Sunday-Tuesday, June 7-9: *The Samuel Project*. Art helps bridge a generational and historic divide as a talented teen helps his grandfather relate his traumatic wartime experience through an animation project.

To register for the films you wish to view, go online to <http://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival/>.

SCHOOL NEWS

Lamoille North Parent Café

Here is a weekly opportunity every Monday, 2:00 – 3:00 PM, for parents to come together and give and receive support. Together we are stronger! Come to one or all! The Café began on May 11 and will continue through June 22.

Parents attending four or more sessions will receive a \$25 gift card to *Fork and Gavel* in Hyde Park. Each week there will be a weekly drawing for a \$25 Hannaford gift certificate selected from the attendees of that week. So grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us! Register at <https://forms.gle/pe7juYkztHURB4DA7>.

Each week will consist of a welcome, short presentation (5-7 minutes), and then breaking off into discussion groups. The High School Discussion Group will be facilitated by Bethany Turnbaugh, LUHS SAP Counselor, and Doug Legris, LCMHS Clinician. The Middle School Discussion Group will be facilitated by Diane Lepikko, LUMS Counselor, and Judy Watt, LCMHS Clinician, supported by Healthy Lamoille Valley staff.

Week 1, May 11: Tips to help parents stay on top of student learning.

Week 2, May 18: Scheduling your time and leaving time for self care.

Week 3, TUESDAY May 26: Preventing youth substance misuse in times of stress.

Week 4, June 1: Identifying and responding to Crisis

Week 5, June 8: Creating open communication

Week 6, June 15: Supporting your emotional well-being so that you can be there for your kids.

Week 7, June 22: Resources... Summer's here... how to connect....

Correspondence about the group will come from jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org or ashley@healthylamoillevalley.org.

This group is sponsored by Healthy Lamoille Valley in partnership with Lamoille North Supervisory Union and Lamoille County Mental Health Services.

PEOPLE - OBITUARY



Jack Calvin Aldrich, 75, of Jeffersonville, VT died Thursday, April 2, 2020, after unexpected complications too difficult for even Jack to come back from. He was born September 17, 1944, son of Harold Eugene and Anna Caldwell Aldrich. He grew up in Vermont, and was the first student to graduate from the then-new South Burlington High School, then became manager of the Sheppard and Hammel suit shop while studying business at Champlain College, class of 1962.

It was in high school that Jack met his soulmate and lifelong best friend, Constance Kittle. Jack and Connie spent their lives on the slopes, sailing, traveling, and raising a family. Jack's love of skiing took them to New South Wales, Australia, spending winters working on the ski mountain, and teaching Hobie Cat sailing in the summer with their children Stephanie and Tyler, leaving them with most fond memories. They spent their remaining years in Jeffersonville in the famous "house that Jack built," and had their daughter Anna. Jack will be remembered for his beautiful smile, welcoming personality, fine finish carpentry, and building — many of you sit on a deck he built, in a sunroom he designed for you, and walk up flights of stairs he built in your home; his time as manager of the Crown and Anchor restaurant, successful years at IBM, his passion for skiing, sailing, love of art, music, food, friends, family, and travel. He was an intelligent, kind, hardworking, selfless husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. All three of his children feel blessed to have grown up learning from him and sharing his passions. He lived in the name of the Lord, as God would want people to share the message of human kindness. His family takes some peace knowing he is reunited with his love Connie, who he has painfully missed this past year. Survivors include his children, Stephanie Aldrich, Tyler Aldrich, and Anna Houle; his daughter-in-law, Millie Aldrich; son-in-law Jeremy Houle; grandchildren Kody Houle, Cole-Tyler Houle, Calvin Houle, and Jack Aldrich; brother and sister-in-law Jerry and Sally Aldrich; sister and brother-in-law Susie and Greg Hooper; brother and sister-in-law Gerry and Kathy Kittle, brother-in-law Efron Davidson; and nieces and nephews from his Aldrich, Howard, and Kittle siblings. Heartfelt thanks to the neighbors of Sunny Acres Road, the Rosberg, Bailey, and Tobin families, the members of the Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville, and to the community for your support; and to the nurses and staff at Vermont Respite House of Colchester, VT. A service for Jack will be held when his church is available. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory would be appreciated to the Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville.

SCHOOL NEWS

Staying together through books: children of prison inmates program

By Erika Nichols-Frazier
Children's Literacy Foundation

While many families were social-distance gathering to celebrate their mothers on Mother's Day, some moms aren't able to be with their kids, even from six feet apart. An estimated 2.7 million children in the U.S. have an incarcerated parent. Many of these children aren't able to see their parents in person often, or, as during the COVID-19 crisis, at all. This can have damaging behavioral and psychological issues for these kids. Parental incarceration is associated with higher risk of depression, aggression, and anti-social behavior. It is also linked with suspension or expulsion from school, as well as food and housing insecurity. Low-income students and children who have experienced trauma, such as parental incarceration, are also at higher risk of developing low literacy skills and dropping out of school.

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) partners with five prisons, including two women's prisons, in Vermont and New Hampshire to help increase children's enthusiasm for reading and writing and provide access to high-quality books while strengthening their connection to their incarcerated parents. CLiF's presenters, including many VT and NH authors, regularly visit these prisons to give seminars on reading and writing with young kids, regardless of the parent's comfort or literacy level (roughly 70% of inmates are functionally illiterate). The presenters offer tips to make stories come alive, engage kids, and help them build those important literacy skills. At the end of each seminar, parents get to choose new books for each of their kids, grandkids, or nieces and nephews, and CLiF's volunteers mail them across the country to their kids. Seeing the moms' notes to their little ones in the front of books they picked out just for them is heart-warming. "I can't wait to be able to read with you and hold/hug you." "Love and miss you to the moon and back." "Always, I love you."

Typically, CLiF also sponsors family holiday events at the prisons, including Mother's Day celebrations, complete with storytelling and new books for each child to choose. Of course, that's not happening this year, but CLiF still recently sent home more than 100 books to the kids of mothers in Concord, NH and South Burlington, VT prisons.

One mother says of CLiF's Children of Prison Inmates program, "It definitely keeps us together with our kids. It's something we can kind of still be there for." Distance is nothing new to these moms who, like all moms, want the best for their children. This program is one way CLiF helps families connect over books and stories. While our in-person programming is on hold, we're still ensuring that all kids in our region have access to books.

SCHOOL NEWS

News from MMUUSD

By John R. Alberghini
Superintendent

May 12, 2020

Breakfast and lunch available at no cost — I want to remind the school community that the District is providing breakfast and lunch to any person 18 years old and under who lives in Bolton, Jericho, Huntington, Richmond, or Underhill, at no cost. Families can pick up meals at designated school sites or have them delivered to their homes. Currently, the state and federal government are fully reimbursing the District for these meals, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Food security and providing nutritious meals to families is a top priority of our school system and we have the capacity to serve more students. Therefore, please go to <https://sites.google.com/mmuusd.org/covid-19information/food-service-plan> to find additional information regarding the food service schedule, pick-up sites, and food delivery.

State of Vermont COVID-19 updates — On Friday, May 8, Governor Scott and members of his cabinet offered information on the incremental opening of the economy and some public services. Governor Scott shared that child care centers and summer camps can begin to open voluntarily under specific guidelines. Our school facilities are utilized for many summer program and camp options; thus, this was important new information. At this time, we do not have the health and safety details necessary to determine if these programs can operate safely. Guidance from the VT Health Department and applicable state agencies is supposed to be provided soon. When we receive this information, we will work with school nurses, camp providers, summer school staff, and transportation personnel to ascertain if these programs can support students and families in a safe manner. MMUUSD schools and camp providers will be providing updates and decisions to families as soon as possible.

As part of the May 8 press conference, Secretary of Education Daniel French announced the following: schools will remain closed to in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year; districts shall follow their established school calendar for the remainder of the school year; and large group gatherings will not be permitted prior to the end of the school year. These instructions influence end-of-year activities such as graduation and grade level celebrations. This will be a significant disappointment to many of our students — particularly, our seniors who have worked hard and deserve to be recognized for their effort and achievement. I am sorry for this news and understand the disappointment as my daughter is a high school senior. To mitigate some of the disappointment, principals and staff members are examining creative and safe ways to celebrate students' accomplishments and key milestones. School administrators will be communicating these plans to families as soon as they are established.

Outdoor Activity — Exercise and outdoor activities are important elements of good health and happiness. Therefore, a recent decision from Governor Scott to open some recreation parks and municipal courts is excellent news. In response, the District has opened recreational fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts to the public. Guidelines for use of these resources can be found in the Governor's executive addendum <https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%2013%20TO%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf>. We've also posted guidelines at school sites.

Unfortunately, school playgrounds remain closed because they are considered "high contact areas." We will let you know when it is safe to use playground equipment. I hope you are all able to get outside and safely experience Vermont's great outdoors.

Westford School news

By Martha Heath and Andre Roy
Westford representatives on the EWSD Board

We recognize that each family is dealing with this pandemic in their own way. We hope that our focus on health and safety, communication, and personalized learning plans is meeting your family's most essential school needs during this school closure. We look forward to your feedback on the weekly survey so that we can adjust as needed. Priorities at this time:

Health and Safety

Meals – Food Services continues to prepare bagged meals (breakfast and lunch) and uses a drive-thru pick-up style of service from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Westford School to best support social distancing.

Access to the building – Building access is restricted to essential employees and essential needs via district protocol.

Communication

For the latest updates from the Essex Westford School District specific COVID-19, please visit www.ewsd.org/covid. This includes a wide range of information such as chromebook repair, tutorial on home wifi tips, funds for grocery needs, and building access.

Additionally, you can expect any Westford-specific information to come directly from teachers and/or Principal Lewis.

General Updates and Information: First day of the 2020-2021 school year will be Thursday, August 27. The Westford School day is 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM with the exception of Tuesdays, when students will continue to be released at 2:00 PM as teachers participate in professional learning communities. The preschool schedule is 8:00 – 10:30 AM four days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Kindergarten registration is open (<https://www.ewsd.org/kindergarten>) and we are waiting on guidance from the Governor specific to school closure before publishing a K orientation date. If you have a child who will be K-age for the 2020-2021 school year, please contact Terri Martin, office manager, at 802-878-5932 or tmartin@ewsd.org. This supports planning of appropriate kindergarten programming.

We anticipate holding summer school – details to come. State and local spring assessments will not take place.

Families may access the school's public internet in the parking lot to support those with unreliable home access. You are welcome at any time (password: wifi@EWSD).

Learning Plans

We have moved to Phase 2 in our distance learning plans now that school closure has been extended. In addition to our previous efforts and learning plans, we are also providing learning opportunities focused on new/essential learning.

Teachers have been recording lessons and using another resource utilizing video to provide instruction and thoughtfully providing learning activities and adjusting based on family feedback. We are identifying the most essential learning tasks in literacy and math, as well as providing activities for all other classes with extension opportunities so that students and families have choice in what works best for them and their circumstances. We understand the importance of personalization and have created flexible schedules for Fridays. We also recognize that some students are engaged in specialized instruction, band lessons, Algebra, and French B, as examples. Thus, our distance learning plans reflect accommodations and modifications based on student needs and family capacity with an intent to streamline communication to avoid overwhelming students or families with multiple emails.

Teachers are focused on providing ongoing feedback via personal messages, video conferencing, exit questions and assignments. Teachers will write narrative statements for a progress report at the end of the school year to accompany the standards based reports from earlier in the year.

School Board Notes

School budget: The Secretary of State's office issued guidance that no votes should be held in April or May. At present, we are thinking the vote will be held in June. In these uncertain times it is hard to know.

There are eight other districts in the state that have not held their first school budget vote. The legislature is currently having discussions about how these districts should be treated since the economic conditions in the state have changed so dramatically since early March. To date no final decisions have been made and the EWSD board is monitoring the conversations closely. It is a challenging time for the board to decide the best way to move forward.

COVID-19: The other topic that consumes a lot of board meeting time is the pandemic. Superintendent Cobb briefs the board at each meeting about the work that is being done by teachers and staff to continue student learning at this difficult time. The board remains appreciative of the work teachers and staff are doing to stay connected to students.

Discussions will soon turn to the summer and whether there will be a need to hold an expanded summer school to get students ready for learning in the fall. There is great concern about the inequities related to learning that are likely being magnified by remote learning. The district is in constant discussion about how to plan for an uncertain future.

School board meetings can be viewed live or on tape. All the relevant information for doing so is available on the school district website, ewsd.org. We encourage you to read all the latest and to contact us with any questions or concerns.

**Join the Mountain Gazette
in honoring the MMUHS
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**We will publish all of the
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June 4, 2020 issue.**

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Enjoy the outdoors while social distancing

Spring weather is in the air and calling us outside! Recent amendments to Governor Scott's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order now encourage Vermonters to get outside and participate in outdoor recreation and fitness activities, while continuing to practice social distancing and hygiene requirements (see more at <https://bit.ly/2WoK7aR>). *Go Vermont!* has some ideas on how to do just that.

Some great activities that require low to no physical contact include biking, hiking, walking, running, and other outdoor fitness activities; golf, tennis, skate parks, and other outdoor no-contact sports; horseback riding, boating and paddle sports, fishing, hunting, photography, and nature walks.

With the weather getting nicer, it's the perfect time to get the family outside for a walk or bike ride. Here are some great socially distant games and activities from our friends at Local Motion everyone can enjoy:

- Bike games for the whole family - <https://bit.ly/2zpqf3w>
 - Fun outdoor recreation resources - <https://bit.ly/2WKM40d>
- Enjoy your time outdoors! And remember to stay safe.

Community of VT Elders conference calls

On Wednesday, May 27, Community of Vermont Elders (COVE) will hold a Coronavirus Conference Call at 2:00 PM. Information is available at <https://vermontelders.org/covid/>.

COVE is hosting this "Navigating COVID-19" call to discuss scams, state policies, and other concerns. Join COVE every other Wednesday for a discussion of the latest information about scams, fraud, and general safety. We will share what we know and do our best to answer your questions. Learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones during this public health crisis.

Have questions you'd like to ask ahead of time? Need help getting connected? Email LauraB@vermontelders.org or Marichel@vermontelders.org.

Join by phone by calling 408-428-9388, access code 298 225 125.

Join online via WebEx: <https://meetingsamer2.webex.com/meeting/samer2/j.php?MTID=m04dfabdfb36d8de0a475ffa5d14fa048>, meeting number 298 225 125, password *cove802*.

If you weren't able to make the call, you can listen to the recording of the April 15 conference call at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huiesS31PbE&t=630s>.

Green Mountain Club guidelines for the Long Trail

Hello neighbors. We are all looking for ways to get outside these days, so here is some guidance from the Green Mountain Club related to hiking right now:

The Green Mountain Club is encouraged to see that Governor Scott is considering how Vermonters can best get outdoors in his new "Play Smart, Play Safe" addendum to the stay at home order.

Trail networks are now allowed to open as conditions allow. However, it is mud season in Vermont, and every year at this time, we ask hikers to stay off fragile, muddy trails. The Long Trail and side trails on state land are closed and we ask hikers to avoid closed trails until mud season is over. Trails that are oversaturated from snowmelt and spring rains are vulnerable to damage from soil compaction and erosion with every footstep. Soil compaction degrades the quality of the trail by reducing its ability to absorb water, causing increased flooding later and making it harder for vegetation to grow. Erosion then carries the soil away, leaving rocks and roots exposed. Due to COVID-19, we have reduced capacity for staff and volunteers to prepare and maintain hiking trails this year. Your help avoiding wet, muddy trails now will make a big difference in keeping trails in good shape for the hiking season to come.

In an effort to protect public health from the COVID-19 virus, facilities including shelters and privies on the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Vermont are closed, on both state and federal land. These backcountry facilities can't be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with VDH/CDC guidelines. We are working with public health officials and our land management partners to develop guidelines for the public to use these facilities as safely as possible.

We're working hard to get the trails ready and opened in time for the traditional kick-off of hiking season on Memorial Day weekend. We're asking for your patience and your help in stewarding the trails as the hiking season gets up and running.

In the meantime, spring is a great time for other outdoor recreation like cycling, paddling, and even road walking. Some open trails at lower elevations and on south-facing slopes may dry out earlier in the season and be appropriate to hike. When it does come time to recreate, hikers will need to make sure that they are still following all physical distancing, face covering, hygiene, and other guidelines set by the state. Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) has put out guidelines as to how this applies to outdoor recreation.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Vermont's hiking trails in great shape! Vermont's trails are some of its best features and we want everyone to enjoy them for a long time.

You can always find the most up to date information about trail closures and hiking recommendations on GMC's website: <https://www.greenmountainclub.org/covid-19-response/>.

Additional information:
Why Trails Are Closed During Mud Season: <https://www.greenmountainclub.org/mud-season-arrived/>.

"Play Smart, Play Safe" Addendum: <https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%2013%20TO%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf>

FPR's Outdoor Recreation and COVID-19 Guidelines: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19>

Mountain biking at Mobbs Farm now open

By Pete Davis
Mobbs Farm Committee Chair

Mountain Biking at Mobbs has been re-opened. Given the pandemic, please be aware of the following in the "new" MTB, rules of the trail, upon which in we all ride: Be smart. Be aware. Be kind.

• **Keep Your Distance and Slow the Spread:** While on trail, maintain social distancing of at least two bike lengths. Keep a buff and gloves on you for any kind of interaction with other riders, including potentially helping another rider that needs your assistance. Please observe all CDC guidelines.

• **Party of One:** Ride solo or in small groups limited to your household.

• **Ride Local:** Stay close to home as much as possible. Either ride your bike to the trail, or stay within your immediate community.

• **Go With the Flow:** Carefully observe trail directions. This helps riders minimize interaction with other trail users. If you do pass another rider, announce your presence, give the other rider time to adjust, and pass with distance. Please be patient with each other.

• **Ride-N-Go:** Please do not congregate in the parking lot before/after rides or at intersections/transitioning areas on trails.

• **Leash 'Em:** Keep dogs on a leash, or leave them at home.

• **Lower the Gnar:** Ride well within your limits to help avoid injury.

• **Beat the Peak:** Some parking areas may be limited. If a parking area is full, find another nearby network to ride, or come back later. If possible, do your best to try to ride outside of peak times.

• **No Sharing:** Do not share bikes, tools, gloves, helmets, etc.



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Community Bank Regional Marketing Coordinator Erinn Perry participates in the virtual EDD Adaptive Sports Dream Big 5K.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Community Bank N.A. supports EDD Adaptive Sports Dream Big 5K

For the past three years, Community Bank N.A. has been a proud sponsor of the EDD Adaptive Sports Dream Big 5K in Essex, VT. Due to restrictions, this year's race went virtual and Community Bank was again honored to sponsor the cause.

"EDD Adaptive Sports has had a measurable impact on our community and we are proud to continue to support the Dream Big 5K both as a sponsor and through our employees participating in the race," Community Bank Regional Marketing Coordinator Erinn Perry said. "Our team was happy to join the cause and virtually support adaptive sports even when we could not physically be together."

EDD Adaptive Sports is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating sports programs for individuals with disabilities. EDD Adaptive Sports' goal is for people with disabilities to experience joy, independence, and adventure through participation in sports. The organization partners with colleges and sporting organizations to provide various adaptive sports opportunities in Central/Northern Vermont and Central New York.

"The Dream Big 5K is especially important for EDD Adaptive Sport, because the funds raised allow us to deliver free EDD Adaptive Sports programs year-round in Vermont," EDD Adaptive Sports Executive Director Gretchen Owens said.

For more information about Community Bank, visit cbnanews.com.

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LUHS thanks local restaurants

By Brian Schaffer
Principal, LUHS

I wish to express my gratitude to the ownership and management of the following area restaurants that supported Appreciation Week at Lamoille Union High School.

In a time when we all could use a boost, know that we certainly received one because of your generous and thoughtful donations and discounts. We held a drawing every day and I know we all can't wait to show you our support! It is truly humbling to work in a community that supports our school.

Thank you, thank you, thank you all so very much!

Sending a #LANCERSHOUTOUT to: Morrisville McDonald's; Deb's Place; The Charlmont; Pizza on Main; Black Diamond BBQ; Lost Nation; and Sushi Yoshi.

Be well, Lancer Country!

Underhill Historical Society May meeting postponed

With the continued stay home status in effect from the COVID-9 pandemic, the May meeting of the Underhill Historical Society is postponed. Any changes allowed by the State of Vermont will allow us to reschedule the meeting regardless of the time of the month.

Join the Mountain Gazette in honoring the MMUHS 2020 Senior Class.

We will publish all of the senior photos in the June 4, 2020 issue.

We invite parents and friends to submit congratulation notes.

Ad space is also available. Email to mtngazette@gmavt.net.

A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS!

 <p>Essex - \$425,000 Well maintained Essex Capel Eat-in kitchen with bfast bar open to family room w/ fireplace. Formal dining & living room. Separate office/bonus room w/ Palladian window & half bath. 3 bedrooms up. Finished rec room in lower level. 2 car garage. Beautiful wrap-around porch for relaxing. Great neighborhood!</p>	 <p>Westford - \$389,500 Construction has started in beautiful new subdivision with over 24 acres of common land. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with open design. Large kitchen with walk-in pantry. Living room & additional family room. Full walkout basement with lg windows, 2 car garage, full deck and covered porch with sunrise views.</p>
 <p>Fairfax - \$354,900 To be built! 1872 SF Country Colonial on wooded 0.81 acres on 6+ acres of common land. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open floor plan, hardwood floors. Beautiful large kitchen and adjoining family room- perfect for gathering. 2 car garage, front porch, rear deck & big backyard for enjoying your new modern home in the country!</p>	 <p>Fairfax - \$354,900 To be built! Contemporary ranch on wooded lot on over 6+ acres of common land. 1st floor master suite w/ lg walk-in closet and separate guest wing w/ 2 beds and full bath. Sunlit dining room looks onto front porch & opens into great room. 2 car garage opens into lg mudroom w/ half bath and laundry. A Vermonter's dream!</p>

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