

Luna Hall of Jericho wins GMAA scholarship



The Green Mountain Athletic Association (GMAA) will award two scholarships of \$1000 each to graduating seniors to help fund their college careers. The two winners were chosen from many applicants, and were determined based on their academic achievements, community and school involvement, and their love of the sport of running.

Luna Hall of Mount Mansfield Union High School has been awarded one of those scholarships.

Luna excelled in cross-country, gymnastics, and track and field all four of her high school years. Luna also raced for the GMAA in regional junior races, and will continue running for the University of Vermont this fall. At UVM Luna will study biology and zoology on the pre-veterinary program and would like to focus on wildlife preservation and animal behavior, with the ultimate goal of becoming a wildlife veterinarian and to do research on endangered species. Luna enjoys volunteering at sporting events because she used to look up to those who volunteered their time when she was younger.

The GMAA is Vermont's largest running club. Its mission is to promote good health, friendship, and fitness through running. The GMAA sponsors 12 races throughout the year.

Thank you from the Old Fashioned Harvest Market

The 46th Old Fashioned Harvest Market, hosted by and held in the area surrounding the United Church of Underhill, has once again come and gone by, the 2021 event being a special celebration after the 2020 "shut-down" due to COVID-19 restrictions. For those of you who were able to attend, we offer thanks for your sharing with us. It was a great pleasure to see the many familiar attendees and to welcome new folks, all coming together to celebrate having a little normalcy back into our lives.

Whether you came to get your annual fresh apple cider, fresh-squeezed lemonade, cotton candy, French fries, a sausage sandwich, hot homemade soup, freshly baked cookies; or to march along to the beat of the opening-day parade, play children's games, go on a hayride, to relax to the various selections presented by local musicians; or to see what treasures could be found at the Clutter Barn and marvel at the unique creations offered by the vendors; or simply to enjoy the excitement and camaraderie of the whole event, we are grateful for your support.

Our thanks, too, to all of the United Church of Underhill's teams of volunteers who included not only members and close friends of the church, but many from the Jericho, Underhill, and surrounding communities and other places around the country such as Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and even some family members from Minnesota! The festival would not have been possible without your help. We also send thanks to the *Mountain Gazette* and Front Porch Forum for helping us get the word out.

Special recognition goes to those who took advantage of our COVID vaccination booth. Let's get our country healed from this virus! Plans are already in the works for the 2022 Old Fashioned Harvest Market and we look forward to seeing you all again! Until then, stay safe, be healthy — and keep on smiling!

Underhill to vote on recall of Select Board member for conflict of interest

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

On Tuesday, October 19, residents of Underhill will vote on whether to remove Peter Duval, a member of the Select Board, from office. The vote is possible because earlier this year, residents approved a charter change which allowed for the removal of a board member through Australian ballot if at least 15% of the residents submitted a petition to hold the vote. Under the new rules, the Select Board is then authorized to call for a special town meeting within 45 days of receipt of the petition. Governor Phil Scott signed off on the charter change on June 1 and subsequently, a petition calling for a vote on Duval's removal was circulated. Absentee voting on the recall has already begun.

The Underhill charter change was prompted by disagreements over Duval's conduct after his election to the Select Board in March of 2020. Duval had been in litigation with the town regarding the Development Review Board's decision to deny his conditional use application to convert an existing single-family home with an attached accessory dwelling into a four-unit multi-family dwelling.

Then Town Administrator James Beebe-Woodard called Duval out for alleged violations of the town's conflict of interest policy in front of the Select Board and at a quasi-judicial hearing. For that hearing he also submitted a written response regarding Duval's alleged conflict of interest. It was alleged that Duval had used his position for personal advantage regarding litigation between himself and the town. It was also alleged that he had harassed town employees. No action was taken and Beebe-Woodard subsequently resigned as Town Administrator. Neither Beebe-Woodard nor current Town Administrator Brad Holden was willing to speak on record about the recall vote, and Town Clerk Sherri Morin was also unavailable for comment.

The October 19 special election has only one question on the ballot: Shall Underhill Select Board member, Peter Duval, be removed from office. An informational meeting to discuss the question will be held on October 18 at 6:00 PM at Town Hall, with remote participation available to those choosing not to attend in person.

Only a limited number of jurisdictions allow recalls and it appears that to date, no city or town has been successful in removing someone from office. In 2003, voters in Windsor were asked if they wanted to recall four members of the Select Board in response their roles in firing the Town Administrator. Then Secretary of State Deb Markowitz noted at the time that there had been no such recall vote in recent history. The Windsor vote was unsuccessful and the Select Board members remained in office for the duration of their terms.

JP Isabelle, Elections Administrator for the Secretary of State's office, was not aware of any successful recall election, but noted that since that office focuses on state statutes and federal election law, they were not necessarily privy to the results of local elections. Vermont's state statute has no provision for recall and the office does not keep tally of how many city and town charters do.

Underhill Special Town Meeting October 19

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, the Underhill Selectboard received a petition to recall Selectboard member Peter Duval. Per the Underhill Charter, a vote must be held within 45 days of receiving the petition.

The Selectboard has chosen Tuesday, October 19, 2021 as the date of the Special Town Meeting vote. Early voting is now available; ballots are ready for request and for in-person voting. You may request a ballot by visiting <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or by calling the Town Clerk's office at 802-899-4434. An email can also be sent to smorin@underhillvt.gov.

Ballots must be returned by 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 19. Due to the current mail carrier issues, the last day for the Town Clerk's office to mail a ballot will Friday, October 15.

The ballot can be viewed by visiting the town's website at <https://www.underhillvt.gov/> and clicking on Sample Ballot on the home page.

To view the Warning for the Special Town Meeting, please visit the homepage of the Town of Underhill's website: <http://underhillvt.gov>.

Underhill Central School celebrated annual Harvest Tasting and Zucchini Relay



On Wednesday, September 22 Underhill Central School (UCS) celebrated the first day of fall with our annual Harvest Tasting and Zucchini Relay. The UCS garden is an important part of our school community, with students and families helping to prepare and plant in the spring, water and weed through the summer, and harvest in the fall. Over the next few months students will have opportunities to taste test the fruits and vegetables we grew this year. Our first taste test was dill pickles, made with the cucumbers and dill that were picked this summer. We also participated in the Zucchini Relay, an all-school event in which students take turns running with giant zucchinis (and squash). Thank you to all the families who helped in the UCS garden this summer and to the Underhill community members who donated zucchinis for our relay! PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Update from Westford's Planning Commission

Town-wide public meeting on the Community Wastewater Project,

Tuesday, October 19, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Westford School; virtual options available

As you may know, the Planning Commission has been working on studies, plans, projects, and funding sources since 2007 to support the vitality of the Town Center and the future potential of the Common area. One of the foundational ways to support Westford's future is to create a modern and functional wastewater system that allows continued use and thoughtful development within the Town Center.

A lot of forward movement has happened this year on the project, and we want to make sure everyone is up to date on the Community Wastewater Project. Here's what we've been up to:

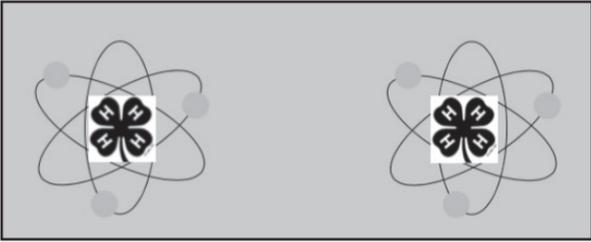
- We formed a public engagement working group this summer, composed of Westford residents who are committed to help get the word out about the project. Those group members include Pat Haller, Heather Armata, and Eric Ford, in addition to Gordon Gebauer and Seth Jensen from the Planning Commission, Town Planner Melissa Manka; and project consultant Juli Beth Hinds of Birchline Planning LLC, a planner specializing in water infrastructure, financing, and community engagement; and Amy Macrellis, Senior Water Quality Specialist with Stone Environmental, who has been involved in the technical studies, project development, and outreach for the project since 2007.

- In addition to the Planning Commission's work identifying soils, engineering designs, and applying for state/federal grants to support this project, work has been focused on creating an outreach plan to the community, beginning with the potential wastewater system users in the common area. To that end, the task force hosted an informational meeting at the Westford Common Hall on August 17 to hear questions and concerns from residents. Paper surveys have also been distributed to potential users to get more feedback and help understand questions about the project.

- A website has been created to support information and communication about the project (www.westfordsfuture.com). Here you will find all the basic project information, regularly updated questions and answers about the project, as well as supporting documents, blog posts, and events related to the project. If you are on Facebook, make sure to like and follow Westford's Future for info and updates.

- The task force hosted a site visit with potential system users and designers on September 26 on the Common in order to help visualize the potential system's layout and components, and to answer questions. The task force will also join the Westford

4-H NEWS



VTeen 4-H Science

Pathways Cafés this fall, winter

This year we are hosting both in-person and virtual cafés where you will meet scientists, learn about their work, explore different science pathways, and engage in informal discussions. In-Person Cafés (I) are on Saturdays, 5:00 – 7:00 PM; Virtual Cafés (V) are on Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Registration is required for all cafés: www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. Open to all youth in grades 7-12 in Vermont and beyond!

Topics to be explored:

Saturday, October 16 (I): Cellular Agriculture & Tissue Engineering;

Tuesday, October 26 (V): Organometallic Chemistry in Action; Saturday, November 13 (I): Intro to Virology, Microbiology, and Bugs;

Tuesday, November 30 (V): Radio Frequency Engineering and How It Relates to Climate Change;

Tuesday, December 14 (V): Digital Phenotyping; Leveraging Machine Learning, Statistics, and Creativity to Model Human Health.

Save the Dates! Winter/Spring 2022 Cafés: January 11 (V), January 22 (I), February 5 (I), February 22 (V), March 12 (I), March 22 (V), April 9 (I), April 26 (V), May 17 (V).

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program please contact 4-H Teen & Leadership Program Coordinator Lauren Traister, 802-888-4972, for assistance.

NEWS BRIEFS

Cambridge Rescue Service annual subscription

By Cody Marsh, Cambridge Selectboard Member

For anyone who has not noticed, Cambridge Rescue Service (CRS) has recently updated their website. I would recommend that everyone check it out.

While on the web page, please consider either donating to CRS or even consider purchasing an annual subscription for your household. This is a new service being offered at CRS, something that a lot of other rescue agencies in our region have offered for some time now. This is a great way to support your local rescue service. A link to their website is included below and you can check out the subscription details there as well: <https://www.cambridgerescue.com/donate.html>.

CRS is always looking for new volunteers and recruits. If you or someone you know is looking to join or perhaps just interested in learning more, please consider contacting CRS at the following email to learn more: Recruitment@cambridgerescue.com.

Cambridge Rescue Service has been a big part of our community since 1989. The service CRS provides is something that we all hope we never need, but we will all be glad we have, should the need ever arise.

I hope that anyone who has the means of supporting them will consider it.

Thanks for your consideration and I hope everyone stays safe.

News continued from page 1

Senior Luncheon planned for October to introduce the project to attendees and enjoy some dessert together.

We are very excited to announce the first town-wide public meeting about the Community Wastewater Project, scheduled for Tuesday, October 19 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Westford School. This meeting will be the first opportunity to present the project to the town as a whole, and we look forward to sharing details and hearing your questions and concerns. This will be a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting, with more details to come for those that wish to participate remotely. All COVID-safe precautions will be made for those who want to attend in person.

As always, please feel free to reach out to Town Planner Melissa Manka with questions and concerns, and don't forget to visit www.westfordsfuture.com to learn about the Community Wastewater Project.

Westford Town Planner, Melissa Manka: planner@westfordvt.us, 802-878-4587 Westford Planning Commission: planningcommission@westfordvt.us.

Bolton Conservation Fund application for 171 acres of Tapper parcel

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

You may be aware that the both the Conservation Commission and the Select Board recently approved a \$15K Conservation Fund application from the Friends of Wheeler Field towards the purchase of Wheeler Field subdivision Lot #8.

To provide for transparency and equity, we want to let the Bolton community know about another application for Conservation Funds and to provide an opportunity for community input, as we did with the FOWF application. This application was recently submitted to the Conservation Commission for \$10K in funding by Ethan Tapper, Bolton property owner. Ethan owns 176.5 acres off of the Bolton Valley Access Road and is the Chittenden County Forester. You may recognize Ethan's name from his monthly *Bolton Gazette* articles.

Please share your input on the application with the Conservation Commission and the Select Board. The Conservation

Thank you — from the Harvest Market Team

For those of you that were able to attend the 46th annual Old Fashioned Harvest Market this weekend, we thank you for coming and sharing with us. We enjoyed seeing you and celebrating having a little normalcy back into our lives.

To the United Church of Underhill's teams of volunteers that represented people from Jericho and Underhill and other places around the country — like Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and even some family members from Minnesota — we thank you all for helping to make this event possible. We are also thankful to those of you that came to get your annual fresh apple cider, lemonade, cotton candy, French fries, cookies, or a sausage sandwich, play children's games or go on a hayride. The Clutter Barn and the vendors also appreciated you paying them a visit and looking at their wares, and even buying a few things.

We look forward to seeing you in 2022 and until then, stay safe and keep on smiling!

Jericho survey: American Rescue Plan fund spending priorities

From the Jericho SelectBoard

The Town of Jericho is receiving \$1,493,000 in federal economic relief funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. As this funding has the potential to be transformative, there is time to be deliberative and think strategically. The money needs to be committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Spending can be in six broad categories:

- support public health expenditures related to the pandemic;
- address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency;
- serve low income communities and individuals, families, and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic;
- replace public sector revenue lost due to the pandemic;
- provide premium pay for essential workers;
- invest in necessary improvements to water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The SelectBoard wants a dialogue with the public on how to prioritize the spending of these funds. To start the discussion, a survey has been created. We urge all townspeople to participate and let the Board know your thoughts.

Here is the link directly to the survey: <https://jerichovt.org/embeds/projects/12841/survey-tools/9342?baseUrl=https://jerichovt.org>

The SelectBoard (Catherine McMains, chair, Wayne Howe, Erik Johnson) thanks you for your participation.

A message to Westford dog owners

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

It has come to the Town's attention that there has been an increase in off-leash dog related incidents on town trails. We would like to remind all residents that how your dog behaves is your responsibility. When you are walking on town trails, always have your dog under your control. If your dog cannot be called off chasing after wildlife or livestock, entering private property, or going up to other walkers and dogs the first time you call, please keep your dog on a leash.

Understand that the town trails are not a dog park but a public space for everybody to feel safe and comfortable. The ability to let our dogs run off leash on town property is a privilege, not a right, and if further incidents occur the town may have to revoke that privilege. Let's keep our town trails a welcoming, safe place to enjoy the outdoors for everybody!

Commission will be reviewing Ethan's application for the second time at their Monday, October 25 meeting, and the Select Board will review the application and the Conservation Commission's recommendation at one of their November meetings. You can complete a paper survey, available in the October *Bolton Gazette* on the town website <https://boltonvt.com/about/bolton-gazette/>, or a survey monkey survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RFOQTRN> to provide your input; and please submit either by Wednesday, October 20. Thank you.

Here is information from Ethan's Conservation Fund application:

Property description: The Tapper parcel consists of 176.5 acres, of which 171 will be permanently protected with a conservation easement held by the Richmond Land Trust. The parcel overlooks Bolton Flats and the recently conserved Bolton Potholes parcel (VT River Conservancy). The Tapper parcel is managed for wildlife, ecological goods and services like clean air, clean water, and carbon sequestration and storage. It is also managed actively by the landowner on a small scale for firewood and other forest products. The parcel contains cliffs, springs, streams, and excellent habitat for a wide array of native organisms. The parcel is unposted and will remain open to dispersed public access.

Project description: This project will protect the rural character of Bolton by forever protecting the hillside overlooking Bolton flats as unfragmented forestland. It will provide recreational value to the Town by protecting the area around the Bolton Potholes and allowing for dispersed public recreation forever (this parcel is currently in use for recreation and has been for many years for hunting, hiking, climbing, bouldering, berrying, and walking, thanks to the generosity of the former property owners and to Ethan). It will protect biological diversity by being managed for habitat for a wide range of native organisms and will benefit the working landscape and local economy of Bolton by continuing to provide local renewable forest resources and demonstration to the public how to responsibly harvest wood from our forests. Amount requested: \$10,000, \$5000 for a conservation appraisal and \$5000 for a stewardship contribution to the Richmond Land Trust. Other funding sources for the project include donated legal work by the Richmond Land Trust, and the donation of development rights to the parcel by the landowner, with an estimated value of \$100,000-200,000.

NEWS BRIEFS



What's being built on Common Road in Westford? The Westford Historical Society had the opportunity to buy this quarter acre. We're building a "new home" to display donated items of former residents who lived here 50-250 years ago.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Draft minutes from Westford Selectboard meeting

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Read the draft minutes from the Thursday, September 9, 2021 Westford Selectboard meeting here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-09-09-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Bolton: Wheeler Field and Select Board updates

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, the Bolton Select Board approved the Friends of Wheeler Field's (FOWF's) allocation request of \$15K from the Bolton Conservation Fund toward the purchase of Wheeler Field subdivision Lot #8, and the FOWF's request to approve the donation of Lot #8 to the town, pending purchase, to be permanently conserved.

Please see the hearing minutes where the five most common concerns identified about this project were identified and responded to by the FOWF. You can access those minutes in the Select Board page of the town website: <https://boltonvt.com/boards-minutes/selectboard/>.

On the Bolton Select Board page on the website under Wheeler Field Public Hearing information, you will also have access to the Wheeler Field Survey results, the FOWF PowerPoint hearing presentation, the letter from the Conservation Commission to the Bolton Select Board, and the link to the Zoom recording of the hearing. Please note: the recording is difficult to hear due to the limited technology in use and the masking requirement.

We also want to recognize and thank Paula Gervia for stepping forward to volunteer to be appointed to Henry Corse's seat on the Select Board. Henry's resignation was effective Friday, September 10, 2021. Paula was appointed by the Bolton Select Board in a motion made by Henry to take his seat and took the oath of office at the Monday, September 20 meeting. Our thanks again to Henry for his service to our community.

Parking at the Old Red Mill is not public

By Kim Place-Faucher, Jericho Historical Society

The Old Red Mill (Jericho Historical Society) property is not a park-and-ride!

There are multiple things going on at the Mill, with the major work of the riverbank and the mill itself. There are large construction vehicles that will be occupying part of the parking lot. There are also multiple, small businesses and a tenant in the building. The craft shop and scoop shop rely on the tourist season and local patrons as well. The Mill's parking lot is required for all of this activity!

So please — no park-and-rides, and no using the Mill's parking lot as an overflow for other businesses unless you ask permission!

Fundraising for the Brick Meeting House

The fundraising chair sale continues at the Westford Brick Meeting House (BMH). You can own a piece of history by purchasing one (or more!) of these retired chairs.

These chairs date back to the earlier part of the previous century, and are looking for new homes. Single chairs sell for \$40 each, with a limited number of triple chairs going for \$100. Proceeds from the sale going towards the renovation of the BMH main hall floor.

Chairs will be available for sale at the BMH building on Saturday, October 9, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

WiFi hotspot in Bolton

Bolton has a WiFi hotspot, located at the U-Haul dealer along U.S. Rt. 2 at 3608 Theodore Roosevelt Highway in Bolton. Residents are welcome to use this WiFi hotspot, a community partnership that helps provide internet access to those that need it. Just look for the WiFi hotspot sign that was graciously donated by Varin's Gravel Pit and installed by town residents Deb Shelby and Ed Sinnamon. Questions? Email the Bolton Economic Resource Committee, erc@boltonvt.com.

Westford news

The Town Office in Westford is open to the public Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM and Friday, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Masks are required for unvaccinated people.

Please remember that several hunting seasons occur during the fall. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads. Pedestrians and pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing. Note that hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest.

News briefs continued on page 3

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Bugs in the woods

By Ethan Tapper

Forests are complex, intricate and nuanced, and also massive, expansive, and interconnected. To be responsible forest stewards we need to both zoom-out to understand our role in a giant landscape, and zoom-in to recognize the tiny pieces and parts that make forests work. We must (somehow) hold both of these realities in focus as we take care of our forests.

This month I want to zoom-in, to talk about invertebrates. Simply put, invertebrates are organisms without spines, an incredibly diverse group of critters that includes everything from insects to sea sponges, squids, slugs, and worms. What most people call “bugs” are arthropods, a sub-group of invertebrates which includes insects, spiders, and even lobsters.

Invertebrates are an incredibly adaptive and resilient bunch, having been around since before the dinosaurs. In terms of sheer abundance and diversity, they stand alone: of the approximately two million known species on Earth, about 97% are invertebrates (900,000 species are just insects), with somewhere between 8-30 million species still undiscovered. Besides accounting for a huge proportion of our biodiversity, the sheer amount of bugs on Earth is startling: there are around 200 million insects for every human on the planet, about 300 pounds of insects for every pound of human. To put us in perspective, the combined mass of all the humans on Earth is about equal to that of all the ants, or the mass that all the spiders on Earth eat in one year.

In Vermont, there are more than 20,000 known species of invertebrates, compared to 58 species of mammals. These invertebrates support our ecosystems in countless ways, mostly unseen. They are what biologist E.O. Wilson calls “the little things that run the world,” subtly working behind the scenes to make our world work.

Invertebrates are the base of the forest food web, directly and indirectly feeding larger wildlife. Moth and butterfly caterpillars for example are critical sources of protein, which songbirds

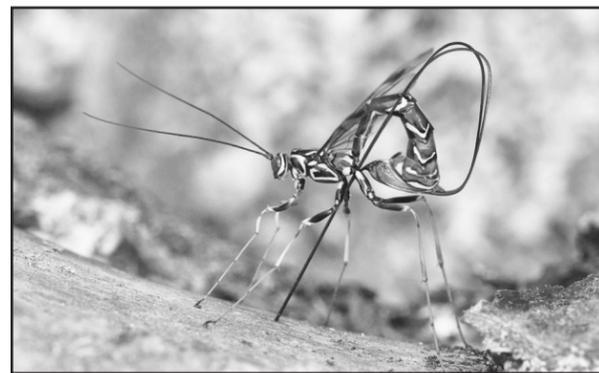
rely on to feed their young in the spring. Caterpillars and other bugs often have close, co-evolved relationships with one or a few different tree species, and so diverse forests are critical to providing habitat for them and the species that eat them.

Invertebrates are also decomposers, turning organic material like wood into soil. Soils are largely biological in nature — their physical and chemical composition a result of being passed through the bodies of countless tiny organisms, transformed by mites, springtails, nematodes, and more. A handful of forest soil may contain thousands of invertebrates of hundreds of different species, not to mention millions or even billions of organisms if you include bacteria, protozoa, algae, and fungi.

Invertebrates perform a huge number of other essential functions. Some, especially flying insects like flies, beetles, or Vermont’s more than 300 species of native bees, are pollinators, helping more than two-thirds of Vermont’s plant species reproduce. Others, like ants, disperse the seeds of some of our native spring wildflowers. The list goes on.

Not all is good with bugs in the woods. Some invertebrates are non-native tree pests, like the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Some non-native bugs which are celebrated in agriculture — the Eurasian honeybee and earthworms — can be problematic in our ecosystems. Non-native invasive plants like honeysuckle, buckthorn, and barberry take over forests, providing habitat for only a tiny fraction of our invertebrates. For many reasons, invertebrates are going extinct at an incredibly fast rate, with as many 100,000 species lost since the 1600s and 40% of known invertebrate species thought to be under threat of extinction.

Invertebrate habitat is as diverse as they are. They live in rotting wood, in soil, in the leaves and branches of young, healthy trees and the complex bark of big, old trees. On a large scale, the most important thing we can do for invertebrates is to protect our forests from fragmentation and loss, managing for diverse, intact, connected landscapes. On a smaller scale, we can



A giant ichneumon wasp, one of the millions of invertebrate animals that our woodlands rely upon to support the web of living things in Vermont. Just “a handful of forest soil may contain thousands of invertebrates of hundreds of different species, not to mention millions or even billions of organisms if you include bacteria, protozoa, algae, and fungi.” — Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

manage for complex forests, encouraging different sizes, ages, and species of trees while also leaving some big “legacy” trees, dead-standing trees, and lots of dead wood on the forest floor, and dealing with biodiversity threats like non-native invasive plants.

Great things come in small packages. As strange as it seems, healthy populations of bugs are critical to the integrity and the resilience of our forests and the beauty and function of our world.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

Community columns continued on page 7

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 6

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. Hosted by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood — please consider donating! Everyone must wear a face mask, regardless of vaccine status. You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and entering COVENANT in the search bar.

MMCTV Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, online. If you’d like to learn more about your local community media center, the public is invited to this virtual board meeting. Agenda and link at <http://mtmansfieldctv.org/mmctv-board-meeting/>.

Thursday, October 7

Beaver rescue virtual presentation, 1:30 PM, online. Learn about the rescue of a one-month old beaver kit and the stream-based rehab structure that has become its home until its release to the wild. In May of 2020 a baby beaver kit (named BK) was found wandering down a rail trail. A local farmer had bulldozed the beaver family’s dam and lodge, and BK was on his own. Wildlife Rehabber John Aberth took on building a “beaver lodge” in a stream and BK lived there, joined by another orphaned female kit. Lots of challenges and joyful times ensued. Sponsored by the Bolton Community Senior Center. Contact jane@cscvt.org for the link.

Saturday, October 9

Together Again! Benefit for CVCOA, 12:00 – 2:00 PM, Stowe Mountain Resort and Spa, Stowe. This event celebrates Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) coming back together with the community to support aging services. There will be hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar, the presentation of a Community of Strength award, a comedic story, live music, a creative arts initiative table, and more, all hosted by comedic storyteller Sue Schmidt of Burlington. The event will be held outdoors unless weather dictates “inside” and CVCOA will follow all state COVID-19 guidelines for the event and will try to move the event to Zoom if in-person gatherings are restricted. Purchase tickets online at <https://cvcoa.networkforgood.com/events/32830-together-again>. Unable to attend? Donate on the event page or bid on our amazing auction items! For assistance with purchasing tickets or questions about the event, please contact CVCOA’s Event Coordinator Paula Otenti, events@cvcoa.org or 802-476-0116. Learn more about CVCOA services and programs online at <http://www.cvcoa.org>.

French Canadian Genealogy: Getting Started, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, on Zoom. With Jane Whitmore. For those new to the search

for their French-Canadian roots, Jane Duchesneau Whitmore will provide an overview of resources to begin building your family tree. Though much can be accomplished without knowledge of the French language, sources to assist with research and the translation of records will be provided. This class will also provide insights into Québec history and how it influenced our ancestors’ lives. A handout with references for your own research will be provided. VT Genealogy Library classes will be held on Zoom on Saturdays 12:00 – 1:30 PM; the cost is \$10. The library is open Tuesdays, 3:00 – 9:30 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; this is a measure in place to control numbers due to COVID, kept for now because of the resurgence. Masks are optional for those who are vaccinated. To learn more, and to register for the classes, visit www.vtgenlib.org. You can also visit our Facebook page or call at 802-871-5647.

Sunday, October 10

Annual Harvest Ham Dinner, 4:00 – 5:30 PM pickup, St. Thomas Parish, Underhill Center. Take-out meals only; menu: ham, baked potatoes, squash, carrots, coleslaw, rolls, homemade desserts. Tickets \$12 per meal; please purchase or reserve tickets ahead of time after all Masses at St. Thomas Church, Wells Corner Market in Underhill Center, or Snowflake Chocolates in Jericho. For more information or to place a ticket order, please call Teri at the church rectory, 802-899-4632.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K Walk, 12:00 PM, Veterans Memorial Park, Dorset St., S. Burlington. Raise funds for the fight against breast cancer, celebrate breast cancer survivors and their caregivers, and remember those loved ones lost. For more information and to sign up, go online to https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=strides_msabc.

Nature walk with Cambridge Rec, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve, 316 N. Cambridge Rd., Cambridge. Join the Cambridge Recreation Committee for a VT Master Naturalist walk to look at fall trees and explore the stories they can tell. For all ages. Please RSVP to <https://forms.gle/TMPQCjhdFKZ6ZA7>.

Wólówózi – a celebration of indigenous culture, 2:00 – 11:00 PM, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, VT Rt. 108S, Jeffersonville. Sponsored by Smugglers’ and the Varnum Memorial Library. Events on the Village Green include: 2:00 – 5:00 PM, vendors and food trucks; 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Abenaki singer-songwriter Bryan Blanchette accompanied by Blackwolf and Padraig; 5:30 – 6:30 PM, Goodtime Charlie & Jammin’ Sam play guitars and sing, with special guest Bryan Blanchette. Meeting House Movies: 7:00 – 8:45 PM, *Rumble, The Indians Who Rocked the World*; 9:00 – 11:00 PM, *Thunderheart*, a fictional portrayal of events relating to the Wounded Knee incident in 1973. If the weather is inclement, Village Green events will move to the Meeting House. Face masks are required in the Meeting House and other indoor facilities. More information is available on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/3Uv19WJ26>.

Wednesday, October 13

AgeWell Grab & Go Meals, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. The entrée is chicken cacciatore. Register by Friday, October 7 by contacting Donna Lewis, 802-434-3155 or bellyacr@gmavt.net.

Thursday, October 14

Jericho Historical Society Board meeting, 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month. For information, please call 802-899-3225.

2021 Vermont Land Trust Annual Meeting, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on Zoom. From Conservation to Activation: Aligning our past, present, and future – join a panel discussion about VLT’s evolution and the changing meaning of land conservation. Panelists: Darby Bradley, former president, VT Land Trust; Jessica Witscher, owner of Understory Farm, Bridport; and Melody Walker, educator, activist, artist, and member of the Elnu Abenaki Tribe. Please contact Abby White, abby@vlt.org, with questions and accommodation requests. Register online at <https://join.vlt.org/event/2021-vlt-annual-meeting-from-conservation-to-activation-aligning-our-past-present-and-future/e355125>.

Friday, October 15

CLiF Book Club for Grown-Ups: Unstitched, 7:00 PM,

on Zoom. Author Brett Ann Stanciu will join the call to discuss her new memoir Unstitched: My journey to understand opioid addiction and how people and communities can heal. Stanciu previously wrote Hidden View, a novel about sugaring and marriage. She is a librarian and lives in the Northeast Kingdom. To register, go online to <https://clifonline.org/events/>.

Saturday, October 16

Horse tack and equipment sale, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Champlain Valley Fairgrounds, Essex Junction. Presented by the Whispering Pines 4-H Club, this is a different type of sale — no consignments! The club will sell all of the items donated to the club for the past two years, at rock-bottom prices. Big free pile! If you have several items you’d like to sell, you may rent a table from the club for \$20 to sell your own items (arrive at 8:00 AM to set up, and you may browse and purchase Whispering Pines items until the sale opens at 9:00 AM). Hoping to return to a regular consignment sale next spring. For information on renting a table contact Mary Fay, joelmary4h@aol.com of 802-878-1215.

VT French Canadian Genealogical Society annual Fall Conference, online. Speakers: Professor Holly A. Mayer on her book Congress’s Own: A Canadian Regiment, the Continental Army and American Union, a book that details Colonel Moses Hazen’s 2nd Canadian Regiment, one of the first “national” regiments in the American army; Tom Ledoux, creator and founder of the website *Vermont in the Civil War*, a grass-roots project documenting the contributions of the Green Mountain State to the War of the Rebellion; and David Ouimette from *FamilySearch.org* will present “Big Data & Machine Learning: Making Family Connections” about the use of artificial intelligence to digitize content and to index Québec genealogy records. For conference details and to register: www.vtgenlib.org.

Tuesday, October 19

Westford town-wide meeting on Community Wastewater Project, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Westford Elementary School, Westford. The Westford Planning Commission will share details

Coming events continued on page 6

The Mountain Gazette

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News briefs continued from page 2

Hunting of any species is permitted during deer and turkey seasons. Hunting, whatever and whenever permitted, also takes place on private lands. All trails in Westford either pass through or abut private lands. Therefore, please take precautions when traveling on trails during hunting seasons.

Senior Luncheon: Our September luncheon was successful. We had about 21-25 seniors who enjoyed their potluck lunch. Officers have stayed the same. Vice President is Maureen Estus, Secretary is Beth Menut, Treasurer is Loreen Teer. Carol Howrigan will continue being your President for one more year and then I’m retiring. If anyone is thinking about doing the President position, please contact one of our officers. Our next luncheon is Monday, October 11. Not sure what is on the menu this time, but I’m sure Caroline will choose something yummy. We will, again, wear our masks until we eat. The setting up crew did a great job separating the tables into small groups. Hope to see you October 11! For more information contact Carol Howrigan, 802-878-3090 or carolfrank2@comcast.net.

The Westford Free Food Pantry is now open! Stop by the Westford Country Store & Café and check out the new food pantry on the porch. Take what you need for yourself or a neighbor or leave something for someone else. Open 24/7 to all. This project was completed by Westford Mutual Aid. Special thanks to Fivos and Alex Kalimeris for letting us use their space and to Bob Schipper for generously donating and refurbishing the cupboard.

HEALTH NEWS

To our community, from your Copley Health Care Team

As a country, we are certainly not where we all hoped we would be by now with respect to the COVID pandemic. And in many parts of America, the situation is once again troubling. However, currently in Vermont, the most vaccinated state in the union, COVID is being well managed and the situation is not getting more worrisome with time. This is in large part because Vermonters have chosen, and continue to choose, to act responsibly with the wellbeing of our communities in mind.

As part of this community-minded effort, Copley, your community hospital, takes our role in managing COVID very seriously so we can continue in our mission to serve the health needs of our community while keeping our patients, staff, and community as safe as possible. We are very grateful and honored that you continue to choose Copley for your health care needs, and we would like to give you a brief summary of our efforts in managing COVID to make Copley as safe as possible.

- All patients are PCR-tested for COVID prior to their admission; this includes surgical patients.
 - All birthing mothers are given a one-hour COVID PCR test, so they can safely give birth without a mask and can welcome their babies into the world face-to-face. We have done this throughout the pandemic.
 - All visitors to Copley must show proof of vaccination and must wear a mask. The number of visitors to the hospital is limited.
 - Masks are required for all our staff, regardless of vaccination status.
 - 93% of our staff are vaccinated. As of October 1, vaccines are mandated for all our staff; those with an approved exemption will be tested weekly.
 - All our staff are screened daily, and those with any COVID compatible symptoms must test COVID-negative before reporting to duty.
 - The ventilation system in the hospital has been upgraded and optimized.
 - The hospital has been modified to have nine COVID-appropriate isolation rooms.
 - Our drive-thru COVID PCR testing continues Monday-Saturday by appointment (802-888-8642). Copley is self-sufficient with COVID PCR testing and has done over 20,000 tests since the pandemic began, and we are currently doing over 400 a week.
 - We are currently organizing to restart the Copley-VFW vaccine clinics for the boosters when approved.
- It is understandable that some of these measures can feel burdensome and annoying. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to provide the best possible care while keeping everyone safe. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions and concerns.

Tai Chi in a new location this fall

Fall Prevention Tai Chi Classes will now be offered at Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex. Tai Chi increases balance and agility, upper and lower body strength, and mindfulness of body movements in time and space, and teaches stress relief techniques. You will be instructed in the slow purposeful movements of Sun Style Tai Chi in all classes by instructors: Billie Hall and Jo Osborne, Certified Tai Chi Instructors.

Tai Chi meets twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Tuesday, October 5 through Thursday, December 16. To start class after October 14, you must have instructor permission. Masks covering nose and mouth must be worn indoors.

- Classes and times:
- 10:00 – 10:55 AM: Beginner Class. No experience necessary. Come with a willingness to learn and have fun.
 - 11:00 – 11:55 AM: Ongoing Class. Need to have taken Fall Prevention Tai Chi Classes 1, 2, and 3. Come with a willingness delve further into the practice of Tai Chi and have fun.
 - 12:00 – 12:55 PM (live and on Zoom): Seated Tai Chi Class. No experience necessary. Come with a willingness to learn and have fun.

These classes are sponsored by AgeWell, and there is no cost for those 60+. Donations are greatly appreciated for AgeWell and Covenant Community Church.

To register: Indicate which class. Contact Billie, hall.bd@comcast.net, or Jo, joannosborne2@gmail.com. No computer? Call 802-899-2704. You will be sent a link to the online registration form to be completed before the first class. Once we have received the completed form, your spot will be reserved. Class size is limited to 25. No walk-ins.

Please wear comfortable clothing, and supportive shoes.

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Essex Rescue welcomes four full time staff members

With an ever-increasing volume of 9-1-1 calls, Essex Rescue has hired four new full time staff members. The goal is to help increase the number of ambulances serving our communities.

Caitlin Douglass is an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. She is currently in the end of her paramedic program and is excited to become a full time paramedic. Before becoming active in the emergency medicine community, Caitlin was working full time in design management.

Caitlin became interested in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) when she took a CPR re-certification class and was looking for a way to give back and connect with the local community. After signing up for an EMT class, she contacted Essex Rescue to do a ride-along. She loved the wide array of experience that members of Essex Rescue held and the sense of community within the organization. She joined as a volunteer and was finally hired full time this year. Outside of Essex Rescue, Caitlin can be found mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, kayaking, skiing, or Jack jumping. She loves good food and enjoys trying new recipes, traveling, and spending quality time with friends and family.

Michelle Franklin is a Paramedic who began volunteering in EMS in 2004 with Waterbury Ambulance. She has since worked full time and per diem for various Vermont EMS organizations, including Barre Town. She applied to Essex Rescue for a full time Paramedic position because she knew of Essex Rescue's good reputation. Michelle grew up in Charlotte and just bought a house in Richmond. In 2020 she had a pandemic wedding, which had to be rescheduled twice.

Alex Rogers is an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician



There are four new full-time staff at Essex Rescue, (left to right) Alex Rogers, Caitlin Douglass, Courtney Newman-Tomaino, and Michelle Franklin. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

and she is currently working towards her Paramedic degree. Prior to obtaining her AEMT she graduated with a bachelor of science in Neuroscience. She applied to Essex Rescue to further serve her community. Outside of EMS Alex enjoys hiking, running, canoeing, and playing with her dog. She grew up in Cambridge, VT and currently lives in Essex.

Courtney Newman-Tomaino is an AEMT currently working towards her Paramedic license. She has run with Essex Rescue for the past three years as a volunteer, then a per diem member, and is now full time! When she began at Essex Rescue as a volunteer, the nights she ran rescue quickly became the highlight of her week. She enjoys meeting the physical and emotional needs of her fellow community members. Courtney is from Jericho and enjoys outdoor activities as well as being a mom of two energetic children.

Essex Rescue would like to welcome these new full-time members and thank them in advance for their service. These individuals will help Essex Rescue to provide high quality and timely service.

Get involved with Healthy Lamoille Valley

Parent/Caregiver Workgroup: We are happy to announce the return of the Healthy Lamoille Valley Parent/Caregiver Workgroup! We'll meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM starting September 22. Read more at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/parent-caregiver-workgroup>.

October Coalition Meeting: Let's get together at our next coalition meeting for a look at Healthy Lamoille Valley's priorities in the year ahead and how you can get involved! The meeting is Tuesday, October 5, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, on Zoom. Please register in advance for this meeting at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/join-us-october-coalition-meeting>.

Lamoille Valley Coaches Collaborative: We're launching a new Lamoille Valley Youth Sports Community Directory. Read more and connect with a local league, team, or club at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/sports>! Coming up, a Lamoille Valley Coaches Collaborative kickoff event! This is a great time to join

the coaches collaborative! Email alison@healthylamoillevalley.org if you're interested in getting involved.

Municipal Survey: Ever wonder what you and others can be doing in our community to reduce substance misuse? We're inviting town municipal leaders to help us gather information on the current pulse of what is happening in your municipalities related to substance misuse and prevention. Learn more at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/municipal-survey>.

Live Your Why Passport: Live Your Why Passport Edition is a series of free workshops and enrichment activities that build resilience and community connections for Lamoille Valley middle school students. Each workshop focuses on one skill: mental health, physical well-being, self-expression, resourcefulness, community connections building, and volunteering. Learn more at <http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/passport>.

Tobacco Prevention Taskforce: Join Healthy Lamoille Valley's Tobacco Taskforce and work together to address underage tobacco and vaping in your community! Email Alison, alison@healthylamoillevalley.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jericho Center sidewalk plantings attract attention

To the Editor,

Yesterday a couple walked along the sidewalk in Jericho Center, heading north from the Country Store. They stopped to praise the flowers and "weeds" planted between the sidewalk and the road — and it turned out that one of the two was a nationally-known expert on bees (https://jarrodfowler.com/specialist_bees.html)! We mentioned his name to bee-lovers here in Vermont, and they were amazed that such an expert had visited our tiny town and had noticed our plantings! We're delighted, and doubly delighted that others have also planted flowers in the green strip — changing the look of the town and making us so much more pollinator-friendly. It's estimated that one out of every three bites of food we eat is here because of pollinators. Many of North America's pollinators have disappeared already or are disappearing fast. If the rest go, we could lose as many as 1200 crops and over a hundred thousand different plant species.

Pollinators need every bit of friendly help they can get.

Maeve Kim
Jericho

Rethinking outdoor cats

To the Editor,

Finding it so sad to read of lost or killed cats, I'm sticking my neck out here to tell people about the advice received from the folks selling us their house over a quarter century ago off Irish Settlement Road. Speaking from hard experience, they warned that if we let our cats outdoors, we could expect to lose about a cat a year.

It's difficult not to sentimentalize about wanting our pets to have a full, outdoorsy life, but the statistics argue that home sweet home promises a much longer (and often pretty cosy) life (and as a bonus saves millions of songbirds' lives). We've been lucky, I admit, in having adopted feral cats who were quite clear that The Great Outdoors was full of unpleasant risks. So, I know it's tough to restrict a mature, outdoor cat. Perhaps, at least with kittens, it would be worth stocking up on kitty toys, teaching them to regard The Great Indoors as the norm, and quietly ignoring the inevitable whimpering at the door or window that does go on for a while.

Lee Thompson
Underhill

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for more information
or email mtngazette@gmavt.net

Update on Stevensville Cabin restoration

To the Editor,

Friends of Stevensville Cabin, thank you for being so patient! It's been a while since I've been in touch. The past year has been an incredibly difficult one for me, as I know it has been for many others. May these hard times pass soon, and may we all emerge healthier, stronger, and more resilient.

The dream to restore the cabin at the top of Stevensville Road has not been lost in all of this, however, and I am grateful for all the interest and support that I have received for this project. I have had discussions with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Green Mountain Club, and Vermont Huts, in the hope that some collaborations might emerge. I have also been working closely with the Underhill Historical Society, who are interested in preserving this unique piece of Underhill history.

A couple of weeks ago we had another "treasure hunt" and unearthed many fascinating relics from previous owners, including two axe heads, a plow, part of a lantern, a pocket watch, and more... I (had) some of these items on display at the Underhill Historical Society booth at the Old Fashioned Harvest Market.

The fundraising campaign is also in full swing, and I encourage anyone who might be able to support the project financially to please check out the website (www.stevensville-cabin.org) to donate online, or contact me at stevensville.cabin.info@gmail.com if you would like make a contribution by check. All contributions will be very gratefully received.

Assuming that sufficient funds are available, the plan is for Miles Jenness (of Vermont Heavy Timber) to undertake the repairing/hewing of the logs this winter. All going well, we hope start the rebuilding next summer. I look forward to your continued support and involvement.

Best wishes,
Sara Lourie

COLLEGE NEWS

Carly E. Hansen of Jericho, VT is enrolled as a member of the Class of 2025 at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY. Hansen attended Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho.

Marcello Souza of Jericho, VT has qualified for the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June (October 9 and 23). Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. October 10: This I Wonder/ This I Believe: led by Ann Bonanno. Fellowship members offer thoughts about what they believe and what they wonder about over the course of their spiritual journey. October 24: Sunday Service led by Emma Schoeberg. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be exclusively held over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We are young and old; single, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. All are welcome. Some people think of us as the Harvest Market Church or the Clutter Barn Church. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children's sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 899-4583.

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch> or <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

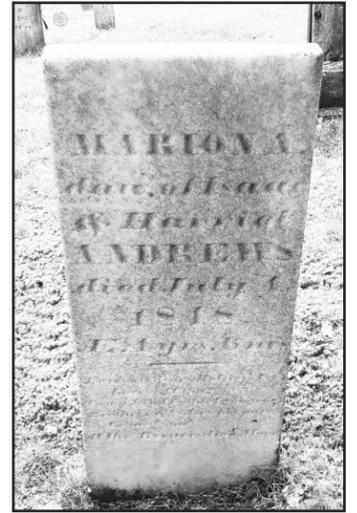
You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15, Jericho at 9:00 AM every Sunday. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including folk, contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. The building is accessible — all are welcome! In addition, Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is offered on Fridays at 8:00 AM; access information and more about the church is at <http://goodshepherdjericho.org/>. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information, 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church now worships in person at the church on Sundays at 9:30 AM. Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. All are warmly welcome!

Volunteers make the difference in Bolton cemetery restoration

A small group of volunteers led by Bryan Farnsworth, a seventh generation former Bolton resident, started cleaning the headstones in the East Bolton Cemetery near the fire station in July of 2018. The East Bolton project continued and when they finished, the group moved their endeavor to the West Bolton Cemetery in the fall of 2019. The project was placed on hold in 2020 with the arrival of the COVID pandemic.



A weekend-long event was held on Saturday-Sunday, September 11-12 this year to resume activities at the West Bolton Cemetery. The small group of local volunteers were able to complete cleaning more than 20 headstones and markers. The oldest stone cleaned was from a one year old girl named Marion Andrews, who died in 1818.

It was a sunny fall weekend, which made it ideal for cleaning headstones. Over two-thirds of the stones in the cemetery remain to be cleaned, so this project could continue for a few more years — depending on volunteer engagement and any unforeseen circumstances.

Bryan Farnsworth would like to thank to all who have assisted and/or offered thanks for the work being done in Bolton.

Cub Scout Pack 620 registration continues

Interested in joining Cub Scouts? Pack 620's annual registration period continues. Cub Scouts is open to both boys and girls, grades K-5!

Scouting is a great chance to build a stronger family, create memories, build citizenship, learn new skills, create friendships that will last a lifetime, and so much more.

For an Introduction to Cub Scouts: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/>.

For more information, questions, or to register, please contact Andy, beatnickvt@yahoo.com and cubpack620vt@gmail.com.

At this time, masks will be required by anyone attending an indoor scouting event and in some cases outdoor events.

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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours for in-person appointments — call 802-899-4962 to schedule: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Hours for curbside pickup: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

School has started and we want to remind everyone that we are asking people to limit their time inside to 30 minutes when they visit the library, and everyone over 2 must wear a mask. At this time, we do not have any public seating available inside, only outside. Please keep this in mind when sending your kids to the library after school. We would love to have them stop in but for no more than 30 minutes. There will be some special activities happening this fall after school so watch our website, www.drml.org, to register for those.

To register for programs, call 802-899-4962, or email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) for Adult Programs or Abbey (youth_librarian@drml.org) for Youth Programs.

Youth Programs - Outdoor Story Time (preschool): Tuesdays, 10:30 AM on the back lawn of the library. Weather dependent.

Music and Stories with Beth and David London (preschool): Friday mornings at 11:00 AM. Join Beth and David on the lawn behind the library for music and stories! Weather dependent.

Story Walk (all ages) Starting at the end of the sidewalk on the right side of the building and wrapping around the edge of the field. Look for a new story almost every month, or reread great stories on each visit.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Jericho Town Library is fully open, no appointment needed. 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday to Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday: note the special evening hours on Tuesdays! Masks required indoors for unvaccinated folks (including children 2-12); optional otherwise.

Since we are now fully reopened, we have suspended curbside service. We're excited to see everyone in-person again!

Library hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM

Coming events continued from page 3

and answer questions and concerns. This will be a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting, with more details to come for those that wish to participate remotely. All COVID-safe precautions will be made for those who want to attend in person. Please visit www.westfordfuture.com to learn more about the Community Wastewater Project. For questions and more information, contact Westford Town Planner Melissa Manka, planner@westfordvt.us, 802-878-4587, or the Westford Planning Commission, planningcommission@westfordvt.us.

Wednesday, October 20

Workshop: How to sell online, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Green Mountain Technical and Career Center, Hyde Park. If you've thought about adding online sales to your existing website or want to start from scratch, this workshop will provide you with clear steps to complete those tasks. Offered by Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC). Presenter: Elisa Clancy, MBA, LEDC's Webmaster and Marketing Consultant and owner of 3W Promotions, LLC, a full-service, digital marketing business. In-person (masks required, but no other COVID restrictions) workshop format with Q&A. Workshop fee \$50; refreshments provided. For more information and to register, <https://sellyourproductsonline.eventbrite.com>.

Friday-Saturday, November 5-6

UVM Extension Master Gardener State (virtual) Conference, online. Theme: The Garden as a Place of Collaboration, Stewardship, and Connection. Speakers include: Missisquoi Abenaki Dr. Fred Wiseman, ethnobotanist and retired professor and former department Chair of Humanities at Johnson State College, who researches the crops, agriculture, and cuisine of the Wabanaki region; Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Abenaki, who helped lead the fight for state recognition for the Abenaki people of Vermont; author Michael Phillips, who practices organic, regenerative agriculture at Heartsong Farm and Lost Nation Orchard and who wrote *The Holistic Orchard and Mycorrhizal Planet*; Travis Reynolds, Assistant Professor at the UVM Gund Institute, whose expertise is institutional economics, agricultural development and food policy and whose most recent work is on Vermont's food system; members of the Barton Community Garden; Ari Rockland-Miller, co-founder of The Mushroom Forager, LLC who has led hundreds of lectures and workshops on wild and cultivated mushrooms and edible plants; and artist, chef, gardener, and writer Ellen Ecker Ogdan, whose most recent book is *The New Heirloom Garden* (Rodale 2021). To learn more and register go to <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/uvm-extension-community-horticulture-annual-conference-2021>.

CAR Rail Trail Ramble 2021 is on through October 11

The Cambridge Area Rotary Rail Trail Ramble is a Cambridge Area Rotary Community FUNdraising event for all to enjoy on the scenic Lamoille Valley Rail Trail! This is a general fundraiser, benefiting Lamoille County human service organizations/events as well as Rotary International Service Projects.

Participants can walk, run, or bike a length of their choice on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (<https://www.lvrt.org/>). Virtual fundraising is open until Monday, October 11. Participants can choose the day and time they would like to get out on the LVRT to complete your walk, run, or bike run!

The leaves will be at peak and that will give you plenty of time to fundraise!

There are fabulous prizes for top fundraisers in three categories: individual, family, and team. So get out there and Ramble on the Trail and do some FUNdraising too!

To sign up or donate, go online to <https://givebutter.com/railtrailramble2021>.

– 6:00 PM; Thursdays 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday.

Please review our website for all events: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/>.

Retirees and Seniors Program: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Tuesday, October 12, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

Wólówôzi – a Celebration of Indigenous Culture, Sunday, October 10, 2:00 – 11:00 PM, Smugglers' Notch Resort Village Green (inclement weather site Meeting House with mandatory masking).

Varnum Autumn Clean-Up and Pre-Winter Building Maintenance, Saturday, October 16, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Calling all volunteers to assist with our fall cleanup and building maintenance needs. Volunteer at varnumboardofdirectors@gmail.com, or stop on by when you can! Our work list includes: wood trim under balustrade on porch needs to be glued on; paint back door frame; paint window sills; Varnum sign needs to be touched up; pile of brush in back needs to be removed; leaf raking.

Retirees and Seniors Program / Mental Health and Wellness, Tuesday, October 19, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

Mountain View Cemetery Gravestone Symbology, Wednesday, October 20, 6:30 PM, Mountain View Cemetery.

Retirees and Seniors Program: Things that go Bump in the Night, Tuesday, October 26, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

Halloween at the Varnum, Sunday, October 31, 6:30 PM.

Retirees and Seniors Program: Book Club, *Three Can Keep a Secret* by Vermont author Archer Mayor, Tuesday, November 2, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

We're also excited to announce we have a wonderful volunteer to host a new parents group at the Varnum! This group would be hosted with the guidance of a former nurse in kids and maternal health and the NICU, lactation consultant and childbirth educator. She is willing to meet with members of our community to answer questions or just get together for support to new parents. More details to come on dates. If you are interested in this initiative and would like more information, please email Courtney at cmilacqua@gmail.com.

Please let us know how we can assist you by emailing us at varnumrequests@gmail.com or calling us at 644-2117.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals. You are welcome to continue wearing a mask as a personal choice. We are continuing to require masks for all unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated visitors while you are indoors. This includes children aged 2-11, who cannot be vaccinated at this time. Infants and toddlers aged 2 and younger are not required to wear a mask. Masks are not required at any of our outside programs.

Thursdays, 11:15 AM, on the Common: Outside Early Literacy Storytime, birth to pre-school. Bring a blanket and lunch. We will sing songs, read stories, move and have fun! Crafts can be picked up as well. If weather is bad, storytime will be cancelled. October 14: Fire Safety Storytime with Westford Fire Chief Steve Willard and a firetruck! October 28: Halloween — wear your costume if you'd like! No storytime on October 21.

Tuesdays after school in October: Coloring Club! Great for grades 3-5! Kids can ride Bus #3, with note from home. Meets afterschool until 5:00 PM. Snack included. Sign up required, masks are required. Coloring is relaxing and fun; we will work on a variety of projects using a variety of mediums. Perfect for kids focused on coloring, art, and crafts.

Fridays, October 14-December 17: Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Math Club for grades K-12. This after school Math Club is sponsored by Bedtime Math, with hands-on activities to help reinforce math skills. Moderators lead the clubs around an action-packed curriculum. Bus transport provided from school (Bus #3). Class ends at 4:30 PM; pickup your child at the Library between 4:30 – 5:00 PM. Your child should plan to attend all classes; best behavior is expected. Permission slips and more information emailed home to those who sign up. Masks required. No classes October 22 and November 26.

Thursday, 6:30 PM: Fiber Arts Group meets in person at the library.

Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Trustees Meeting.

Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 PM: Adult Book Group, on Zoom (link published on FPF, sent via email, and on our Facebook page). Discussing *Still Lives* with author Maria Hummel. Kim Lord is an avant-garde figure, feminist icon, and agent provocateur in the L.A. art scene. Her ground-breaking new exhibition *Still Lives* is comprised of self-portraits depicting herself as famous, murdered women — the Black Dahlia, Chandra Levy, Nicole Brown Simpson, among many others — and the works are as compelling as they are disturbing, implicating a culture that is too accustomed to violence against women. Except Kim Lord never shows up to her own gala.

Saturday, October 30 - Trick or Treat at the Library all day! 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, come by the library in costume and get a treat!

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (October 6; November 3), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (October 16; November 20), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Fairfax Community Library is getting ready for fall! The library is looking more like usual with seating areas, new books, and book displays. We are moving forward with our programming

as well while following safety guidelines and library protocols.

The library is open to public patrons after 3:00 PM on weekdays, in a coordinated effort with the BFA-Fairfax School to keep our community safe. The library hours will be Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 3:00 – 5:30 PM; Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

We are asking everyone to please wear a face mask in the library. To help meet the needs of all library users, Curbside Pickup Services will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM upon request.

Please contact the library if you have any questions or to register for a program.

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

Youth events

Wednesday, October 6, 3:00 PM: Beaded Spiders. Make a creepy, cute spider friend! Ages 8 and up. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Thursday, October 7, 3:15 PM: Read with Henry. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Henry, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Wednesday, October 13, 1:00 PM: Mad Scientist Lab. Color-changing potions, bubbling beakers, and frothing brews! Visit the mad scientist's lab and learn how to make them all. Ages 8 and up. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Tuesdays October 5 and 19, 9:30 AM, and Wednesdays October 13 and 27, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! We will meet outside on the middle school lawn. Please bring a blanket or something to sit on, and don't forget to wear your masks and keep social distancing guidelines in mind! Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Wednesday, October 20, 3:00 PM: Mummy Luminaries. Mummify some candleholders to create some cute mummy luminaries! Ages 8 and up. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Tuesday, October 19, 3:10 PM: STEM Club. Meet up each month for STEM Club with Erica Green! Space is limited, so please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to sign up. Ages 9-12

Adult events

Thursday, October 14, 5:00 PM: Paint 'n Sip. A Halloween-themed painting session with Victoria Vining! All skill levels welcome. Refreshments and materials provided. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Thursday, October 7, 6:30 PM: Author visit with Michael Freed-Thall. Join us for an evening with a local author! Michael Freed-Thall will talk about his book *Horodno Burning*, which was released by Rootstock Publishing on September 21. Michael lives in Fletcher and has been an educator in Vermont for many years. His search for his own family history inspired his debut novel.

Family events

Through October 23: Halloween candy donations. The library is collecting Halloween candy to help homes in high-traffic areas keep up with all the trick-or-treaters! If you would like to donate candy, feel free to drop it off during library hours. To sign up to receive donations, please contact 802-849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com. The deadline is Saturday, October 23!

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Mask up, please! Everyone entering the Library is required to wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status. As a community library we value the privacy and safety of all our patrons.

New hours: the Library's hours have changed as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Our webpage, Facebook and email reflect this information and we will be changing physical signage soon.

The Friends of the Richmond Free Library are having a book sale! The Friends were unable to hold a book sale in February due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A sale has been scheduled for Friday, October 22, 5:30 – 8:30 PM and Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The Library is accepting donations of gently used and clean items. Bring donations to the main circulation desk for review. Please, no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, dictionaries, condensed books, or out-of-date materials. Volunteers are needed; please let us know if you'd like to help with the sale.

Fall Youth Programs, with ongoing COVID precautions in place as needed. Program details are below. Weekly youth programs at the Library run September-May and follow the MMUUSD school district schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

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

Storytime and Playgroup: The good times kick off with stories, songs, and shakers; then, the toys and art supplies come out for free play and crafts. Co-sponsored by the Lund Center. Kids from infant-5 and their grown ups are invited to join us in the community room on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Contact us at 434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

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

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRM0hJQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. 802-879-0313; essexfreelibrary.com

Community columns continued from page 3

September is a liminal month

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

September has done a great job of straddling the seasons. The wind is almost constant, either chasing a few red maple leaves that have yet to drop, or sprinkling raindrops as a last eulogy to the slow-folding of the grasses. The mountain gentles in the last of its rusty green; it's almost calmer, with a few wisps of mist forming and reforming themselves as they slide across the topmost rocks.

A sentry crow stutters and rocks, trying to hang on to the top bare branch of a dying cherry tree — what a beautiful sense of balance! And he can easily turn a free fall into a clever recovery flight. He will return later, sometimes gathering a few other crows to share his perch — it is a perfect look-out; all quadrants are clear, and his job is to tell others of his ilk from whence danger may come, sweeping in to get them all on a raucous red-alert. What message did he receive to hunt elsewhere? He tries to copy the gurgle and croak of his cousin, the raven, but isn't quite making it.

Along the edge of our road, unnoticed faded green clumps, reminiscent of Cinderella's coming-out party, explode into royal purples — the asters of fall. Drooping among this vivid salute of the season are a few left over Queen Anne's lace. Goldenrod adds the contrast of colors.

It is time to take the bouncing dogs and go to the pond, where water lilies are letting go of their warm smell from summer, breaking loose and floating, eight feet below. The pond needs work... trees have blown in on the sides and it looks carelessly languid. I need to look at it as a place of memories: bare-naked kids slopping into the sand, building watery shoes and dripping shirts to cover their tanned bodies, of barking dogs, and an occasional good swimmer who makes it out the raft.

A dead skunk in the road walking home. I have wondered why I seem to smell its acrid perfume as I come towards the body, but not after I've passed it. Seems the reverse of what one expects. I had a friend who had a neutered skunk for a pet. I've heard they make good pets, and certainly she attracted a good deal of attention when on her morning walks with a red harness to identify her adoption by humans.

Grapes are abundant, tested every few days to keep an eye on the gradual sweetening. Robert, my gardening son-in-law, says: "Wait 10 days. A little touch of frost and they'll be just right!" My mother used to make what she called grape conserve: thin slivers of lemons and oranges, currants or raisins, finely-chopped walnuts and just a touch of maple syrup, all coming together as a jam to spread on toast. Does anyone know other ingredients?

The first of Canada geese is heard; sounds like squabbling, but there seem to be shifts in position, particularly in the tails of the V. So there must be some directions given to the flock. It is a sad sound for me: winter is not my favorite season and geese share my fear of the sudden icy water that captures their webbed feet. I miss seeing their summer parade of little ones following Mama to the edge of our pond. My mind is mixed with sunshine and sorrow. The two seem to stay by each other, without diminishing or changing either. Perhaps the mind, both visible and shadowed, needs the contrast?

Most butterflies have migrated south, but today I saw a solitary Monarch flitting among the zinnias. Not stopping for a last drink of nectar; time is short. The wind picks up and she is blown out of sight. I wish her well. She has a long trip, based completely on miracles!

Towards the top of a spindly old apple tree dangle a few of the reddest ones, still spared from picking. A small stepladder waits for someone careless to teeter on the top step and optimistically reach for the brightest — the branch creaks, and ladder wiggles but the prize is won. And kneeling in the grass are two others that loosened and fell in the onslaught.

Soon a flutter of snow will lace the sodden grasses. Time to check our wood supply and gather wet branches as smoky starters for October fires. Thank you, September for bringing us into the fold in a gentle way, with bouquets of zinnias before they drop their heads and freeze... with small prayers for our families and friends... for the beauty and the changing of the seasons.

And thank you for reading my essays; thusly, you have brought them into life!

"Nothing is; everything is becoming." — Greek proverb

Schoolboy Abner Eaton, Underhill, Vermont, 1850

By John Connell

Member, Underhill Historical Society

It was Tuesday, October 17, 1850. Abner Eaton woke early on his family's Irish Settlement farm. It was a cool morning as he grabbed his clothing hidden beneath the covers. Abner's home did not have any indoor plumbing. His three siblings were still asleep.

He dressed quickly and bounced outside before the coldness could catch up with him. He headed right to the barn to feed Bessie the cow. Today was a school day.

Abler had inherited an appreciation for learning from his mother. His father and grandfather only knew a farming way of life. Most parents of Abner's friends did not value education. Very few children living in Underhill at the time attended school.

It is remarkable that Abner liked school. The conditions at his one room school were very grim. The building was barely furnished. The lighting was poor. There were four rows of unpainted, battle scared student desks. The teacher's desk sat on a raised platform. A small rectangular stove heated the building. All students shared a common drinking cup. Abner and his schoolmates gathered water from the water trough located at the Wheellock farm across the road.

There was to be nothing of beauty or interest in this one room school building to distract the students' youthful minds. The purpose of this education was learning only the "Books:" reading, writing, penmanship, and arithmetic.

Abner's teacher was unusual. She taught year after year at this building at the corner of Doon Road and Irish Settlement. Most teachers came and went. Abner's teacher was a stern disciplinarian, but she was fair. Once, she cured Abner and his friends for skinny dipping before class. She fixed the boys whose swimming made them tardy by hiding their clothes.

Most often Abner's school was closed during the spring,

summer, fall months. These were the months for active farm work.

At the time of Abner's schooling, Poker Hill was the center of Underhill. This settlement had a tavern, store, and served as a stagecoach stop. Rarely, would his family cross over by horse and wagon from Irish Settlement to Poker Hill.

Still, despite all the many hardships of learning his "Books," Abner persisted. He graduated from the eighth grade in 1858. This was a very grand accomplishment during this time. He had hoped to further his education, but he was called back to the farm. His contributions to his family's self-sufficient way of life was just too necessary for them to survive.

It is sure, however, that Abner Eaton's steadfast appreciation for learning and his example of hard work contributed to the strong, resourceful, independent, Vermont character that informs us today.

Apple drop time

By Bernie Paquette

An apple drops crashing through leaves and branches, narrowly missing a bird that is relieving other hanging-on-fruit of the menace of caterpillars; plunging downward like a skydiver sans parachute, the apple lands with a thud; a dead plant stalk impales its nearly perfect skin, puncturing a wound and adding to the bruise of arriving at its destination on time but too fast for a soft landing.

All of this before a clock hand could sweep past two seconds. On this clock, the next sweep of the hand awaits, waits, stands still, until attention is lost to something other than time.

And so I go back to sipping before the steam escapes with all the robust flavor of Smithsonian Certified Bird Friendly coffee and migrates back to the shade-grown coffee plantations in the Sierra and La Frailesca regions in Chiapas, Mexico.

Some of the birds in our backyard also are preparing for their rise to the thermals as they head back to their wintering grounds.

A red-eyed vireo looks down silently from above. All summer its *prestissimo* song kept the tempo of time from sunrise to sunset. Now it seems to be reminiscing summer romances played in Adagio — slow, with great expression.

Meanwhile, a black and white warbler (zebra bird for me) darts about the apple tree, too light to knock an apple loose, but moves fast and is alert enough to spot tiny worms, spiders, caterpillars, and insects that are too small for me to observe even if I could fly up into the tree for a closer look. I know the avian predator has found breakfast as I watch a snapping munching beak.

A hummingbird zips past me with a buzz of a giant fly, pouncing upon jewelweed blossoms atop seven-foot-high stems; perhaps I spilled a bit of caffeine upon their roots earlier in the spring.

High atop one of our butternut trees, a lemon yellow breast with black wings, a tanager already in its fall foliage; having lost, like the late summer sun, most of its hot red semblance now turned to the yellow of our black cherry, sugar maple, and witch hazel.

Bumblebees scour the last of the yellow Maximillian sunflowers bowing to the goldenrod, which bow even lower in respect for its taller brethren.

Peppers race to finish their transition from green to yellow, or orange, or red; they know their time is short, too.

The gravity of time surrounds me; if I were inside, the weight of falling through bounded space would age me and plummet me faster than the falling apple, my hair turning the color of snow, dropping from the branches and leaves of my head, alerting me of my inevitable final migration.

Fortunately, I am outside. No mechanical unrelenting sweeping hands here. Only an occasional falling apple or butternut racing down to remind me time outside is not lost, only postponed, delayed, slowed for the intervening period.

Nature offers me time, between drops, to observe, reflect, appreciate life as though it was endless, timeless, everlasting.

I am in no rush to reach my final destination, have no desire to be reminded of time quickly passing. I will savor my bird-friendly coffee just as the birds that benefit from it savor the insects on our pesticide-free fruit trees and shrubs.

We are all on one sort of clock or another. I prefer mine with gaps and only occasional reminders, just as nature marches to the reduced daylight hours gradually closing out the summer season.

When the next apple falls I will measure out the enrichment from the life I have observed about me, in the intervening flutter of wings and wispy rise of coffee bean steam.

Professor George F.

By Douglas Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

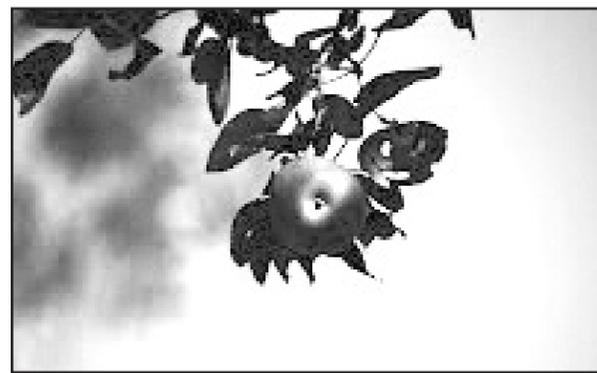
I met George at Virginia Tech where my brother, who was also a professor, worked on some of George's projects. George was very successful but also eccentric. He was able to get several grants and was able to pay graduate students and his own salary. He didn't have to teach students because he primarily did research. George was from New Orleans, and you could tell because of his and his wife Charlene's drawl.

George and Charlene grew up in New Orleans and went to high school there. His father died and his mother had to go into a nursing home, so George would bring her a bottle of whisky and hide it under her bed. The nurses found it, but George talked them into letting her have her nightly drink as long as she didn't drink the whole bottle in a day. She didn't pass until she was in her 90s.

George was a lot older than my brother, but both were in Civil and Environmental Engineering. George gave his wife a new car, jewelry, and nice expensive dishware, furniture, etc. Their two children had everything they wanted. However, George drove an old car to work and had to park on the side hill, so he was able to start it by popping the clutch downhill. His brakes were shot, so he had to use his emergency brake to stop.

Charlene planted some flowers on a spot that George didn't like, so the next time he mowed, he mowed the flowers down and told her that the mower got away from him. His daughter kept slamming her bedroom door, so he took the door off. When she threatened to leave, he told her to go ahead and started to throw her clothes on the lawn and told her that he would help her pack!

He also hated their cat and put cat food in back of the tire on Charlene's car, but the cat was too smart. It ate the food and then got out of the way before Charlene went to town. I thought he



An apple dropping from a tree marks the passing of more than one kind of season for community columnist Bernie Paquette.

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

was kidding but my brother said the neighbor told him he saw George doing it.

George created effective solutions to various problems, including an experiment in growing tilapia in huge tanks and finding the optimal food and density conditions for the fish. Another was converting an old Coast Guard shed into a filtration tank to filter crab waste before it went back into the ocean. I helped him clear out the shed and set the tanks and pumps. We went down on a Friday night and came back Sunday night. There were three professors including my brother who were standing around looking at the project. Finally, my brother Greg asked me if I could be the foreman of the project. We cleared out the metal shelving that was bolted to the cement walls, insulated the walls with slats, plywood, and foam, and insulated the ceiling with fiberglass. I made a couple of teams and sent one guy to the hardware store to get some hydraulic cement to fill the holes after we got the bolts out. Being a plumbing and heating contractor, I have done a lot of similar work, so the project went very well.

I also worked on a filter system with them for a fish farm for trout where we piped up a system that led to a dam that filtered fish poop out of the reservoir. I enjoyed the job because I don't do that kind of work every day. My brother and George are both retired now, and George and Charlene live in a gated retirement community.

Positive steps to successful stepparenting

Recently, parents who have become stepparents through second marriages have been asking me how they can do a good job in this new role. Well, everything's relative, so let me provide some information on stepparenting.

Becoming a stepparent can be a most rewarding experience. If you have never had children, becoming a stepparent offers you the chance to help shape the character of your stepson or stepdaughter. If you do have children, your role as a stepparent can also be critical in creating a supportive environment between siblings and half-siblings. On the other hand, trying to parent when an ex-wife or ex-husband is still in the picture can be confusing and may lead to conflict. So, what do I recommend?

Stepparents and biological parents must be unified as a team. Talk with each other, support each other and be on the same page as you plan to parent children and stepchildren.

Be patient and understand the intensity of the feelings involved. Children mourning a divorce or maybe the loss of a deceased parent need time to heal before they can accept a new stepparent. Don't take their inability to accept you personally, and let your child or children set the pace. Other factors that make each stepparenting experience different can depend on age of the children, how long you've known them, how well your spouse gets along with their ex-spouse, and how much time the children spend with you.

Put the needs of your stepchildren first, not their wants. This means giving the kids love, affection, and consistent rules and not toys and treats to buy their love. A great idea is to create new family traditions with your stepchildren such as a family game night, bike rides, and other fun activities that they may not have done before.

Respect all parents involved, including your partner's ex. Don't use your children as messengers or go-betweens. Instead, do the communication work yourself should questions or issues arise between birth and stepparents. In fact, encourage your stepchild to have one-on-one time with both of their biological parents if possible as well as with you — this sends the message that this isn't a competition for affection, but that you truly want to see your stepchildren happy and feeling supported.

Hopefully tips like these will be a step in the right direction when it comes to knowing what you need to do to be a superb stepparent.

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

The Wind; time is

By Kimberly Madura

One is
coming up for air,
the other is
carrying the fire,

together:
feeling,
loving,
sharing.



The "potato dig" at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho was a great success! UVM Extension Master Gardeners Jean and Terri at DRML held the GREAT POTATO HARVEST on Tuesday, September 14. The weather cooperated and it was fun for all. Saxon Hill Preschool neighbors helped dig and clean potatoes. Over 270 pounds of potatoes were harvested, cleaned, weighed, and packed in an hour and a half. Susan Adams picked up another 40 pounds of potatoes at the Market and delivered them on Thursday, September 16 to the Jericho/Underhill Food Shelf, a well-oiled machine involving many kind and caring folks. The gardeners are happy to have made a small contribution to their good work. PHOTOS BY SUZANNE FREITAS



Salvation Farms welcomes new AmeriCorps member

VISTA stands for Volunteer in Service to America. And this is just what Jessa Gebbie has committed to, a year of service with Salvation Farms. Her primary service role is to help Salvation Farms build its capacity to communicate its work and impact with the public. Salvation Farms is excited to have Jessa and her fresh energy on their team.

Jessa is a graduate of Michigan State University with degrees in Comparative Cultures and Politics and Chinese. She has moved to Vermont from the Great Lakes State,

stating, "I am excited by the opportunity to work with Salvation Farms as an AmeriCorps VISTA this year and to get involved in nonprofit work." After living in a housing cooperative for one year of college, Jessa became interested in cooking with local foods for large groups of people, and in the benefits of community gardening. She says that "community engagement with nutrition is something that can really bring people together."



Jessa Gebbie has joined Salvation Farms as their Communications Capacity Building AmeriCorps VISTA. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Capital City Concerts opens its 2021-2022 season with two performances by the Borromeo String Quartet on Saturday, October 23, 7:30 PM at the Bethany United Church of Christ, Montpelier, and Sunday, October 24, 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, Burlington. Boston's stellar Borromeo Quartet has been hailed for its "edge-of-the-seat performances" by the Boston Globe, which called it "simply the best." They will perform Beethoven's String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132, and more. Tickets to hear the concert live (\$15-\$25) are available in advance at www.capitalcityconcerts.org, and at the door on the day of the performances. Virtual/on-demand tickets also available online. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



The first offering in the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is My Octopus Teacher [G], Sunday, October 17, 2:00 PM. Directed by Pippa Ehrlich and James Reed, this beautiful documentary tells the story of a filmmaker who forges an unusual friendship with an octopus living in a South African kelp forest, and learns deeply as the animal shares the mysteries of her world. For more information including tickets, go online to www.middleburyfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.org, or call 802-382-9222. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Westford Music Series will bring the angelic voices of the award-winning husband and wife musician duo, The Twangtown Paramours, back to Vermont for the October offering on Sunday, October 10, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (White Church), VT Rt. 128. Known for their well-crafted award-winning songs, top-notch lead singing, and fine harmonies, their music has been called sophisticated Americana to describe their hybrid interpretation of the Nashville and Austin music scenes. Although known throughout the U.S. at nationally recognized venues, their occasional trips to Vermont have brought great excitement to the local scene with their blend of provoking lyrics and songs guaranteed to bring joy and fun to their audiences. Free will donations. Mask required. For more information: 802-363-0930. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Calling all middle school brass, woodwind students

The VT Youth Orchestra Association has openings for their fall *Da Capo* program! *Da Capo* offers middle school woodwind and brass players an ensemble enrichment opportunity in an in-person group setting, where students will prepare concert repertoire.

No auditions required! Rehearsals take place Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15 PM at the Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester. Rehearsals began Sunday, September 26.

Learn more about *Da Capo* and VYOA's COVID safety protocols at <http://vyo.org/dacapo>.

BCA, Signal Kitchen launch New Year's Eve Bright Ideas Project

The Bright Ideas Project is starting the countdown to New Year's Eve 2021. Burlington City Arts (BCA) and Signal Kitchen are looking for Vermonters to submit their event ideas for Highlight, the City's New Year's Eve celebration.

Proudly powered by VSECU, the Bright Ideas Project is Highlight's way of crowd-sourcing amazing performance ideas from across Vermont, with up to \$8000 provided to support contributors' ingenious projects.

Events can have elements of music, art, technology, food, volunteering, fundraising, networking, or any other interesting concepts. Happenings of all sizes will be considered. 2021 celebrations include virtual, in-person, and hybrid events, with both virtual and in-person components. Applicants are encouraged to be creative and find ways to positively impact and connect our wonderful community.

Each selectee will receive support from Highlight in various areas, including an award of up to \$8000. This award may be used to fund supplies and materials needed for the execution of the event, expenses such as space and equipment rentals, talent fees, marketing and publicity costs, and other event-related matters.

Applicants must demonstrate that the programming will take place between December 31, 2021 and January 1, 2022. Applicants must be Vermont residents.

Proposals can be submitted electronically online at <https://highlight.community>. Hardcopy proposals will be considered and should be submitted in person to Burlington City Arts, 135 Church St., Burlington, VT. All proposals must be submitted by Monday, November 1 at 5:00 PM. Late submissions will not be considered.

All proposed events will be reviewed and awarded by BCA, Signal Kitchen, and an advisory panel. Announcements of awards will take place on Friday, November 5.

Visit <https://highlight.community> for more information, and send questions to brightideas@highlight.community.

Westford Music Series fall program

The fall program concerts at the Westford Common Hall is ongoing! Each concert is free and is held from 4:00 – 5:00 PM on a Sunday, once a month. The upcoming concerts are:

- Sunday, October 10: Twangtown Paramours;
- Sunday, November 14: FREVO;
- Sunday, December 19: Carol Ann Jones and Will Patton.

CLiF's Virtual Book Club discusses book on opioid epidemic

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF)'s virtual book club returns Friday, October 15 at 7:00 PM to discuss the new memoir, *Unstitched: My journey to understand opioid addiction and how people and communities can heal* with author Brett Ann Stanciu. As always, the virtual book club will be joined by the author via Zoom.

For more information and to register, go online to <https://clifonline.org/clifs-book-club-for-grown-ups-returns-with-unstitched/>.

A graduate of Marlboro College, Brett Ann Stanciu is a recipient of a 2020 Vermont Arts Council Creation Grant. *Unstitched* follows her first book, *Hidden View*, a novel about sugaring and marriage. She lives in the Northeast Kingdom with her family.

Stanciu is also a librarian and worked with CLiF in 2018 when the Woodbury Community Library received a CLiF Rural Libraries grant.

The description for *Unstitched* reads: *A stranger, rumored to be a heroin addict, repeatedly breaks into the small-town library Brett Ann Stanciu runs. After she tries to get law enforcement to take meaningful action against him... he dies by suicide. When she realizes how little she knows about opioid misuse, she sets out on a mission, seeking insight from others, such as people in recovery, treatment providers, the town police chief, and Vermont's US attorney.*

Past CLiF Book Clubs for Grown-ups have included Dan Brown of *The DaVinci Code*, Newbury and National Book Award-winner Katherine Paterson, and poets Rajnii Eddins and Verandah Porche, among others. The interactive discussions have been joined by readers throughout Vermont and New Hampshire, and as far away as Iraq, Mexico, Ireland, and India.

"We started the Book Club for Grown-ups virtual series during the pandemic in part to support Vermont and New Hampshire authors, but also to connect literacy-lovers around the world, and engage folks in meaningful dialogue with authors and each other at a very disconnected time," CLiF Communications Manager Erika Nichols-Frazer said. The series also raises awareness about the importance of literacy and the work that CLiF does to promote literacy among low-income, at-risk, and rural children.

"We hope readers who found us online and joined a global conversation about literature may be inspired to support us, help us raise awareness about literacy, and share what we're doing," she said. CLiF is entirely community-supported.

"We picked *Unstitched* for the October session of Book Club because the opioid epidemic is hurting our communities and our region and we believe it's crucial to learn more about the crisis and how we can help. We need to learn about people's experiences, which is something CLiF tries to promote in general, learning about others' perspectives and experiences through books. I expect that *Unstitched* will spark a conversation and build awareness around this complicated issue that impacts so many of the children and families we work with," Nichols-Frazer said.

Readers can purchase *Unstitched* from Bridgeside Books in Waterbury, VT for a 15% discount (mention CLiF's Book Club).

CLiF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children up to age 12 throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Since 1998, CLiF has supported and inspired almost 350,000 young readers and writers through its literacy program grants and has given away \$9 million in new, high-quality children's books. For more information about CLiF and to apply, visit www.clifonline.org.

Middlebury new Filmmakers Festival returns

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce the return of MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, October 2021-May 2022.

For this festival, MNFF Selects presents *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*. The series offers outstanding films, both documentary and narrative, that illuminate the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. The series is geared toward families: six of the eight films are rated either G or PG.

Passes are \$105 and cover all the films beginning with November's offering; individual tickets are \$16 (under 12, \$7), also starting with November's film. The October film is free, courtesy of Netflix. Series passes and individual tickets can be purchased at www.middleburyfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM.

The MNFF Selects Series will be adhering to the following simple and safe COVID-19 protocol: All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated; and all attendees, including children under 12, must wear masks while inside the theater.

For listing of films and more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: <http://www.middleburyfilmfest.org>.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Check your firewood with DRML's moisture meter

By Holly Hall, Director, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library

With wood stove season rapidly approaching, it is time to make sure you have enough dry firewood ready to go for this winter. A moisture meter is available to borrow from the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library.

Evaluating the moisture content of firewood can be tricky. Wood can be purchased when it is "green," "seasoned," "dried," or "kiln dried," but these are relative terms and wood is only ready to be burned when its moisture content is 20% or less. Wet wood is a waste. Instead of creating heat for your home, burning wet wood means that that energy goes into boiling off residual water so that the wood can ignite, and in the process releases pollution into the air and creosote into your chimney — which can lead to a fire hazard. Burning dry wood saves you money and improves air quality.

When talking with firewood dealers, always be sure to ask how they define the terms they are using to describe their products and try using a moisture meter to test the moisture content of your firewood.

(Partial press release from the Agency of Natural Resources/ Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.)

Seeking winter clothing to Westford's Winter Wear Share

Seeking clean, gently used winter coats, sweaters, gloves, hats, and boots, all sizes, kids on up. (No summer clothes, please.) Donations may be dropped off at the Westford Library during regular business hours. Please bring a non-perishable food item too, if you can!

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

Or, contact Carol for pick-up at 802-878-4449 (leave message) or carol@vtwildlife.com.

Distribution: November 20, 8:00 – 9:00 AM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. the White Church). Everyone is welcome, no questions asked. Masks required.

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

United Way Volunteer Opportunities

LEND A HAND. VOLUNTEER. United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection connects you to hundreds of local volunteer needs. Search by age, date, county, interests or causes that are important to you. Stay connected to community needs. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

MEALS ON WHEELS – Age Well is looking for Meals on Wheels volunteers to fill a number of needs. Volunteers can deliver meals, grocery shop, help with budgeting, and/or share friendly visits with older neighbors. For information, contact the Age Well Volunteer Team, 802-662-5249 or volunteer@agewellvt.org.

IMMERSE – ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, is looking for Gallery Docent volunteers, age 16 and up, to help create an immersive museum experience for visitors. Docents use objects and artifacts to tell stories that open guests' eyes to the wonders and joys of the natural world. They also respond to questions, initiate conversations about exhibits, and assist with special events and festivals. A minimum of one three-hour shift per week for a minimum of four months is required. Shifts are flexible, seven days a week. Training is provided. Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required. Contact <https://www.echovermont.org/join-support/volunteer/>.

IT'S IN THE DETAILS – American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help with administrative projects that support fundraising and development in Northern New England. If you're a detail-oriented individual, there are many projects you might work on including researching potential donors, assisting with gift processing, preparing donor presentations, assisting with mailings for events and solicitations, and more. Basic computer skills and effective communication skills are all you need to make a difference. To join the team, contact www.redcross.org/volunteer.

DO DROP IN – Intervale Center is accepting drop-in volunteers on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 4:00 PM throughout the growing season. Volunteers of all ages are welcome! Contact jill@intervale.org.

LOVE CLOTHING? – ReSOURCE has a new clothing department in their Burlington and Williston stores and are in need of volunteers to process donated clothing. Tasks include sorting, inspecting, hanging, folding, and displaying donations. Contact volunteer@resourcevt.org.

MENTOR! MENTOR! – FriendCHIPS Youth Mentoring is a school-based mentoring program to empower students in grades 3-8 in Essex Town to make healthy life choices. Adult volunteers, age 21 and older, spend one hour a week with a student at school and participate in activities such as games, arts and crafts, sports, cooking, and conversation. Build a relationship with a child one hour at a time to help children navigate the challenges of growing up and maximizing their potential. For information, visit www.essexchips.org/mentor.

Help Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help us with a fundraiser. All the proceeds will go to our local Habitat chapter. We are building a house on Maple Street in Morrisville and have a family ready to move in once we finish the home. Any money we raise will help us, since our fund-raising goals were squashed due to COVID.

Approximately 60 volunteers are needed to park cars and collect money, etc. at the Stowe Fall Craft Fair that will be held on Friday-Sunday, October 8-10 at the Topnotch Field in Stowe. Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity will receive \$15 for every hour that a volunteer works. For volunteers wishing to attend the craft fair, they will receive free admission on the day they work.

There are time slots for two jobs.

- For parking vehicles, there are two shifts, each three hours and ten minutes long: first shift, 9:30 AM – 12:40 PM; and second shift, 12:30 – 3:40 PM.

- For working at the entry tent (collecting money, making change, etc.), there are two shifts, each three hours and twenty minutes long: first shift, 9:30 AM – 12:50 PM; and second shift, 12:40 – 4:00 PM.

Thank you for considering this request. Please respond via this posting with your name, phone number, email address, day, and shift you would like to volunteer for.

If you are unable to volunteer but would like to contribute, you may do so at <http://www.lamoillehabitat.org/donate.html> or send a donation to: Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 1306, Morrisville, VT 05661.

Krusch Preserve in Cambridge now open to the public

The Peter A Krusch Nature Preserve officially opened to the public on Saturday, October 2. The Town of Cambridge acquired this 51-acre property last December. Thanks to donations and grants, the support of the VT Land Trust, the hard work of volunteer work crews, a Recreational Trails Program grant from VT Forests, Parks and Recreation, and high community support, the Preserve is now ready for public use. The parking lot is off North Cambridge Road, about a mile from VT Rt. 15 in Cambridge. Volunteers are still working on final sections, but the essential bridges are in and the trail route marked by orange flagging.

Miscellaneous news continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

WARNING TOWN OF UNDERHILL NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Underhill are hereby notified and warned to meet at Underhill Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill, Vermont, on **Tuesday, October 19, 2021**, to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article, pursuant to Section 61 of the Town of Underhill municipal charter (24 App., Ch. 155, § 61, Recall of Elected Town Officers), with voting to begin at seven o'clock in the forenoon and to close at seven o'clock in the afternoon.

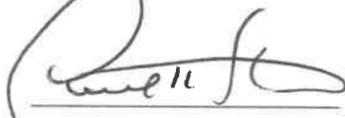
BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Article 1: Shall Underhill Selectboard member, Peter Duval, be removed from office?

There will be a public informational hearing at Underhill Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill, Vermont, to discuss Article 1, above, on Monday, October 18, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Options for joining the public informational hearing remotely by computer or by telephone will be available on the homepage of the Town of Underhill Website: www.underhillvt.gov

Dated at Underhill, Vermont, this 13th day of September 2021.

Selectboard Members:



Daniel Steinbauer, Chair



Robert Stone



Peter Duval

Received for record this 14th day of September 2021 at Underhill

ATTEST: Nancy C. Bradford, Assistant Town Clerk

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY August 27, 2021 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Mansfield View HOA to amend a previously approved PUD. This property is located at 3 Raceway Road (Bittersweet Lane) which is in the Village Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB from G.W. Tatro for preliminary plat review for a phased one of a major subdivision. This property is located at 366 Vermont Route 15 which is in the Village Center and Character Based Zoning District

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

PEOPLE NEWS

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

Westford Public Library welcomes new library assistant

Welcome, Niquette, our new library assistant at the Westford Public Library! Niquette will be working Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and Saturdays. She will also be taking over Inter-Library Loans. Niquette has resided in Essex, Vermont on and off for 28 years and brings with her over 17 years of customer service experience. She has substituted for the library as needed for the past several years and enjoys reading with the evening book group. In addition to reading, Niquette enjoys attending live performances and spending time with her family and pets.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Val Davis new executive director of Lamoille FiberNet CUD

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District is pleased to welcome Val Davis as their new executive director. Davis has an extensive background in technology, broadcast media, and web media, with over 40 years of experience in broadcast (on-air and operations) and 25 years in web development technology. Most recently, he worked for Vermont Electric Coop as an IT Specialist. Having spent many years in the rural Northeast Kingdom, Davis has personal understanding of the need to extend high speed symmetrical broadband access the least-served areas of Vermont. He said, "I'm really excited about what Lamoille FiberNet is doing, and I'm glad to be part of something that will have such a huge impact on the lives of people in our communities." After raising their seven children, he and his wife Dona have settled in Johnson, VT, one of the nine communities in Lamoille FiberNet's service area.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

OBITUARIES



Barbara LaVanway was born December 21, 1939 in Windber, PA. The love of my life and my best friend was taken from me on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Barbara fought a courageous fight for three years against lung cancer. She is the daughter of Louis and Veronica Hauler Knecht. Barbara was a lady of many talents. During her working career she was the first teacher in the Head Start program in Montpelier, VT; in 1969, Barb was Administration Assistant and Relocation Specialist for the Neighborhood Improvement Project in Montpelier. She worked in the personnel department at IBM in Essex, VT; was co-owner of Green Iguana's Pet Shop in Richmond, VT, The House of Glass and The LaVanway Glass Studio both in Richmond and later in Westford, VT; owner of Santa's Caravan at the South Burlington Mall; also co-owner of Veronica's Variety in Hinesburg, VT. Barbara was a talented artist in many mediums; she made thousands of glass icicles for her customers' Christmas trees plus numerous other glass art pieces. She also sold her watercolor paintings, hand embroidery, wheat weaving, pastels, and much more. Barbara was also known for her great style, particularly her beautiful hats, many of which she handcrafted and designed herself. Above all Barbara was a devoted mother to her four children and loving wife of Fenton LaVanway. Barbara was predeceased by both parents; and by two brothers, Louis Jr. and James Knecht. She is survived by her husband; sisters Catherine Ishman and Ron, and Mary Ann Kelescheny; brothers Robert Knecht, Richard Knecht and Helen, and George Knecht; by her children Thomas LaVanway and Judith, Michael LaVanway and Janet, Veronica Estey and David, and Linda LaVanway; also many grandchildren, great-

grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Barbara requested no funeral service; however, there will be a graveside burial for the family in Middlesex, VT. (Submitted by Fenton LaVanway)

Memorial reflections honoring the late **Arnold Gratton**. Our dearest loved one, we send you our love, hugs, and kisses for your 89th birthday. One year has passed since you departed from us and we feel your presence in our daily lives. Love and prayers are sent from your wife Janice; son Ron and wife Joyce Gratton, daughter Jamie Jr., and son Cooper; son Randy and wife Amy Gratton, sons Josh and Kyle, also daughter Mary; daughter Terri and Mark Laberge and children; Kelli and Chris Story and sons Alex, Tyler and Bryce; Scott and Amanda Laberge and sons Ryan and Max; Jessie Laberge and fiancé Ricky Chagnon; daughter Lori and Robert Lavallee and son Armand and finance Joelle Jameson. Our memories and love will always be with you.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **George Arthur Champney**, 73, on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington, VT. George was born in Burlington, VT on October 31, 1947, to Chester A. and Evon (Goodwin) Champney. He attended Richmond (VT) High School and on May 21, 1966, George married JoAnn Joyce Tinker in Richmond. They made many happy memories in their 55 years of marriage. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for Munson Earth Moving for 36 years and S. D. Ireland for eight years. An avid outdoorsman, George enjoyed fishing, camping, boating, and spending time at camp with family and friends. Left to cherish George's memory are his wife JoAnn; children David Champney and his wife Beth,



Penny Stamper and her husband Stephan, and Melissa Champney and her partner Teesh Moulton; sisters Marie Weston and her husband Larry, Sandra Danyew and her husband Santon, and Betty Charland and her husband Leonard; step-sisters Nancy Wight and her husband Roy, and Joyce Thompson and her husband Jim; step-brother Larry Champney and his wife Kim; brother-in-law Lane Stone; grandchildren Chad, Brett, Madison, Laiken, Catherine, and Matthew; great-grandchildren Willow, Sarah, Mila, and Ethan; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family and friends. George was predeceased by his parents; step-mother Zita Champney; sisters Barbara Durand and Marion Farrell; brothers Gordon Champney and Albert Champney; sister-in-law Rebecca Stone; and brother-in-law Dennis Tinker. Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to Richmond Rescue, P.O. Box 404, Richmond, VT 05477. Arrangements are in care of Gifford Funeral Home, 22 Depot Street, Richmond, VT.



Howard "Howie" Callihan, 70, of Jeffersonville, VT passed a w a y peacefully at home on Saturday, September 18, 2021 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Howie was born on March 12, 1951 in North Adams, MA to Gene and Alberta (Griffin) Callihan. Eventually his family moved to Breesport, NY and then to Horseheads, NY, where young "Howie" along with his four siblings Don, Kathy, Danny, and Dave tried to live up to being PKs (preacher's kids). They mostly succeeded. While in high school Howie became a member of DeMolay. While there he sang in several choirs

and participated in wrestling. It was then that he met Coach Jack Denhoff, who became an important mentor and valued friend to Howie. He also met his best friend of 55 years and the love of his life Cindy Noyes, who he eventually married in Chicago, IL in 1989. Howie graduated from Horseheads High School in 1969. Following high school he attended Westminster Choir College and later, Kansas University in Lawrence, KS. Howard joined the U.S. Army in 1971. He proudly served his country for nearly 25 years during both the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. Throughout his life he enjoyed a love of music and singing. In his adult life, Howard competed in kickboxing events and practiced Aikido. Upon moving to Jeffersonville, VT he joined the Masonic Lodge, and the American Legion Post 35, where he served as Post Commander. Other than his family, Howard enjoyed nothing more than caring for his community. For many years, he went to the elementary school to speak with children about Monument Rock and the importance of the American flag. He was a Boy Scout leader, church sexton, did snow removal and lawn maintenance for the elementary school, the Town Clerk's office, the church, the library, and several local businesses. He took great pleasure in caring for the American flags both on the village streets and at the Monument. If you passed Howard on the street he was sure to strike up a conversation. Howard faithfully followed his practice of Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism for more than 50 years. Throughout his practice he was able to participate in events in France, Italy, Germany, and Japan. Howard is survived by his spouse of 33 years, Cindy (Noyes) Callihan of Jeffersonville, also his son Howard R. Callihan II and partner (Uriah), his step-children Shannon (Anthony) Gill, Brad VanBenCoten and Shelley (Jamie) Derr. Howard leaves seven grandchildren: Brandon (Donna) Chilson, Brittany (Andre) Gray, Brady Chilson, Ashley Slayton, Kierstin Derr, Brad (Heather) Snyder and Josh Snyder. Howard is also "Papa" to his eight great-grandchildren: Thomas, Maelynn, Cyrus, Carma, Makenna, Lyric, Koralyann, and AJ. He is also survived by his brothers Donald (Sally) Callihan, Daniel (Carol) Callihan, and David Callihan. Howard is also survived by several nieces and nephews and his amazing cat/dog Diesel. Howard was predeceased by his parents Gene and Alberta (Griffin) Callihan, sister Kathy (Callihan) Root, grandson Alex Jamie Derr, and in-laws Bruce and Ann (Jackson) Noyes. A Celebration of Life service was led by Rev. Devon Thomas on Friday, October 1, 2021 at the Second Congregational UCC of Jeffersonville, VT. A reception followed downstairs. Interment was at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph, VT on Monday, October 4, 2021. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Howard's memory to Lamoille Home Health & Hospice, 54 Farr Ave., Morrisville, VT 05661, or to Lamoille Area Cancer Network, 198 Farr Ave., Morrisville, VT 05661.



Malcolm Holmes Smith Jr., "Call me Skip please," age 72, died at home in Jericho, VT on Saturday, August 14, 2021 when the beautiful spirit which had breathed his body moved on to the next learning adventure on another plane. Skip was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December of 2020. He was able to see his children and grandchildren over the summer for extended visits. He and his wife of 41 years, Marcia Reese, endeavored to live life to the fullest while he was alive. They shared not only medical news but also personal stories through caringbridge.org/skipsmith with his family, personal, and business connections. From the Quaker roots of his childhood, Skip recognized there is a part of God in each of us. He attempted to connect with the "God part" in everyone he met and sought to express the "God part" of himself through his interactions with others. Son of Malcolm Holmes Smith and Margaret Comfort Smith, he was born in Brooklyn and moved at a young age to Tarrytown, NY where he was raised with two younger sisters. As a child he loved baseball, birthdays at Yankee Stadium, and pickup games with neighbor kids. From early on he was both athletic and competitive. He extended his love of baseball by being on the Jericho Indians in the old man's baseball (over-40) league. His biggest claim to fame in his later baseball life was that he got a base hit off retired Boston Red Sox pitcher, Bill Lee. Skip enjoyed the life sports of golf, sailing, and hiking, all of which he was able to do in his final summer. His early educational career was checkered as he bounced (as an undiagnosed kid with ADHD) back and forth from the brightest classes to the slowest classes. His humor, quick wit, and genuine enjoyment of people aided him during this time. An unexpected outcome was that he knew and related to most of the kids in the school by the time he graduated. After a two-year stint at a Quaker boarding school, Westtown, in Pennsylvania, he graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School in Tarrytown. For more than a decade, concurrent with his educational time, he was associated with Camp Sloane, a YMCA camp in northwest Connecticut, first as a camper and ultimately as a counselor Section Head. He assessed colleagues by how well they related to and met kids' needs. Skip graduated with many good friends from Hobart College in Geneva, NY. He majored in psychology, following the example of his beloved

Obituaries continued on page 11

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hiring Now!

Immediate openings.
Full-time and part-time
Days, early evening, & weekend

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Warehouse**

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of Vermont

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SPORTS

Parent & Me Soccer in Westford

Westford kids under 4 and their parent(s) are welcome to come to the Westford Elementary School on the third Sunday in October and November (October 17, November 21) to play soccer! There will be fun games and drills hosted by the Westford Recreation Department.
The link to register online is at <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>.

A common cause for your child's knee pain

With so many kids out and about playing soccer at this time of year, I find that parents are getting their kicks by asking me lots of questions about their children getting knee pain, particularly just below the knee. Well let me see if I can put my best foot forward and provide some information on this very common cause of knee discomfort.

Diagnosing the problem

The pain that occurs in children just below the knee is usually a result of vigorous exercise causing swelling and inflammation of the growth plate at the top of the lower leg, also known as the tibia or shinbone. This swelling and pain of the growth plate carries the name of Osgood Schlatter disease. As strange as that name seems, this problem is very common between the ages of 10-15 and occurs in 10-20% of children who do a lot of running, jumping, and stretching of the thigh muscles, especially during a growth spurt in early- to mid-adolescence. You can diagnose it simply by looking for a lump below the kneecap, and if pressing on that lump causes the pain, you have made the diagnosis.

A positive prognosis

The good news is that there is no long-term disability associated with the problem and most children or teens outgrow it within a year or two. The pain may still be there for the next few weeks or months, so some treatment is needed to allow the inflammation to heal.

How to treat

The best treatment is to avoid activities that cause the pain. Return to a sport once the area below the knee is no longer tender and the knee can be fully straightened and bent so that a child or teen can hop, jump, and sprint without pain or limp. Keep these other tips in mind:

- When the pain does occur, it is best to stop playing the sport and rest the knee and leg.
- An ice pack should be applied to the swollen area for at least 15-20 minutes every two hours until bedtime for the next one or two days, and the area should be compressed with an elastic wrap around the knee.
- Elevating the knee and using some anti-inflammatory medications like ibuprofen can also help.
- Wearing a kneepad or brace over the knee may also help relieve any pain that may occur when activity is resumed.
- Stretching and strengthening exercises may also help.

Hopefully tips like these will allow you and your child to reach the goal of gaining a better understanding of what to do about the common but uncomfortable knee pain we call Osgood Schlatter disease.

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

Miscellaneous continued from page 9

The first two weekends October, members of the Steering Committee will be on hand to greet visitors and offer guided walks from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The parking lot holds 12 cars, so carpooling when appropriate is encouraged. The trail is somewhat steep in places but is being walked daily by people of all ages. Come during the open house hours if you can, but you can also come at any time in the future to explore this unique area and walk the sustainable mile-long nature trail. Also, be alert for guided walks planned through the changing seasons.

The land was owned and stewarded for 60 years by Peter Krusch (1931-2018), who had always envisioned this unique land preserved and open to the public. A three-year cooperative effort between the Town of Cambridge, the Vermont Land Trust, the Cambridge Conservation Commission, and Sally Laughlin (Peter's widow) resulted in the creation of the preserve in his honor.

For more information or to volunteer, see the Town of Cambridge webpage or contact Liam Kearney, organizer of the volunteer trail crew, at Trails@kruschnaturepreserve.org, Sara Lourie, Cambridge Conservation Commission at ccc@kruschnaturepreserve.org, or Sally Laughlin, Krusch Preserve Steering Committee, at chair@kruschnaturepreserve.org.

Town of Underhill Big Tree Contest

Do you have a really big tree in your woods or on your lawn? Do you know of a giant tree on public land? The Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee is sponsoring a Big Tree Contest in the town of Underhill.

Measure the big trees on your property or public land and enter this town-wide contest to find the big trees of Underhill. Winners will be announced at Town Meeting day and will be placed on our ongoing roster of big trees.

To enter the contest, measure and record: tree circumference, tree species, location, and take a photo of you in front of the tree (optional). For each tree species, enter the data on the online for found here: <https://forms.gle/ChQJhsiK9h4N2EvM9>. Alternately, you may send the information and pictures to underhillbigtrees@gmail.com.

Specific instructions on measuring trees can be found at the following link: <https://www.underhillvt.gov/vertical/sites/%7B4E962BB9-B4BB-4504-A3EE-ED54521A1BCE%7D/uploads/underhillbigtrees.pdf>.

Miscellaneous continued on page 12

Bikes for Friends has bikes to rehab and give away

Once again, this generous community has stepped up and donated numerous for the Bike for Friends program. We thank one and all!

So now Bootleggers Bikes has numerous bikes to rehab and give a way through the Bikes for Friends program! The inventory includes bikes for teens and adults. In fact, Bootleggers has run out of storage for the BFF Bikes!

So let's get some rehabbed bikes out to those in need and help Matt get some storage space back too!

How does Bike for Friends work? At no cost to the recipient, the Bikes for Friends program will provide rehabbed bikes so that all may discover a biking adventure and joy on roads and trails. The recipient will also receive a brand new helmet!

Anyone interested in getting a BFF bike should contact Matt Niklaus, matt@bootleggerbikes.com, or Sam Lotto of Cambridge Area Rotary, swlvt57@gmail.com. They will send a one-page application to fill out. Once it is returned, the Bootleggers Bikes crew will rehab the bike for the rider.

Human Service Agencies, Town Rec Departments, School Staff, and alike are encouraged to reach out to Matt or Sam on behalf of those who would benefit from receiving a bike.

5k Run/Walk honoring a VT coaching legend

RJ Noonan coached generations of runners at Rice Memorial High School. A 2010 inductee to the Vermont Principals Association Hall of Fame, RJ's impact on the running community was felt statewide.

The annual RJ Rice Run on Sunday, October 10, 11:00 AM honors his service and is a fun, low-key 5K for runners and walkers alike. The fast, relatively flat, and accurately measured course is a mix of grass trails on and off the Rice campus and also a portion of the paved South Burlington bike path.

All are welcome! Sign up at <http://www.rmhsvt.org> or contact Christy Bahrenburg, 802-862-6521 ext. 200 or bahrenburg@rmhsvt.org.

Essex Youth Hockey to host learn-to-play ice hockey programs

Essex Youth Hockey Association (EYHA) is proud to host two learn-to-play ice hockey programs at the Essex Junction Skating Facility, 2 Educational Dr., Essex Junction.

Girls Try Hockey, held in partnership with Girls 4 Hockey's Meghan Sweezey, is an opportunity for girls of all ages to try ice hockey. This free event will be held on Sunday, October 10, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Equipment, including ice skates, will be available for use. Coaches from EYHA and Girls4Hockey will be available to fit equipment. For more information, contact Brianna Yarnell, EYHA Girl's Director, usahockeygirl@gmail.com. Registration is required, online at <https://essexyouthhockey.sportngin.com/register/form/520516393>.

The Bruins Academy Learn to Play helps aspiring youth hockey players develop their skill. This four-week program will be held on Saturdays on October 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 8:30 – 9:30 AM. This program is available to both girls and boys, 5-9 years of age as of September 1. The registration fee of \$180 includes a full set of equipment to keep (valued at \$550 retail), skates, a professional personalized fitting, and four weeks of on-ice instruction led by certified coaches. For more information, contact Mike Smith, EYHA Communications Director at mikeburtonsm@gmail.com. To register, go online to <https://lpbruins.leagueapps.com/events/2528283-esssex-youth-hockey>.

For more information about Essex Youth Hockey Association and available programs for girls and boys ages 4-14, please go online to www.essexyouthhockey.org. Go Sting!

Attention hockey fans, families

Are you a hockey family? Is your second home Cairns Arena? If so, then consider becoming a host family to a member of the Rice Memorial High School Prep Hockey program.

Players come from all over the world with the goal of playing hockey at the next level. They travel around New England and Canada, playing in 44 games/season. Host families are responsible for providing transportation to and from school, three meals a day, a bed and study space, and internet access. To help offset expenses, host families receive a stipend of \$600/month per student.

Contact Coach Dennis Vickers, vickers@rmhsvt.org or 802-862-6521 ext. 219 for more information.

Obituaries continued from page 10

Quaker grandfather, Forest Comfort ("Kiki"), who had been an educational psychologist at Haverford College. After college Skip worked jobs including ski instructor, house painter, and correctional officer for the VT Department of Corrections, before deciding to return to school and earn his Master's Degree in Counseling from UVM. He met his wife Marcia Reese in graduate school. The family (including her two young sons David and Peter Goodwin, from a previous marriage) moved to the Underhill/ Jericho VT area. Skip and Marcia had a third son, Matthew Reese Smith. Skip was an active dad, sharing in child rearing and household tasks, coaching Little League, teaching life skills, and attending school events. He generously shared his humor, kindness, skills, and affection as he partnered with his wife in raising three fine sons. Skip's professional career spanned Director of Living and Learning Center in Johnson, VT, several positions in state government in juvenile services, and private practice counseling before he settled on using his educational and people skills helping people with financial planning and investments. He was an active member of the Colchester-Milton Rotary Club serving as club president and in several positions on the Rotary District level as well as working on many community service projects. Skip and Marcia participated in a month-long Rotary International Friendship Exchange to New Zealand in early 2020 just before the COVID shutdown. In the Underhill/ Jericho area Skip was a member of the Lawnmower Brigade for the Harvest Market, co-hosted Foothills neighborhood gatherings, and sang regularly with his wife in the community choral group *Mountainsong*. In his early 50s Skip developed an interest in studying woodworking, especially building fine furniture with hand tools. He had the privilege and honor to study regularly with Vermont master craftsman Garrett Hack, contributing editor to *Fine Woodworking* magazine. With ever increasing skill Skip created many fine furniture pieces ranging from a hunt board to a fully hand crafted Windsor chair. Skip is both mourned and celebrated by his wife, Marcia Reese; sons David Goodwin and wife Christina Phillips, Peter Goodwin and Matthew Reese Smith and wife, Katie Anthony. He is survived by seven grandchildren: Tyler Williams, Frances, Amelia and Ruby Goodwin, Zachary Goodwin, and Hayes and Sawyer Smith. He is survived by his sisters Linda (Jack) Stone and Karen Smith, and brothers and sisters-in law Paul Reese (Bonnie Lichter), Gail Westenfeld, and Sarah (Rick) Hussa; and many nieces and nephews. The family has a thirty-five year history with the Family and Friends Conference (an intergenerational gathering) at Ferry Beach in Saco, ME. Over the time span Skip was several times a workshop leader and conference coordinator. Deep personal connections and experiences at Ferry Beach contributed to enriching our family life. Ten days before the end of his life Skip chose to visit Ferry Beach and say face-to-face and heart-to-heart goodbyes to people there. If you wished to make a contribution in honor of Skip, the family requests that you consider contributing to Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center, 5 Morris Ave., Saco, ME 04072. They can also be contacted at ferrybeach.org. We are grateful so many of you were able to be present and share in the celebration of Skip's life at the United Church of Underhill (VT) on Saturday, August 21, 2021. For those of you who weren't able to attend you can access a YouTube of the service at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33sq2fNgl8>.

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Westford Elementary needs your help collecting food to donate to local Westford food shelf



Hello, we are students from the middle school at Westford Elementary and we want to start collecting and donating food to our local Westford food shelf. The food shelf is located in the Westford Common Hall and serves anyone from Westford.

If you have the time and resources, bring in items here to school to donate. We will be delivering the donations to the food shelf once a month throughout the year. If you can donate, please place items in the box next to the lost and found bench in the hallway. You can donate the following items: cereal, coffee, tea, canned pastas (Beefaroni), chili, catsup, mustard, relish, salt and pepper, crackers (cheese, Saltines, Ritz), dish detergent, dry beans, flour and sugar, juice, laundry detergent, peanut butter, jam, snacks (granola bars, etc.), toilet paper and paper towels, toothpaste and toothbrushes, tuna/hamburger helper, white bread. Thank you so much for your help. Please let us know if you have any questions. Sam, Colton, Erin and Katie.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Miscellaneous continued from page 11

The Green Mountain Boys on September 11, 2001

September 11 has passed by this year, but this link is to a great documentary about the Green Mountain Boys' role that day and the importance for our soldiers to always be ready:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3E0g4-SZCM-VzJSOWdgQzf5MvkQqgOks-nwsdAZ_uRN4Mh2JIFVAmfy-2w&v=e8gda7ioVko&feature=youtu.be

Also, remember to check in with families who currently have a deployed service member. The Vermont National Guard is deployed this year, and many local families are missing their loved ones.

Use CSWD Environmental Depot for hazardous waste

Working on your fall clean out? Let the Chittenden Solid Waste District's Environmental Depot team safely handle your unwanted pesticides, leftover paint, household cleaners and much more. Schedule your no-wait appointment for safe, no-contact drop-off now. It's quick and easy!

For more detail and information: <https://cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/environmental-depot/I>.

Energy Savings Kits available free from Efficiency VT

Shrinking your home's carbon footprint can feel like a daunting task. Where do you begin? Is it expensive? You can save money and reduce your household's carbon footprint by taking it one step at a time.

If you haven't already received one, start with a free Energy Savings Kit... chock full of LEDs and water saving devices. Order your free kit (available for a limited time): www.encyvermont.com/kits.

Improving your home's energy efficiency is a journey, but we're always here to help. Check out "How To" guides on the Efficiency Vermont website, talk to an Efficiency Vermont energy expert, or start by ordering your free Energy Savings Kit: www.encyvermont.com/kits.

My mind is mixed with sunshine and sorrow.

— Sue Kusserow

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Underhill - \$324,999

3 bedroom, 1 bath modern farmhouse on 4+ acres. Open living room features exposed beams, natural light and hardwood floors. Eat-in kitchen w/ an open pantry, newer SS appliances, farmhouse sink, teak countertops. Paved driveway and a three-car garage, easy commute and close to the town center.



Milton - \$269,900

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