



Coming in the  
June 18, 2020 issue:  
MMUHS Senior Photos

Vol. 20 No. 23 Serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, VT June 4, 2020

## Live fire training dates at the Range

By Amy Grover  
Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The following dates have been compiled in order to provide advance notice of live fire training events at the Camp Ethan Allen Training Site (CEATS) in Jericho.

We provide this information as a good faith gesture for the communities that surround our training facility. We do attempt to limit loud noise late at night, keeping in mind we all need sleep. Please understand, our soldiers do not really wish to be out all night training either, but sometimes that is necessary for the required training to be completed.

This summer the training will be on a compressed timeline because of the lockdown — units have gotten three months behind their training timelines and have requirements which need to be completed within the training year. In addition, some units are deploying overseas within the next 365 days and additional training requirements must be met by those units.

In addition, Fort Drum in Watertown, NY — an Active Duty Army post and home to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division — where many of the units go to conduct their annual two week training, has implemented a mandatory two week quarantine for National Guard units to train at the installation. This eliminates the possibility of training at the installation, because all of the allotted training time would be consumed to meet the quarantine requirement.

I explain all this because we foresee a summer in which the training we support will be more intense, both in how late the firing might be conducted and on the days training is conducted. We are expecting more late night firing, though we are not currently planning on allowing it to go past midnight, and firing on more weeknights, since units are going to need to complete training but they are competing for range time, which will force the use of weeknights to complete the requirements.

I apologize in advance for this probable outcome, but it is a necessity we are unable to avoid to complete our job of making sure our soldiers are trained. We have the best trained military in the world, which is why the United States stands above all others. In addition, it would be very unfortunate if a soldier lost his or her life simply because they had not received adequate training. I do not want to be responsible for that possible outcome.

We will do the best to mitigate the noise, we are very aware of your presence surrounding our borders. Please enjoy the summer; I love all the seasons in Vermont, and summer is an awesome time of the year.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns that might arise at [ng.VT.vtarmg.mbx.vtng-statepao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.VT.vtarmg.mbx.vtng-statepao@mail.mil) or 802-338-3000 option 3.

MAJ Duby Thompson  
Range Operations  
Camp Ethan Allen Training Site  
VT Army National Guard

### Range Usage:

#### June 2020:

Week of May 31-June 7

1-7 June Small Arms/.50 CAL 1600

5 June DEMO 1600

4-6 June Artillery 2200

3-5 June Burlington Police Dept. 1600

Week of June 8-14

12-14 June Small Arms/.50 CAL 2200

9 June Small Arms 1600

8-14 June Small Arms/.50 CAL/Artillery 2200

11-12 June Burlington Police Dept. 1600

Week of June 15-21

15-16 June Small Arms/.50 CAL 2200

16-18 June Burlington Police Dept. 1600

17 June US Marshalls 1600

21 June Vermont State Rifle Pistol Assoc. 1600

20-21 June Small Arms/.50 CAL 2200/ DEMO 1600

Week of June 22-28

22-27 June Small Arms/.50 CAL 2200/ DEMO 1600

27-28 June Vermont State Rifle Pistol Assoc. 1600

#### July 2020:

Week of July 1-5

1 July Small Arms

Week of July 6-12

6-12 July Small Arms/.50 CAL 2200/ DEMO 1600/ Artillery 1600

10-11 July Burlington Rifle and Pistol 1600

9-10 July Essex Police Dept. 1600

Week of July 13-19

12-19 July Small Arms/.50 CAL 2200/ Demo 1600/ Artillery 1600

13-18 July Machia Wilderness Camp

Range continued on page 2

## Sad news about 2020 Harvest Market

It is with heavy hearts that the Steering Committee for the United Church of Underhill Old Fashioned Harvest Market is announcing that this popular and highly anticipated event will not be held in 2020. Out of respect and care for the safety of the people of our community during the COVID-19 crisis, we feel this is the best decision that we can make at this time.

But don't be discouraged! The UCU Old Fashioned Harvest Market is not going away! We will instead be taking the opportunity this year to celebrate Harvest Market and the ways it has brought us all together since its beginning. We are exploring innovative and alternative ways to commemorate the joy of that "Harvest Market togetherness" with the community — with all of the people that we have come to know and love and who have supported us throughout the past 45 years; and we look forward to bringing that celebration to you. Our prayer is that we will be back with full and exciting festivities in 2021.

Please watch [www.ucu.church](http://www.ucu.church) for future information.

## Clutter Barn opens for donations

This summer, the United Church of Underhill's Clutter Barn not accept donations every Saturday, but on the following Saturdays, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM: June 6, 20; July 11; August 1, 15, 29; September 12.

The first day of donations, Saturday, May 23, went smoothly and safely. Thank you, donors, for wearing masks and sharing contact information in case it is needed. Thank you for sorting your donations at home! This kept the waiting-in-line to a minimum. And, thank you for your donations.

Sale dates: there will be two sales in 2020: Saturdays, July 25 and September 19, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Specific instructions for a safe sale will be publicized later.

To keep both volunteers and donors safe, the Clutter Barn adopted the following procedures: Before you donate, you are required to sort your donations.

**PLEASE READ THESE DIRECTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BRINGING YOUR ITEMS TO DONATE**

At home, please sort and box, bag, or crate your items into the following categories to speed up the drop-off process: Toys, games and puzzles/ Spring and summer clothing/ Small electronics and appliances/ Household items, glasses, dishes/ Linens and bedding/ Fabric, sewing and craft items/ Sports/ Books/ Shoes and boots/ Pictures and frames/ Tools/ Wooden items/ Office supplies/ Holiday decorations/ Small pieces of furniture, such as chairs and tables.

Things we cannot take: Please go to the United Church of Underhill website to review the items we cannot accept: <http://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/serve/clutter-barn/>.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** We are not accepting skis, boots and poles, artificial Christmas trees (plain and decorated), VHS tapes and cassette tapes, health and beauty powders, bed frames.

### Procedures for Dropping Off Donations:

- Do not pull up in front of the Clutter Barn as in past years. No donations will be accepted at the front door. Instead, drive to Park Street. Enter church driveway on Park Street (between tan apartment building and white house).

- Please wear a mask or other facial covering.

- One person per car if possible.

- When you enter the church driveway from Park Street, a masked and gloved volunteer will greet you. The volunteer will ask if your donations are sorted into the categories listed above. If so, the volunteer will direct you to pull forward and direct where to wait in line until it is your turn to unload. The volunteer will provide a donation receipt if you desire one.

- While you wait to unload, a volunteer will record contact information (name, phone number, email, time of arrival) in case it is needed for contact tracing.

- Patrons will unload one car at a time. Please stay in car until it is your turn to unload. If you are physically able, please unload your donations without the assistance of a Clutter Barn volunteer. Carry your containers of sorted donations and place them in the tent in the designated areas.

Important: For your safety, do not touch items donated by others.

When you finish unloading, return to your car immediately and drive past the Clutter Barn and onto VT Rt. 15. Thank you for donating and for following these safety procedures.



## Memorable for more than the usual reasons

By Sara Riley

*The Underhill-Jericho Memorial Day parade and ceremony was canceled this year, another effect of the pandemic. This is from Memorial Day, 2009. My dad William Stutz passed away in December 2011, aged 88.*

Last Saturday, May 30 was the traditional Memorial Day, but like the rest of the country we took the three-day weekend and held the joint Jericho-Underhill parade on Monday, May 25.

I won't soon forget this year's event. As always, my husband Brian joined the other local veterans honoring the memory of fallen comrades in arms, but this year marked my 86-year-old father's first Memorial Day as a participant.

This came about in kind of an ad hoc manner. I had gone down to Dad's in Massachusetts for the weekend, but had to be back Sunday night for the Monday morning event. Dad expressed an interest in attending the parade, so we arranged for my brother to drive up and bring him home later.

Then Dad began to wonder if any of his old uniforms might still fit. So we went dredging through the closets in his apartment till we found the old suitcase. How old was that suitcase, how long had it been stored away? Well, the zipper was so old it wouldn't work at all, and we had to cut the suitcase open. And the newest of the uniforms inside dates to 1952.

The three uniforms were: a summer khaki, a heavy wool navy winter uniform, and a lighter-weight navy wool uniform with a double-breasted jacket — excuse me, a double-breasted blouse. I am very clearly not up on Naval terminology.

Anyway, the third uniform was the charm — it fit just fine. So we found a white shirt, a black bow tie, black dress shoes. The wicker frame of his cap was a bit tight, and the white cover a bit less than sparkling white, but it'd all do: he decided he'd like to be in the parade, too, if he'd be welcome. As if not! Dad dug out his service decorations and lieutenant's bars, and we were ready to go.

My dad was a Naval aviator — a navigator — and saw active service during WWII, went back to active duty during the Korean War, then completed 20 years in the Reserves. He is apologetic and regretful that all his active service was stateside, and regards the men of his generation who served abroad as the real heroes. So the reactions he received during the parade and the service afterward were both unexpected and gratifying.

It is characteristic of the close-knit nature of our small towns that my dad was noticed, acknowledged, welcomed, and accepted throughout the event. To Randy and Kitty Clark, thank you for your consideration, greatly appreciated especially in the hubbub of assembling the parade. To Kerry Bernstein, the Army vet who drives his restored Vietnam-era 6x6 truck in the parade every year, thank you not only for accommodating the unexpected old Navy man but for your genuine pleasure in doing so. To all our neighbors and friends along the parade route, thank you for your cheers, waves, and applause. My dad had a ball, waving and enjoying the crowd.

To all the people I knew and greeted along the parade route, walking along next to the truck, thank you for noticing my dad. So many of you said, "I saw that man and didn't recognize him — so he's your father — how wonderful that he's here!" You have no idea how good that makes me feel about our people, here in our small towns. You know who all the regular veterans are. When there's a new face, you notice, and make him welcome.

To the woman who brought a lawn chair to my dad at the cemetery on Park Street, I don't know your name but thank you for your thoughtfulness. To the many people who approached my dad, introduced themselves and thanked him for his service, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You made his day, and mine.

## NEWS

## Cambridge's COVID-19 Task Force

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The town of Cambridge was quick to realize the problems COVID-19 could create for community members so on St. Patrick's Day, the Select Board authorized the creation of a COVID-19 Task Force to be placed under the auspices of Cambridge Cares. Initially, the group met on a weekly basis but they are happy to report their services are barely needed and they have stopped having regular meetings.

According to Chair Don Lange, Cambridge Cares, the organization overseeing the task force, started in 2016, as the result of an accident. An elderly resident had been the focus of several wellness calls by authorities and long-time Town Clerk, Jane Porter, was worried about him. The man went for a walk and fell into a ditch. Since nobody knew he was gone, he lay there long enough to develop hypothermia. Concerned townspeople believed there should be a way to make sure people like him didn't fall through the cracks, so Cambridge Cares was created to look out for those who might need additional attention.

Vice Chair Mark Nash describes the organization as "neighbors helping neighbors." This assistance can include physical tasks like stacking wood or helping someone with a dry well. "The assistance is temporary," Nash said, "and we don't carry a caseload. We get a call and try to figure out if what is being requested is a need or a want. If it's a true unmet need we try to help out." The group meets once a month, with up to a dozen people attending the meetings. "We know we can't save everyone," Nash said, "but we do our best to help and try to make a difference."

Cambridge Cares is a private, non-profit organization rather than an arm of the municipality. They obtained their non-profit status because people began to give them monetary donations and they needed to open a bank account. Others residents volunteer their services or loan out equipment like wood splitters. Cambridge Cares' status as a non-governmental entity gives them more flexibility and the ability to

react quickly without having to convene a meeting with a full quorum. They are grateful for the help they have received from other local groups like Cambridge Rotary and the Cambridge Eagles Club.

In addition to their roles with Cambridge Cares, Lange is the Town Health Officer and Nash is his deputy. The Select Board suggested that they, under the auspices of Cambridge Cares, create the COVID-19 Task Force. The duo asked several other community members to join and soon they had a list of 43 volunteers. Their first task was calling everyone in town over the age of 65 to see if they needed assistance with anything. They were able to complete that task and through the volunteers, were able to provide residents with help doing their shopping.

The task force began conversations with various other community groups including the Cambridge Community Food Shelf, Family Practice Associates, Meals on Wheels, the Cambridge Rescue Squad, and Cambridge Elementary School. "We had all these tentacles out," Nash said, "and we tried to fill in where we could but we found that these groups were all doing a great job and didn't necessarily need assistance." As a result, the task force began to focus on masks and now has a collection of 300, 100 of which have already been given away. Some of the masks were purchased but others were made locally, including 200 from a woman in Shelburne.

Nash and Lange are pleased with how the Cambridge Cares model has been working and are hoping that others can learn from what they have done. The pair recently traveled to Worcester to meet with several women from that community who were looking for ways to help their town and had already raised significant sums of money through a community dinner.

Although the COVID-19 Task Force is winding down, the duo recognize that problems may return and they are pleased to have found a successful way of helping the community they both care deeply about.

## Virtual reopening of Cambridge Town Offices

By Mark Schilling

Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Cambridge

As of Monday, May 18, we will continue remote services at the Cambridge Town Offices. Services will be available by telephone, email, and on the town website. There will be no walk-in services available at this time, and all in-person visits are by appointment only.

Please visit [www.cambridgevt.org/townclerk](http://www.cambridgevt.org/townclerk) for a list of available local services. Most services have been made available online so that personal visits are not needed. You may call 644-2251 and we will assist you with your needs. The best way to reach us is still by email at [clerk@cambridgevt.org](mailto:clerk@cambridgevt.org). After speaking to you, if we are unable to meet your needs remotely, we may schedule a time for you to visit the office. Due to distancing and safety mandates, walk-in customers will not be accommodated unless scheduled in advance.

There are a number of research tools available for legal documents and other property information. Please visit [www.cambridgevt.org/property](http://www.cambridgevt.org/property) for complete information. Research visits will be accommodated by appointment only. We encourage all researchers to first visit [www.cambridgevt.org/property](http://www.cambridgevt.org/property) before calling for an appointment.

The Town Administrator's phone and email hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. To reach the Town Administrator, call 802-644-8290 or email [townadmin@cambridgevt.org](mailto:townadmin@cambridgevt.org).

The Lister's phone and email hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. To reach Cambridge Listers' Office staff, call 802-644-2200 or email [listeners@cambridgevt.org](mailto:listeners@cambridgevt.org).

Municipal meetings are being conducted remotely and the public is always invited to participate by phone. You can find agendas and minutes for all scheduled meetings at [www.cambridgevt.org/documents](http://www.cambridgevt.org/documents).

Information updates will continue to be posted to the Town website on a timely basis. Check in frequently at [www.cambridgevt.org/news](http://www.cambridgevt.org/news).

## COVID-19 pop-up testing sites added; sign up online

The Vermont Department of Health is opening nearly two dozen additional pop-up sites to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 for the virus. As of Saturday, May 30, test dates through Friday, June 6 were schedulable on the website noted below. To be notified of future pop-up testing dates and sites, go online to <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5606130/Interested-in-future-COVID-19-Testing-Sites>.

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

All test sites operate from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Find a location near you and register for the clinics ahead of time at <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/popups> or by calling 2-1-1 or 802-828-2828.

If you need transportation to a site, schedule your appointment, and then at least two days before the appointment call 833-387-7200.

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

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

## NEWS BRIEF

## Bolton Town Office reopening for research

By Amy Grover

Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Town Office reopened for research by appointment only beginning on Monday, June 1. Research will be limited to title searches, research for surveys and other complex research.

Note: The Bolton Town Office will continue to serve real estate agents and members of the general public via phone and email. Tax bills, tax status, listers' files, and zoning records can be scanned and emailed after we receive an email request. Please provide name, address and, if known, parcel ID. Dog licenses can be issued by mail. Please contact us for assistance.

The health and safety of staff and visitors, as well as efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, are paramount. In Bolton, we have worked to develop a plan and protocols to provide limited and structured access.

Access will be available as of Monday, June 1, 2020 and will be limited to Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Appointments will be available between 9:00 – 11:00 AM and between 1:00 – 3:00 PM in 15-minute slots. You can sign up for multiple slots. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment: Carol Devlin, Assistant Town Clerk, 802-434-5075 x 221 or [assistbolton@gmavt.net](mailto:assistbolton@gmavt.net); Amy Grover, Town Clerk, 802-434-5075 x 222 or [clerkbolton@gmavt.net](mailto:clerkbolton@gmavt.net). We appreciate your patience and understanding as we attempt to accommodate those requesting appointments.

The following conditions will be in place during your visit (please plan accordingly):

1. If you have a cough, fever, or shortness of breath, or are living or working with someone who is ill, do NOT schedule or keep an appointment.
2. You must arrange an appointment in advance. Drop-ins are not accommodated.
3. Only ONE person will be permitted each time slot.
4. Visitors must wear a mask/face covering (not provided).
5. Visitors shall put on gloves upon entering the building (provided). Gloves will be taken off and disposed of in the entry way as you leave. [Note: The town does NOT have hand sanitizer for visitors.]
6. All visitors will be required to sign in and provide their phone number and email address for tracing, as required by the Vermont Department of Health.
7. There will be 15 minutes between appointments to allow for cleaning.
8. The restroom will NOT be available.
9. Visitors must provide their own materials (e.g., pens/pencils, paper, stapler).
10. Payment for copies/time shall be by CHECK ONLY.
11. Only Town Clerks will have access to the vault. You will work at the table in the main office. The Clerk will bring the index drawer(s) you are interested in to you. She will get any documents you want and make copies for you.

To prepare for your appointment, please request as many documents as possible in advance. We can either scan and email them to you or copy them and give you the hard copies when you arrive for your appointment. You may access the NEMRC index for Bolton on our website at <http://boltonvt.com/bolton-land-records/>. The current index covers 2008 to May 31, 2020.

## Greenway Path dog waste station

By Laird MacDowell, Chair, Cambridge Trails Committee

Members of the volunteer Cambridge Trails Committee have installed a new dog waste station at the start of the Cambridge Greenway Path, adjacent to the parking lot where the veterinarian's office is located. The station is identical to the one located at the Cambridge Junction Trailhead serving the LVRT and includes a dedicated dog waste receptacle. Please do not leave full bags of dog waste on the side of the trail, either use the waste receptacles or dispose of the waste at home. The Greenway, LVRT, and the trailheads are all "Carry In/Carry Out" facilities.

## Range continued from page 1

17-18 July Burlington Rifle and Pistol 1600  
Week of July 20-26  
20-25 July Small Arms/.50 CAL2200/Demo 1600/ Artillery 1600  
25-26 July Vermont State Rifle Pistol Assoc.1600  
24-25 July Burlington Rifle and Pistol 1600  
Week of July 27- Aug 2  
27 July – 2 AUG Small Arms 1600/.50 CAL1700  
29-31 July Essex Police Dept. 1600  
31 July Burlington Rifle and Pistol 1600  
**August 2020:**  
Week of Aug 3-9  
3-9 Aug Small Arms 1600/.50 CAL1700  
4 Aug Burlington Police Dept. 1600  
7-8 Aug Burlington Rifle and Pistol 1600  
8-9 Aug Vermont State Rifle Pistol Assoc.1600  
Week of Aug 10-16  
10-16 Aug Small Arms 1600/.50 CAL1700  
11-14 Aug US Coast Guard Small Arms 1600/.50 CAL1700  
10-14 Aug Norwich ROTC Small Arms 1600  
15 Aug Burlington Rifle and Pistol 1600  
Week of Aug 17-23  
17-23 Aug Small Arms 1600  
17-21 Aug UVM ROTC Small Arms 1600  
18-20 Aug Small Arms 1600/.50 CAL1700  
18-21 Aug Small Arms 1600/Artillery 1600  
20-21 Aug Burlington Rifle Pistol 1200  
20-21 Aug Vermont State Rifle Pistol Assoc.1600  
Week of Aug 24-31  
28-31 Aug Small Arms 2200/.50 CAL1700  
25-27 Aug Burlington Police Dept. 1600  
26 Aug Vermont Fish and Game 1600  
31 Aug Vermont Fish and Game 1600

## NEWS BRIEF

## Get \$50 for recycling old appliances

You can get rid of old appliances and get money back! To help Vermonters get rid of old, inefficient appliances, Efficiency Vermont is offering free curbside pickup and recycling of window air conditioners, dehumidifiers, stand-alone freezers, and extra refrigerators. You'll get between \$20-50 cash back for each working unit, and it is a free no-contact pickup. The program is only around for a little while, so look into it ASAP!

[www.efficiencyvermont.com/recycle](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/recycle)

## NEWS BRIEF

## 3SquaresVT helps during COVID-19

3SquaresVT goes online — If you get 3SquaresVT, you can now use the benefits as follows:

- Food benefits on your EBT card to buy eligible items on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and have them delivered right to your door.
- Food and cash benefits on your EBT card to order eligible items on [Walmart.com](http://Walmart.com) for pick up at the Williston location.

For more information, go online to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/EBT/online>.

Extra food benefits in June — Many 3SquaresVT households will get a higher benefit in June to help them through the current health crisis. This extra help is part of the federal Coronavirus Relief Bill. For more information, go online to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/press-releases/5-21-20>.

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

5 ¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF GASOLINE

FREE



COFFEE 12 OZ.

Cannot be combined with other offers. Ad required for discount.

# NEWS BRIEF

## Don't lose touch with Cambridge government

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk

As we slowly and carefully emerge from our quarantine, meetings of the Selectboard and other town committees continue online. In compliance with the State's Open Meeting Laws, agendas, minutes, and warnings for all Cambridge meetings can be viewed in the Document Center at [www.Cambridge.VT.gov](http://www.Cambridge.VT.gov).

It is very easy to keep "in the know" about what is happening in our Town government. This includes the Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Recreation Board, Economic Development, Trails Committee, Cemetery and Planning Commissions, and others.

You can sign up to receive notices automatically as agendas and minutes are posted. Go to the Document Center, [www.cambridgevt.org/documents](http://www.cambridgevt.org/documents), click on "Email Notifications" then on the next page click the blue words "Sign up?" and follow the instructions to register.

The system is very flexible. You can sign up to receive notifications about a single municipal group, multiple groups, or every group in town. You can register for agendas for every upcoming meeting, or minutes from each completed meeting, or both. If you need assistance, contact the Town Clerk's office at [clerk@cambridgevt.org](mailto:clerk@cambridgevt.org).

You can use shortcuts to find answers to some common Town questions: [www.CambridgeVT.org/FAQ](http://www.CambridgeVT.org/FAQ).

Other questions? Contact the Cambridge Town Office:

- Mark Schilling, Clerk/Treasurer, [clerk@CambridgeVT.org](mailto:clerk@CambridgeVT.org) or 644-2251
- Marguerite Ladd, Town Administrator, [townadmin@CambridgeVT.org](mailto:townadmin@CambridgeVT.org) 644-8290
- Lister's Office, [listeners@cambridgevt.org](mailto:listeners@cambridgevt.org) or 644-2200
- Town Garage, [towngarage@cambridgevt.org](mailto:towngarage@cambridgevt.org) or 644-8843
- Animal Control/ Constables, [dogalert@cambridgevt.org](mailto:dogalert@cambridgevt.org)

## The ShiftMeal Project in Cambridge is for all residents

Lamoille Area Health and Human Services Response Center (LAH2S-RCC), in partnership with Cambridge Rotary, Smugglers' Notch Resort, and Lamoille County Mental Health, is pleased to announce that as of Friday, May 29, frozen meals provided by the ShiftMeal Project are available weekly for pickup at the Cambridge Elementary School.

These meals are available for Cambridge residents of all ages and income levels and we hope you spread the word, so they reach those who need them. Meals are made by local restaurants like the Skinny Pancake and packed in portions providing one generous serving. For more information, contact Heather Hobart, [hhobart@lrcvt.org](mailto:hhobart@lrcvt.org).

- Pickup location: Cambridge Elementary School parking lot
- Pickup times: Fridays in June, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Important information regarding pick-up protocol:
  - Please do not come if you are sick.
  - Please only send one person per household to come for pickup, but you can pick up for your neighbors that need assistance.
  - We will not provide or handle any outside bags. Please bring your own bag, if you wish.
  - Please honor social distancing and maintain 6' of space between yourself and others in the pickup line.
  - You must take any food you touch.
  - Keep the line moving. Do not touch anything or anyone other than your meals.
  - Masks are encouraged.



Come to a Drive By Concert with Chad Hollister on Saturday, June 20, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, in Morrisville. Spruce Peak Arts in partnership with the Town of Morrisville and Community Development Coordinator Tricia Follert have planned a route through the residential neighborhoods of Morrisville and are hoping to provide an end point on the route where people may enjoy music in their cars in a tail-gate-style distanced format. PHOTO BY BOB MALBON

## Jericho notes

The Planning Commission has been involved in a town-wide planning process for the Commercial District (CD). This process resulted in the completion of a Master Plan for the CD and now we have draft Zoning Regulations. We want to hear from you! We have an interactive draft zoning document on our website where you can comment on the changes right in the document on the CD project page — go to <https://jerichovt.org> and click on *The Future of the Commercial District*.

August primary election: If you're thinking of running for office, want an absentee ballot, or want to see if you're registered, you should check out the Town's Election page, online at <https://jerichovt.org>, then select Town Departments, then Elections.

# MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

## Join a community display of thanks and congrats in Cambridge

The Cambridge Area Rotary invites you to join in on a Community Display of Thanks and Congrats!

How?? What can you do and have some fun too!

As you may have seen by the Jeff Silo round about — two banners have been placed congratulating the Class of 2020 and thanking health care providers and front line workers!

So please get those creative juices flowing to make a sign that congratulates anyone you know who has graduated from kindergarten, sixth grade, high school, college, grad school, or even the Friendly Pirates School of RRRR! And/or thanks a health care provider, or front line worker!

A couple guidelines that you are asked to follow:

- The AOT would like you to place your sign 12 feet from the road! Or it will be on display at their garage...
- Please practice numerous acts of social distancing, which includes the wearing of face masks!
- If you happen to come down to Silo field and you see a group, please use give yourself spacing!
- Please do not hang signs from the Silo. That is beautiful art work we are asked to respect.

Our goal is to the fill field with many signs of thanks and congrats!

## VT Suffrage Centennial Alliance postpones parade and festival

The Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance (VSCA), a volunteer coalition commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage, announced they will postpone until 2021 the parade and festival scheduled for Saturday, August 22 in Montpelier, due to COVID-19 public health concerns.

"VSCA will postpone our Montpelier celebration," said Alliance Director Sue Racanelli. "VSCA, in association with Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, transformed an in-person gathering into a virtual symposium. Now available on-demand, *One Event, Many Perspectives* offers insights on the suffrage movement and its relationship to African American women, Indigenous women, and the education of women."

VSCA will soon offer a Vermont-authored comic booklet profiling state and national suffragists. Registration is now open for the Suffrage Scramble 5K on Saturday, August 15 hosted by Central Vermont Runners, which will either be held observing strict social distancing guidelines or pivot to a virtual race. *Because of Women Like Her...*, a newly created school exhibit with digital curriculum guide, will start its school tour this fall. In October, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in partnership with VSCA brings nationally recognized historian Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner to entertain and inform audiences in a series of presentations in Vermont. Performances of *The Suffragists' Reenactment Society*, an original play, are planned for multiple venues around the state in 2021.

Extending commemoration of the suffrage centennial into 2021 allows VSCA to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of noteworthy state events: Edna Beard became Vermont's first woman legislator in January 1921, and the VT legislature finally ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on February 8, 1921.

VSCA is a project of the League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Find more information about VSCA at [vtsuffrage2020.org](http://vtsuffrage2020.org), on social media @VTSuffrage2020, or by emailing [sue@vtsuffrage2020.org](mailto:sue@vtsuffrage2020.org).

## CSWD Williston Drop-Off Center accepting more items

By Alise Certa, CSWD

Chittenden Solid Waste District's (CSWD) Williston Drop-Off Center (DOC) is now accepting some special recycling items in addition to household trash in bags or barrels, "blue-bin" recycling, food scraps, and natural and untreated wood.

The new list includes tires, electronics, propane tanks, and more. Visit <https://cswd.net/facility-locations/williston-drop-center/> for the complete list along with limits and fees.

We considered many factors in deciding which materials to add: 1. Do we have the staff and space to manage the added material safely and reduce or eliminate the need to inspect loads so we can still move customers through quickly? 2. Is the material banned from the trash (landfill)? 3. Are there alternative outlets that will accept it?

All items we added are banned from the landfill and have limited alternative outlets.

We are aware our community needs to get rid of furniture, mattresses, scrap metal, and more. The current high volume of customer traffic at the Williston DOC and the space required to manage these materials make it impossible for us to safely accept these items at this time. We are working on opening more DOCs to provide relief to Williston, and also on other options in addition to the scrap metal dealers and the Myers and Casella (All Cycle) transfer stations, which already accept these items and larger loads of trash and construction debris.

Thank you for your patience while we work to safely provide these important services for our community.

## CSWD Environmental Depot now open by appointment only

Effective May 22, you must make an appointment at least 24 hours ahead of your visit to use the Environmental Depot, CSWD's year-round location for hazardous waste.

This new system will ensure our staff can maintain a safe work environment and provide adequate physical distancing for our customers and staff.

Appointment times are available as follows:

- Businesses: Tuesday-Friday. Businesses and institutions should call 802-865-4663 instead of using the online appointment system.
- Residents: Wednesday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Saturday, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM. Residents should make an appointment through our online appointment system at <https://cswd.net/depot/>.

You'll need to make your appointment at least 24 hours ahead of the time you want to visit. Time slots less than 24 hours away and those already taken will not appear as options. Appointments may be scheduled as far in advance as desired.

You will receive a confirmation email that includes important safety guidelines and other details.

Visit the following link to make an appointment: <https://cswd.net/depot/>.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call 802-863-0480 and leave a message. Staff will return your call at their earliest convenience.

Send us your news  
Email  
[mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

Join the Mountain Gazette in honoring the MMUHS 2020 Senior Class. We will publish all of the senior photos in the June 18, 2020 issue. We invite parents and friends to submit congratulation notes. Ad space is also available. Email to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net).

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Saturday 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Sunday 4:00 - 8:30 PM

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## HEALTH NEWS

### Copley Hospital re-opens sleep disorders clinic

Do you struggle to get a good night's sleep? Do you find yourself irritable and always tired? If you answered yes, you may want to discuss the topic with your doctor. Every year, millions of Americans complain about not getting enough sleep. Over time, lack of sleep can cause fatigue, irritability, depression, lack of concentration, and memory issues, and affect your work productivity. Left untreated, some sleep disorders may increase the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack, or stroke.

Earlier this month, Copley Hospital re-opened its sleep disorders clinic. "We are happy to have worked out a contract with Roslinde Collins-Gibbard, MD to bring this important service back to our community," states Copley's Chief Operating Officer Vera Jones. Copley's Sleep Clinic is conveniently located on the main floor and uses state of the art digital monitoring equipment to obtain the highest quality data in an effort to evaluate your sleep disorder.

Roslinde Collins-Gibbard, MD will serve as Copley's Sleep Medicine Specialist, and Mandy Poginy, NP will serve as clinical provider. Dr. Collins will read and interpret the data, and will make treatment recommendations. Poginy, who will be on site, will meet with patients, assess his or her condition, and determine if an overnight sleep study is necessary. A sleep study is not always necessary; for some, the care plan can be managed through behavioral therapy, changes in daily habits or work schedules, medications, or with equipment such as a nasal mask to relieve snoring and support airway obstruction.

Dr. Collins received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts and completed her internship and residency at Boston University Hospital, Boston City Hospital, and Boston Veterans Administration Hospital. She received her Master of Business Administration from Isenberg School of Management in Amherst, MA in 2018. She is board-certified through the American Board of Sleep Medicine, a certification she has held since 2003. Dr. Collins has been part of the Dartmouth Hitchcock team since 2016, and prior to that served as Medical Director for Sleep Disorders at Rutland Regional Hospital. "Many people, who are affected by sleep disorders, do not recognize the symptoms, and fewer realize that once detected, most sleep disorders can be corrected. That's where we can help with returning a patient to a more productive lifestyle through diagnosis and treatment management," states Dr. Collins.

Poginy received both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner from Saint Joseph's College of Maine. She currently serves as Family Nurse Practitioner at Northern Counties Health Care in Island Pond. Prior work experience includes North Country Hospital, Northern Vermont Centers for Sleep Disorders. She brings years of experience in assessing and treating patients with sleep disorders, including obstructive and central sleep apneas, narcolepsy, insomnia, shift-work disorders, and other sleep disturbances.

The first step is to talk with your doctor about your concerns, as a referral is required.

If you require an overnight study, one of Copley Hospital's trained Respiratory Therapists will conduct the study. A sleep study monitors sleep stages, patterns, heart activity, blood oxygen levels, and body movements. The data will then be sent to Dr. Collins, who will interpret it and make recommendations. The patient will have a follow-up appointment with Poginy, who will go over the results and recommendations.

For more information on sleep disorders, visit [copleyvt.org](http://copleyvt.org) or call 802-888-8388.

### Westford Rec news

The June 22-26 Soccer Camp has been canceled. A decision about the July 13-17 Voltage Soccer Camp for grades 3-5 (fee \$125) is pending. Please email [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us) for more information.

The Westford Rec Board has an open seat, a volunteer position. If you are interested in helping to shape the community's recreation programs, please email Tonya for more information, [recreation@westfordvt.us](mailto:recreation@westfordvt.us).

Great links for local outdoor recreation with social distancing: <https://westforconservationtrust.org/trails/> and <https://www.miltonvt.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Milton-Town-Forest-4>.

The Rec Department is unable to supply a port-o-let at the school due to district restrictions. Please plan accordingly when utilizing school trails.

### VT Department of Health pop-up testing sites added

The Vermont Department of Health has opened nearly two dozen additional pop-up sites to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 for the virus.

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

All test sites operate from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Find a location near you and register for the clinics ahead of time at <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/popups> or by calling 2-1-1 or 802-828-2828.

If you need transportation to a site, schedule your appointment, and then at least two days before the appointment call 833-387-7200.

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

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

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

### MMCTV = channels 1076 & 1086

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Comcast Cable subscribers in Jericho, Underhill, and Richmond can now watch Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) on channels 1076 (Public/Educational) and 1086 (Government), instead of channels 15 and 17. May 28 marked the end of a transition period when we were in both spots.

This is part of a statewide shift of 22 Vermont community media channels on the Comcast system from 2-digit to 4-digit channels. With the higher numbers, our program titles are finally being listed on the electronic program guide, a paid service we've invested in for our viewers' benefit.

If you don't have cable, you can view our videos on-demand online. Visit [www.MtMansfieldCtv.org](http://www.MtMansfieldCtv.org) for links and information.

### Vermont Emerald Ash Borer update

Information from the VT Agency of Agriculture, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation:

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) flight season started on June 1 and continues until September 30. This is the time when EAB emerge from ash trees, and infested and untreated ash wood products such as ash firewood, and seek new host trees and a mate. Without due care, anyone can inadvertently spread EAB to uninfested areas. By following the *Slow the Spread* recommendations, consulting foresters, loggers, landowners, utilities, purchasers of ash forest products, and others can responsibly move ash wood products and limit the rate of human-caused spread.

Following the *Slow the Spread* recommendations: Our efforts to protect Vermont's ash trees need an all-in approach to following optimal practices that reduce the risk of human-assisted spread of EAB. While we have distributed our message through numerous channels, there is evidence that we are not reaching everyone. Our goal is to ensure that all consulting foresters, logging contractors, and log haulers are aware of the flight season and the serious risk of moving ash to mills, log yards, firewood processors, and homeowners. To that end we are asking for your assistance with communicating Vermont's *Slow the Spread* message to those working within the infested areas.

Foresters, logging contractors, and log haulers should become familiar with the *Slow the Spread* recommendations and contact the purchaser of ash products they work with for guidance on when, or if, they should deliver ash logs and pulpwood to them before moving those products outside an infested area. There is a high risk of spreading EAB at any time of year if ash firewood is delivered for use as homeowner firewood outside the infested area, whether it is log-length or split but not heat-treated.

### Helping a turtle to cross the road

It's turtle nesting season, and turtles are on the move. Ever wonder what to do if you see a turtle in the road?

According to Jim Andrews of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, "(Turtles') best defense is to have friendly humans avoid them, or safely help them across the road. When you spot a turtle in the road, you may be able to help it across. First, be sure you are in a safe spot to stop and get out of your car, as human safety comes first. If you are going to move a turtle, move it in the direction it was traveling. They know where they are going." Andrews says most turtles can simply be picked up and carried across the road. But not a snapping turtle! If the turtle has NO colorful lines, spots, or other markings, it is probably a snapping turtle, so people should not get too close to the animal to avoid being bitten. Snapping turtles' necks are nearly as long as their shell! Instead, people should push the turtle across the road (in the direction it is traveling) with a shovel or broom.

(If you get a chance, take a photo of the turtle and log it at <https://www.vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form/>.)

Steve Parren of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Depart-

### Health care precautions at UVM Medical Center

The providers you know and trust are here to safely deliver the care you need through video, telephone, and in-person visits. We are taking extra precautions to keep you as safe as possible during your visit.

**Distancing:** We are limiting the number of patients and staff in our buildings to ensure we can stay six feet apart.

**Visitors:** We are currently limiting visitors, so you will need to attend your appointment by yourself, unless you need assistance.

**Entry screening:** We are screening everyone at building entrances, including temperature checks.

**Masking:** Patients and staff will be wearing masks — if you don't have one, we'll provide you with one.

**New check-in:** We may ask you to wait in your car and will bring you directly to your exam room instead of checking you in at the front desk.

**Pre-procedure testing:** If you are scheduled for an outpatient surgery or procedure, you may be tested for COVID-19 two or three days in advance and asked to quarantine from the time of your test to the time of your appointment.

Have more questions about receiving care at this time? Please let us know at [communications@uvmhealth.org](mailto:communications@uvmhealth.org).

### Vermont Foodbank information

The Vermont Foodbank is partnering with The Abbey Group, the State of Vermont, and the Vermont National Guard and to provide boxes of chicken, produce, dairy products, and non-perishable food at distributions held throughout the state. Distributions are drive-through events at which you will be directed to pull up to a specific location and asked how many people you're picking up for, and members of the Vermont National Guard will load food items into your vehicle.

New locations and dates are added and updated regularly, please continue to check the website: <https://www.vtfoodbank.org>. If you're in need of help, please visit our [Get Help](#) page.

Please note:

- The Morristown site has been relocated from the airport to Lamoyille Union High School in Hyde Park. Please be sure you make this update anywhere you are promoting this location!

- The Burlington location site will be changed as they work to find a better location.

- The Foodbank is emphasizing "while supplies last" in all messaging to better manage expectations in case we run out of food.

- The Foodbank will be giving people the option of taking Farmers to Families Food Boxes \*or\* FEMA non-perishable food (not both) to try to stretch inventory to be able to serve more people.

### From the Westford Conservation Commission

Have you hiked every possible combination of the Westford school trails? Try one of Westford's other, more remote trails! Goodrich and Schultz trails are both off Machia Hill Road and are great walks that include beaver pond views, Mansfield views, and lots of good Westford air.

Turn your walk into science class by using a plant/tree identifier app, or play "Spring Walk Bingo" — I bet you can find "mud" pretty fast on some of our trails! Schultz trail is good for a greenway walk or bike ride that includes Old #11 Road, Covey Road, Covey Trail, Stoney Ridge Road, Osgood Hill Road, and back up Machia Hill to the Schultz Trail.

A map of the town trails can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/westford-town-lands/>

Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. We're happy to go out and clean things up! Email [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com).

Enjoying the trails? Consider a donation to the Westford Conservation Commission to help our hard-working volunteers purchase equipment, hire professionals, and sponsor events.

ment says, "Turtle nesting activity peaks from late May-June. At this time of year drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles in the road. (If a turtle is hit,) it really depends on your assessment of the turtle. Sometimes just getting them off the road is enough. They survive. If bad but fixable call a rehab person who might be able to repair... You can find the list of rehab folks on the Fish and Wildlife website. It is coded R for those that treat reptiles. It also provides a location map."

Fish and Wildlife Specialist Toni Mikula says, "For turtles hit by cars, unfortunately the vast majority will not make it, even if they are still alive when you find them. For those that are not too badly injured, there are two certified wildlife rehabilitators in the area that accept turtles. Audrey von Lepel in Fairfax (home 849-6937; work 849-2023) or Vermont Wildlife Rescue Association in Westford, 879-4449. Always call before bringing in an injured turtle. They can give you guidance on how to handle the turtle depending on its injuries. Do not feed an injured animal."

Let's try not to hit the turtles, people.

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Dr. Mary H. Kintner

## COMING EVENTS

### VIRTUAL AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED

Wednesday, June 3

**Vermont Specialty Food Association (VSFA) Spring Meeting**, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, <https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/events/>. Additionally, VSFA has launched an eCommerce series that began Wednesday, May 13 to lead into the association's spring meeting. The series is an effort to harness business education resources and offer information and support through webinars for specialty food producers, retailers, and the small business community. The Spring Meeting and webinar series are open to all, VSFA and Vermont Retail and Grocers Association members and non-members. For more information and registration, see <https://bit.ly/vsfawebinars>. The Spring Meeting will feature two informative presentations: *Business Planning for the Unknown*, presented by Lawrence Miller, Principal, Five Vine Consulting; and *The Future of Wholesale*, presented by Allison Ball, founder, Allison Ball Consulting. This event is free to VSFA and VRGA members; \$10 non-member fee. To learn more about their speakers, sessions, and registration, see <https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/events/vsfa-virtual-spring-meeting>. Registration in advance is required for all VSFA events. Find information for all of these virtual events on VSFA's website at <https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/events/>. To learn more about the work VSFA does, visit their website at [www.vtspecialtyfoods.org](http://www.vtspecialtyfoods.org), follow them on Facebook & Instagram, or call their office at 802-839-1930.

Thursday, June 4-Friday, June 12

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

and Jim Verzino (Windham Grows), and Jennifer Brandt (Slow Living Summit Coordinator).

Sunday-Tuesday, June 7-9

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

Mondays, June 8, 15, 22, and 29

**Healing the Divide writing workshop with James Crews**, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, online via Zoom. Join poet and writing coach James Crews for a generative workshop that will incorporate reading exercises, writing prompts, read-alouds, discussions, and special guests. Each participant will receive a free electronic copy of *Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection*. Registration is limited to 15; register, fill out the form at <https://literarynorth.org> (select the *Projects* drop down menu and choose *Healing the Divide writing workshop*.) Cost: \$95 for four sessions; after you sign up, you'll be contact with payment information and the Zoom link.

Saturday, June 20

**Drive By Concert**, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Morrisville. Spruce Peak Arts kicks off summer with Chad Hollister in a drive by concert! In partnership with the Town of Morrisville and Community Development Coordinator Tricia Follert, a route is planned through the residential neighborhoods of Morrisville. The route will be announced in advance so people can be ready on their front steps to watch as the concert passes. The organizers hope to provide an end point on the route where people may enjoy music in their cars in a tail-gate-style distanced format. An additional concert is planned in Waterbury Center on Saturday, June 27; Hyde Park/Johnson area, stay tuned! <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/drive-by-concert-series/>. Spruce Peak Arts is actively seeking additional support for artist fees, marketing, and overhead costs. Please contact Hope Sullivan, [hsullivan@sprucepeakarts.org](mailto:hsullivan@sprucepeakarts.org) if interested in becoming a sponsor or in bringing the Drive By Concert Series to your town.

### Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

### Online worship service at Good Shepherd

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

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

### Double shots, best friends, big comeback

By Doug Boardman  
Special to the Mountain Gazette

We moved into our new house in July 1962 and we were the first house in the new development. We needed to put our mailbox temporarily by the last house in the old development. This is where we met Bob and Betty. Our road by our house wasn't finished so our mailbox was beside theirs. We became best friends right away. Three of our children were the same age as three of their children. I had a couple of Bob and Betty's boys on my Little League team along with two of mine, and Bob was my Assistant Coach for a couple of years. I coached Little League and Babe Ruth in the Poughkeepsie area for 15 years and in Underhill for 10 years.

In the Navy, I drank a lot of beer in Malta, and too much of every other drink when I was the Postmaster on the U.S.S. Norfolk DL-1 ship. After the ship, I went to college in Albany and didn't drink again until I met Bob. Bob was a bartender and a good one. He wasn't good at fixing things so I fixed his plumbing and heating. There were some things that I couldn't fix. Like one time, on a cold, below-zero night, one of the kids let their collie out, locked the door and went to bed. The next morning about 5:00 AM, they were all freezing and discovered their dog was laying on the living room floor with the door wide open, and snow had blown into the house. Evidently the dog kept banging against the door until she got it open. Unfortunately, with the door being open, they ran out of oil for their furnace.

That was their first dog I remember. They had an ordinance that you had to have your dog on a leash or hitched and the kids didn't want to bother to hitch their dog. The collie stayed and didn't stray. Their second dog was a chihuahua and she stayed home but my cat (not our dog) started going

to visit their dog. I think my cat thought she was a dog or their dog thought she was a cat. After a week of my cat going down to visit their dog, I went down and found them laying down beside each other and when I grabbed her, she bit me and scratched me so bad that I was bleeding pretty badly. I left the cat at a farm a few miles away.

The third dog they had was an Irish Setter, and every time they didn't hitch her she would run away. The dog would run 20 or 30 miles sometimes, and every time the dog got picked up they would charge them for not hitching the dog. Finally she ran so far away, they couldn't find her. After the Irish Setter, they got a small black spotted mixed breed with a beagle face. This dog ran around the neighborhood every day because the kids wouldn't hitch the dog up. The dog catcher felt sorry for Bob and Betty because every time he picked up the dog, it would cost them \$25. So after a couple hundred dollars, the dog catcher would go and pick the dog up. He would open the passenger door of the truck and the dog would jump in and they would ride around the neighborhood and then he would drop the dog at Bob and Betty's home when he left the neighborhood.

There are so many stories and trips we shared that I wouldn't be able to fit in three columns.

I started drinking on Saturday nights where he worked. He would give me free drinks and thought he was doing me a favor by giving me double shots of everything and I always told him to "go lightly on the liquor" but he wouldn't! Bob and Betty bought a bar/restaurant and I did a lot of plumbing for him there. Bob and Betty both were heavy smokers and she would call me at work and ask me a couple times a week to bring a carton of cigarettes to her on my way home, and I had told her I would never buy her cigarettes because I didn't want to put more nails in her coffin. She would call me anyway, but I never supplied her or Bob with a cigarette.

We had a weird but interesting neighborhood. One guy mowed his lawn when it snowed, so he tried to use his mower

as a snowblower. My neighbor on my right side hated the guy on the left side and used to come across my lawn and threaten the other neighbor with bodily harm. He liked me and my family but he had no other friends in the neighborhood. Another neighbor wouldn't let kids sit on her couch so we had most of the neighborhood kids at our house which led to my second oldest boy not coming home until late because there were three teachers that came to our house after school and my son said he had seen enough of them during school hours. They built an elementary school at the end of our street so the teachers walked to our house and visited after school with my wife. When my son saw them coming, he would skip out the back door and come back when they left. I was very popular and I like to think it was personal but I think it was more my truck with a lowering tailgate. I moved some of the teachers two or three times for nothing.

Meanwhile I was making a big comeback but along with that I was paying a heavy price. I was totally stressed out and suffered from a hiatal hernia, diverticulosis, kidney stones, bleeding ulcers, and bleeding hemorrhoids. I drank Pepto Bismol, Kaopectate, and Immodium A. I have been in business a long, long time and a lot of people have said they want to be an owner and I got to tell you to think long and hard about taking that step. I thought that I would be working one main job instead of four when I bought Eureka Supply Co., and was I naïve. I had to work 80 or more hours at Eureka Supply and the stress from my partner was eating out my insides. I made a big comeback after the fire but almost died doing it. When you own a business, everyone wants a piece of you until there is nothing left and you are at the mercy of your employees. You get to go home when the work is done no matter what time it is, whereas an employee gets to go home on time. There are many people who start a business every year, and there is more going out of business than coming in.

Next: new partners, night stealer, sick birthdays

### Keystone species

A "keystone species" is a species, usually of wildlife, which has a disproportionate effect on its environment. In our region, the classic example of this is the beaver. Beavers dam and flood fields and forests, essentially creating, or "driving," their own natural disturbance events. Besides making great habitat for themselves, they support a whole ecosystem, home to many reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, plants, and more. Even once abandoned and drained, "beaver meadows" provide unique habitat across our landscape. While they sometimes cause problems for us, the work of beavers has human benefits, improving water quality and lessening the effects of flood events on our infrastructure.

We have long known that forests influence wildlife, but beavers are an example of how wildlife influences forest development. We increasingly understand these connections, from the blue jays that transport and plant acorns, to the rodents which help expand forests' critical mycorrhizal fungal networks, to the woodpeckers that control populations of wood-boring insects.

Beavers are also an example of how, while it may seem counterintuitive, some "disturbances" — the events that kill trees — are actually good for forests. They and the natural regeneration that follows them help make forests diverse, resilient, and provide great wildlife habitat. While the gnawing and flooding of beavers kills trees, it creates broader ecosystem benefits which ultimately make forests healthier.

In this vein, a less well-known historic example of a key-

stone species is the passenger pigeon, which once populated our region in "mega-flocks" of billions of birds. John James Audubon described a forest following a visit from such a flock as looking like a "tornado" had hit it, breaking off trees "two feet in diameter." While a mega-flock visit to your neighborhood would have startling to say the least, the "early successional" or "young forest" habitat that regenerated in their aftermath would have provided unique habitat for a huge number of wildlife species, including several bird species whose populations are now declining in Vermont. As with the beaver, the passenger pigeon created habitat for many other species and thus may be called a "keystone species." Its extinction in the early 1900s represented a loss for our wildlife and ultimately for our forests as well.

The recent resurgence of grey wolves, grizzly bears, and mountain lions on our western landscapes illustrates how predators can also act as keystone species. They do so by influencing herbivory pressure, which in turn impacts reforestation and thus ecosystems and their natural processes. In Vermont, predator-prey dynamics have changed drastically over the last 300 years. Prior to the 1800s the dominant herbivores on Vermont's landscape were caribou, moose, and the eastern elk, with small populations of white-tailed deer, and the apex predators were wolves and catamounts. Elk and caribou disappeared from Vermont by the late 1700s (eastern elk is now extinct), deer hunting was closed in 1865 due to low populations, and wolves and catamounts were driven out by the late 1800s (the "catamount," or eastern cougar,

was declared extinct in 1818). Reintroduced to Vermont in 1878, deer have become over-populated in much of New England, with dramatic negative impacts to forest health, diversity, and wildlife habitat. In addition to the loss of predators, deer overpopulations in Vermont can be attributed largely to a diminishing influence of deer's current apex predator — humans — due to crashing hunter numbers and increases in inaccessible "posted" land.

Beavers are a success story — while extirpated from Vermont in the 1800s, they were reintroduced in 1932, and their populations are now healthy and growing — but catamounts, elk, and passenger pigeons are never returning to Vermont's landscape. What does the loss of a species like this mean for us and for our forests? At the same time that we look back at what we've lost, we continue to create new challenges for our forests — our climate is changing, invasive-exotic species threaten our biodiversity, and over 2000 acres of Vermont's forestland is lost each year (and is being "fragmented" much more quickly).

Humans have power like no other species, to degrade our environment but also to shape it in a positive way. By acting to manage our forests responsibly, actively addressing the threats of invasive species, deer overabundance, climate change, and more, we have the opportunity to become a keystone species; using this power to help our forests become healthier, more diverse, more resilient, and to provide rich, abundant habitat for all of our wildlife.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester.

## Social distancing in Vermont's outdoors

Vermonters are encouraged to enjoy outdoor recreational activities, limiting themselves to activities that can be enjoyed while adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements, and that don't include direct physical contact with those outside their immediate household. Please continue to focus on local outdoor recreation opportunities and to pursue day trips close to home, but state residents are no longer asked to limit outings to within 10 miles of their homes. Out-of-state visitors are still being asked not to come to Vermont for recreational activities, or if they do, to self-quarantine for at least 14 days after arriving in Vermont before engaging in any activities.

For more information about health and safety precautions: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>.

The VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation will continue to refine general outdoor recreation guidance for sector-specific guidance on activities like swimming, paddling, mountain biking, and backcountry/primitive camping. Check often for updates, and contact Jessica Savage, [jessica.savage@vermont.gov](mailto:jessica.savage@vermont.gov), with questions.

See <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance#outdoor-recreation> for sector specific guidance for outdoor recreation organizations and businesses.

Vermonters participating in outdoor activities should follow these guidelines:

- Please stay within Vermont and only drive with members of your household. You can find information on local spots on <http://www.Trailfinder.info>, <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/>, or the landowner or recreation organization's specific website. Be sure to check trail organization websites for detailed information on the use of their trail networks and additional requirements to ensure a safe experience for all users.

- Many outdoor recreation facilities are operating, but at a limited capacity. Call ahead or check websites for more information before you head out.

- Some trails may be closed. Please consult [www.Trailfinder.info](http://www.Trailfinder.info) prior to starting your hike.

- Minimize risk to others. Go out only if you're healthy, have not been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or have not recently traveled from a location with a CDC-issued travel advisory.

- Do not engage in contact sports; e.g., outdoor basketball courts may be open to shoot hoops, but signage should be posted prohibiting contact games. Do not share sports equipment with people outside of your household.

- Avoid high-risk activities. Now is not the time to try something extreme and end up in the hospital. Search and Rescue personnel must wear all PPE and sanitize all rescue equipment, which is time-consuming and, given their need for close proximity and contact with rescue subjects, also dangerous for them.

- Try not to touch anything. The coronavirus can survive on objects (like outdoors surfaces like railings, fences, signs, trash cans) for several days. Public restrooms that are still open (many are closed) may only be as clean as the last person who used them. Use the bathroom before you go out, and always make a habit of washing your hands when you return home.

- Wear a cloth mask or face covering. Any time you know others may be present, you should have your mask on, even while running or biking. Keeping it at the ready is okay if you can quickly and safely pull it up over your nose and mouth, doing this well before you come within 6' of others.

- Observe CDC's recommended social distancing of 6'. When you're exerting yourself, your breath and associated droplets can travel much farther, so stay out of other people's "contrails" and give each other as much space as possible.

- Practice 6' of spacing and know what it looks like. Keep it as you walk, bike, or hike. An average bicycle is just a little less than 6' long. Most kayaks are 10' long, so imagine yourself kayaking around a park; you have about 5' to the front of your boat. Many standard fishing rods are at least 6' long.

- Leash your dog! Most standard leashes are 6' long.

- Know where/when to go: it's best if we don't all go at once, to one place. You can plan your trip on [www.trailfinder.info](http://www.trailfinder.info). If you arrive at a parking lot and it is full, find another trail.

- Slow down, step back, and let people know when you're approaching. Awareness and consideration are key. Everyone should yield to everyone right now, and making some noise as you approach is recommended. A friendly "Hello!" followed by a pause to figure out your next move is the best tactic. If you find yourself coming up behind a slower walker, and there's not 6' to pass safely, slow down instead. If somebody is getting too close to you, step back to allow enough space. If the trail isn't wide enough to allow for 6' in passing, step off the trail at a 90-degree angle, then wait for the approaching group to clear the area before retracing your foot-

steps. If you're a mountain biker, lay your bike down by the side of the trail first.

- Keep single file, even on wide trails, even if you have to hike more slowly than you'd like. When you let someone pass, step off to the side and stay put — don't walk or ride alongside the path.

- Stopping on either side of the trail to chat just creates a breath "gauntlet" that others must either pass through or go off-trail to avoid.

- If you are hiking with children, remind them not to run up to people or dogs, and to cough and sneeze into their elbows while turned away from people. Children older than two can and should be encouraged to use cloth masks or face coverings. Remind your kids often of the new rules; they will need lots of kind and consistent reminders of what this new behavior needs to look like — be sure that you are modeling it!

Remember: If you can't maintain social distance, just don't go at all!

Currently, state lands (state parks, forests, F&W access areas, and Wildlife Management Areas) remain open and accessible to the public for outdoor recreation, though most facilities like restrooms are closed and not staffed or sanitized. Some roads and trails are gated this time of year and closed to all but foot traffic. The Long Trail System on state lands is closed; visit <https://www.greenmountainclub.org/covid-19-response/> for information and updates. Check [www.Trailfinder.info](http://www.Trailfinder.info) often for updates on other trails.

Primitive camping: shelters, remote campgrounds, and privies on state lands are closed through June. Primitive (self-contained) camping is allowed, but guidelines must be followed: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/primitive-camping>.

Although currently open for general visitation, State Parks have not opened staffed operations but are working with VT Dept. of Health guidance and hope to be fully operational later this spring or early summer. Programs and services may be expected change to ensure safety and health for visitors and staff. Check <https://vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2020/03/vermont-state-parks-covid-19-updates.html> for updates as this is likely to continue to change.

Support Vermont's local businesses and organizations: If you need equipment or services for outdoor activities, please consider contacting your local outdoor store. Many are again able to offer services like curbside pickup, local delivery, or online ordering. If you're able, please consider donating to the organization that manages your favorite trail or rec destination.

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

### More coronavirus questions from children

A few weeks ago, I did a segment answering questions from children about the coronavirus. Since then, more questions have come in. Let me try to pass the test with some helpful answers to questions and concerns from children.

"Why don't we have a pill or medicine to treat the coronavirus like we do for other illnesses?" Good question. We know that there are a number of different types of coronavirus, but the one we are dealing with that causes the COVID-19 illness, called SARS-CoV-2, is brand new. This means no treatment exists — at least not yet. Be reassured that every day the doctors, nurses, and scientists are trying hard to find new medicines to help us get rid of the virus if we get infected. There are some that may have potential that we are already learning more and more about through ongoing clinical trials. There is also a lot of work going on in this country and around the world to create a new vaccine that will prevent this virus from causing illness if it gets into the body. As of this month no approved vaccine exists, although again, experimental trials are ongoing.

"Why do children not seem to get as sick as grownups?" This is another great question, and the truth is, we still are not sure. One theory that seems to be gaining strength is that the immune system that fights infections in children is either stronger than that of an adult or doesn't react the same way

that an adult's does. This makes the illness less severe in children, although it can also be less severe in many adults, too.

"If the virus infects someone, can it come back and infect that person again?" When you recover from a virus, it is believed that you are usually protected from it at least for months to a few years. Right now, no one knows whether that protection can occur and for how long after an initial exposure to the coronavirus, but it is hoped that is the case. The good news is that if the virus were to come back, by the time it does, we will hopefully have either a medicine to treat

it or a vaccine to boost our immunity against it. This would prevent those previously infected and those never infected from getting this virus ever again.

Hopefully, sharing the answers to questions like these will help not just you, but everyone in your family to stay healthy, so we can all work together to make the coronavirus disappear.

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

### Wood for Good

**The Axelrod Crew (Eric and sons)**

Wood for Good is going very well. My boys and I have stockpiled at least eight cords for the fall and winter delivery. Recently, we gave wood away to a 80 year old widow who goes and gets wood in the forest and moves it out herself.

Another family that we donated to burned their furniture this past winter to keep warm. The need is real out there, even before COVID.

Can anyone recommend any friends or neighbors in need? Here is what Wood For Good needs:

I need to borrow a bar and chain for either a Stihl or Husqy saw, minimum size is 28 inches. We have had a very large tree donated; I need this to cut it up. To be clear, I only need the bar and chain.

We still really need a dump trailer, would anyone consider lending us their dump trailer please, we will take very good care of it.

We also will need volunteers to help with the following:

- Wood cutting, any skilled woodsmen who know how to run a saw out there who want to help us keep families warm?

- Splitting wood, anyone who wants to use their splitter to help us process more wood?

- Delivering wood, is anyone with a pickup truck or trailer willing to do some deliveries? We need to bring loads right now all over and get new requests all the time.

- Who has good hardwood on their property that is easy accessible and downed? We will also drop trees that are safe to fall for a donation towards our cause.

We are at a point where we really need donations. Up until now it has almost been entirely self-funded and the expenses are growing. We are not a non-profit yet, but the money will go 100% towards increasing our ability to give wood away.

Please consider a small donation to a really great cause... whatever you can afford, we will be grateful for. Here is the mailing address:

Eric, Devin and Logan Axelrod  
14 Buttercup Lane, Jericho, VT 05465

Please let us know if anyone has ideas, I would love to turn this into a non-profit, are there any lawyers in town who might help us make that happen? We could also use a website soon, especially when we become a non-profit.

Stay safe everyone.

### Notch Road Tunnel rehabilitation project

**By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer,**

The Notch Road in Bolton under Interstate 89 will undergo rehabilitation of the existing concrete box culvert to include new lighting. The project is slated begin on Monday, June 1, with traffic impact Monday-Friday daytime, one 12' lane open to traffic with traffic control present; Sunday-Thursday, 7:00 PM – 5:00 AM, complete closure from to motorists only; pedestrian and bicyclists will have access 24/7.

Beginning Monday, June 01, 2020 will be for project mobilization and preparation, and for construction signs.

The projected completion date for the project is Friday, August 14. A project fact sheet may be found at <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/factsheet/default.aspx?pin=13A090>.

Please contact Stephanie Barrett, 802-862-6868 or [sbarrett@coibsinc.com](mailto:sbarrett@coibsinc.com), for questions/concerns regarding this project. Email Stephanie if you would like to receive weekly project update emails.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Irish Settlement Road reconstruction project

The Town of Underhill has contracted with GW Tatro to rebuild the section of Irish Settlement Road from #569 to #635. This project is expected to commence Tuesday, June 2, with road signs and other miscellaneous prep work the day before.

During construction the road will be closed for through traffic and there will be heavy truck traffic transporting materials to and from the job site. Residents will have limited driveway access to the road within the construction zone and will need to proceed with caution. It's advised to stage vehicles outside the construction area if immediate access is required.

The project will begin near #635, proceeding to the south, with each day expected to cover 200-300 linear feet. A daily construction update will be posted on FPF to help with this. Construction will be between the hours of 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM and is expected to last for about three weeks. The road will be reopened each day for normal travel after construction hours. Note: depending on weather and other factors, the hours of construction may vary.

Please contact Kurt Johnson, 760-0769, with any questions or concerns about this project.

### Westford Planning Commission

#### June 15 agenda

**By Melissa Manka**

**Westford Planning Coordinator**

The Westford Planning Commission will meet on Monday, June 15 at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM.

To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86042117939?pwd=V0tkS3JlcVJKRE9lOFROZUNzNkxUT09>. Alternately, you may call +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or +1 646 558 8656 US (New York). Meeting ID: 860 4211 7939; password: 6152020.

Agenda:

- 6:30 PM: Amendments to Agenda
- 6:31 PM: Citizens to be Heard and Announcements
- 6:35 PM: Minutes of the May 12, 2020 and May 18, 2020 Meetings (Approve)
- 6:45 PM: Draft 2020 Town Plan - Maps 8, 8a, 9 and 9a (Review and Revise)
- 7:05 PM: Draft 2020 Town Plan - Chapters 6, 9 and 10 (Review and Revise)
- 8:30 PM: Adjourn

# LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

## Chittenden 8-3 legislative report

Robert Bancroft • State Representative  
Chittenden-8-3

The House met on Wednesday and Friday, May 13 and 15. The body dealt with six bills. (I voted in favor of each one.) The bills were:

- S.343, which deals with delaying special education changes due to the COVID-19 crisis (passed third/final reading);
- H.656, which addresses several miscellaneous agricultural issues (passed third/final reading);
- H.673, which deals with the appointment and responsibilities of tree wardens and the preservation of municipal shade trees (passed second reading);
- H.948, which allows municipalities to hold any quasi-judicial proceeding through electronic means and suspends the requirements for certain in-person inspections of property subject to an appeal (passed third/final reading);
- H.951, which will reimburse the interest incurred by a town needing to borrow funds, due to the COVID crisis, in order to meet their statewide education property tax payment to the State (passed third/final reading); and
- H.953, which is the FY 2020 supplemental budget adjustment needed to address the COVID crisis (see discussion below; passed second reading).

The purpose behind H.953 is to address the nearly \$200 million shortfall in the current year's budget and appropriate coronavirus relief funds (CRF) needed to meet COVID-related expenses. The budget deficit for FY20 is projected to be close to \$200 million. This sounds worse than it is. The bulk of the deficit (\$143 mil.) is due to extending the tax filing deadline and will revert back to FY20 after it is collected. The remainder (\$52 million) is the projected loss in FY20 revenues due to COVID (FY20 ends on June 30, 2020). This shortfall is being filled primarily by Medicaid savings. Helping to fill the budget hole is a \$4.6 million increase in liquor taxes!

Another part of the supplemental budget bill deals with appropriating federal CRF. This entails allocating approximately \$23 million to cover COVID-related expenses. The Vermont State Colleges, UVM, VSAC, and Judiciary each received approximately \$5 million to fill deficits in their FY20 budgets.

While the FY20 revenue shortfall is only \$53 million, the FY21 deficit is projected to be in the \$430 million range. A shortfall of this magnitude is going to present significant budget challenges. Hopefully, federal assistance will help mitigate these challenges.

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) met Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 12-14. The committee continued to discuss the issue of unemployment insurance "penalty week." A discussion has been put off until we hear back from the administration on permissibility of postponing a person's penalty weeks to some future date and allow them to receive the \$600 UI supplement paid for by the federal government.

The committee revisited the possibility of setting up a grant program to assist manufacturers willing to quickly shift to the production of critical needed personal protection equipment (PPE). After hearing the Administration is currently working with manufacturers to produce certain PPEs, it was decided to table the proposed program.

The committee voted out S.255. This bill makes some changes to the rules and regulations governing captive insurance companies.

After considerable discussion, it was decided to table S.346 for the time being. S.346 calls for the creation of COVID-19 Essential Employees Hazard Grant Program. The committee is unsure if it is permissible to use CARES money to fund this sort of program. We have asked our congressional delegation to look in to this and get back with their recommendations.

House sessions were held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, May 19, 20, and 22. The body dealt with six bills. (I voted in favor of each one.) The bills were:

- H.673, which deals with the appointment and responsibilities of tree wardens and the preservation of municipal shade trees (passed third/final reading);
- H.953, which is the FY20 supplemental budget adjustment needed to address the COVID crisis (passed third/final reading);
- H.954, which makes miscellaneous changes to tax laws (passed third/final reading);
- H.955, which is a supplemental capital budget adjustment needed to address the COVID crisis (passed third/final reading);
- H.957, due to the COVID crisis, the bill extends the deadline to test for lead in the drinking water of school buildings (passed third/final readings); and
- S.255, which will reimburse the interest incurred by a town needing to borrow funds, due to the COVID crisis, in order to meet their statewide education property tax payment to the State (passed third/final reading).

While there may be parts of the above passed bills that interest some individuals, I did not see any provision that would be of wide interest to voters in the district. One possible exception is the appropriation of funds to complete the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (93 miles in total). A small investment by the state will leverage over \$11 million in federal funds to complete the trail, hopefully, in two years.

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) met Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 19-21. On Tuesday the committee heard a presentation on the status and issues facing colleges in New England with a special emphasis on Vermont. The presentation was put on by several individuals from the New England Board of Higher Education. Our colleges and universities are facing a dire fi-

financial situation, which has been compounded by the COVID crisis. The presenters did an excellent job of laying out the problems facing higher education and provided suggestion on how to address these problems. For those interested, the various presentations can be found at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2020/11/Date/5-19-2020#documents-section>.

On Wednesday, May 20, the committee received an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Workers' Compensation program. It appears that there have only been a few applications for benefits associated with the COVID crisis, there is nothing to be concerned about.

In both the morning and afternoon sessions on Thursday, May 21, CEDC received a presentation of the Governor's \$400 million Vermont Economic Recovery (VER) proposal. The presentation and ensuing discussion concentrated on the financial assistance and marketing components of the plan, which come under the committee's jurisdiction. The technical assistance and housing assistance parts will be handled by other committees. The committee did not get into the details of the proposal as the legislative language has not been submitted. The language (bill) is expected to be done by next Tuesday, May 26. Once available, the committee will begin to dig into the specifics of the Governor's proposal. An overview of the proposal can be found at <https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/Vermont%20Economic%20Recovery%20Package%20-%202020-05-20.pdf>.

At the end of our Thursday, May 21 session, we heard from three restaurant owners, a craft beer maker, and a spokesperson for the craft beer industry. I was acutely aware of the dire situation facing the tourism, restaurant, and craft beer industry, but hearing from these folks put a human face to it. Many businesses in these industries will likely go under. Right now, owners are faced with deciding if they can survive with limited seating or if it is prudent to invest more in to their business given an uncertain future. The dire economic consequence of COVID is about to take center stage.

## A discussion with Burton's Donna Carpenter

By Tim Ashe, State Senator, Chittenden District

Thanks to all of you who have been tuning in to my daily updates throughout these turbulent COVID times. The feedback you've provided has helped me push for state government to be more responsive to your needs. You can check them out on my Facebook page each day at 5:30 PM at: <https://www.facebook.com/TimAsheVT> or at the following site where I post them at about 6:00 PM: <https://protem.vermont.gov>.

This week two updates in particular may be of interest to you.

First, I spent Wednesday's update doing a detailed walkthrough of the Governor's proposed first phase economic recovery packages. You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoaHDDSM7o>.

And second, I had a fascinating conversation with Donna Carpenter of Burton who talked about how Burton has handled the crisis as a company, how they shifted to manufacturing goggles and masks for health care workers, and how their company will be changed by this experience. You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csACL5xMyWo>.

## When and how businesses can reopen

By Lucy Rogers  
State Representative, Lamoille-3

If you are wondering whether your business can reopen, and under what conditions, please see this memo with sector-by-sector guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>.

Newly added on Friday, May 22 are sections on Religious Facilities and Hair Salons / Barber Shops. The memo also includes information on Outdoor Recreation, Retail, Lodging, Libraries, Restaurants, Farmers Markets, Manufacturing, and other sectors.

## Protection for renters, landlords; CARES funding; UI

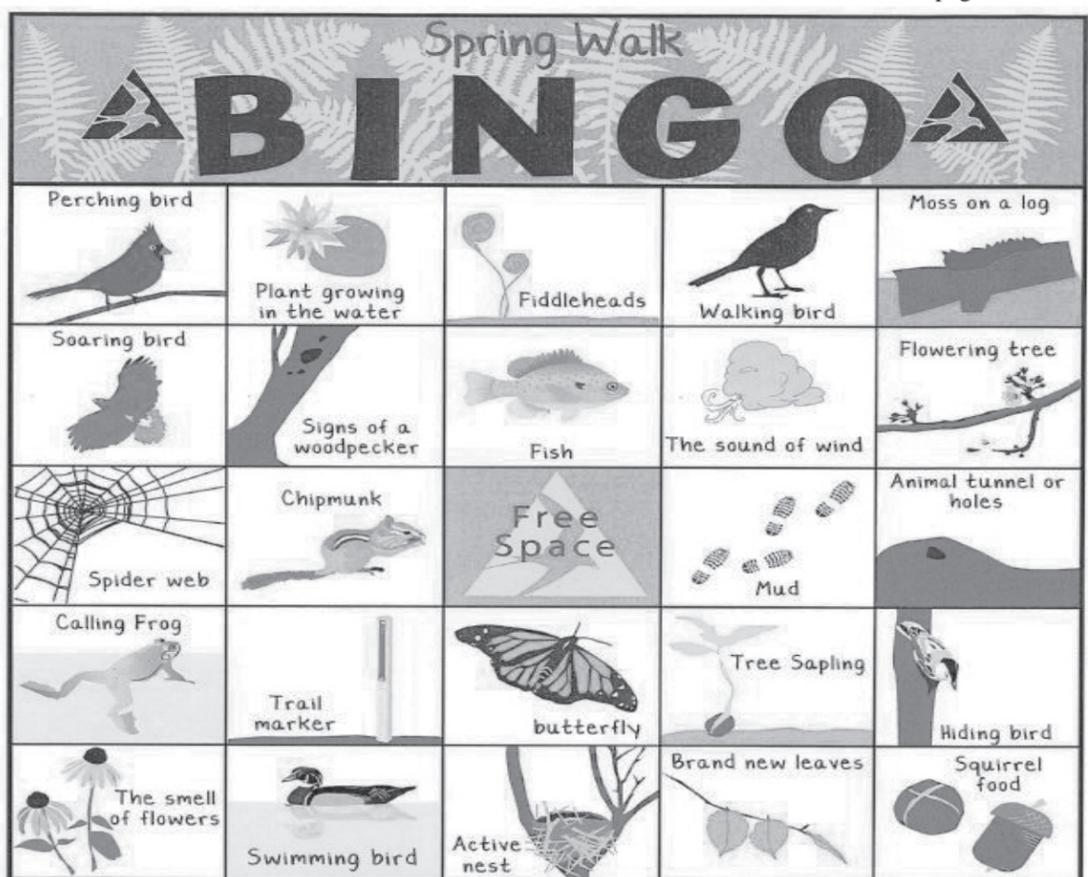
By Thomas Stevens  
State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

The General Assembly continues to hold committee meetings and continues to work on legislation that is both in response to the COVID-19 crisis and to the needs of Vermonters as they were prior to the crisis.

I may have covered this previously, but I revisit it now because it is officially law: S.333 is a bill that delays eviction and foreclosure proceedings during the crisis, and for a short time after. Evictions are lengthy court processes, and 70% of them have to do with the lack of payment of rent. As a state, we know that homelessness is more expensive than keeping tenants in the apartments and landlords as whole as possible when times are difficult. This crisis has the potential to explode the homelessness situation we have faced, and S.333, in conjunction with the recent recovery proposal now being considered in the House and Senate, addresses the court proceedings. If a tenant cannot or does not pay rent, and an eviction process is started in the courts, it will be postponed until after the emergency. This is not, contrary to some comments I've received, a "rent vacation" or an abatement of rent or of mortgage payments. If a tenant fails to pay rent, they will still have to deal with the situation, but the court process will be delayed. Combined with money from the CARES Act that is being considered for use as back rent protection, we do not expect there to be a rash of evictions based on nonpayment of rent. We have protected also owners who suffer tenants who are considered a danger to the public or to the property.

Now, with the release of the Administration's recovery proposal, we are addressing this large rental eviction protection, as well as other facets relating to housing the 2000 Vermonters (including over 300 children) who we were able to temporarily move into motels in the immediate aftermath of the emergency declaration. This number of homeless Vermonters is much larger than we knew, and it is incumbent upon us, as a state, to develop the kind of housing and services that will keep as many of these folks off the streets and in stable housing as possible. Again, we know that dealing with homeless individuals and families is far more expensive than providing the housing and services needed to keep them in place. This crisis gives us that opportunity, but we have to move quickly, as the CARES Act money must be spent by the end of the year. This caveat in the CARES Act money is troublesome, but we are working on ways to make the best

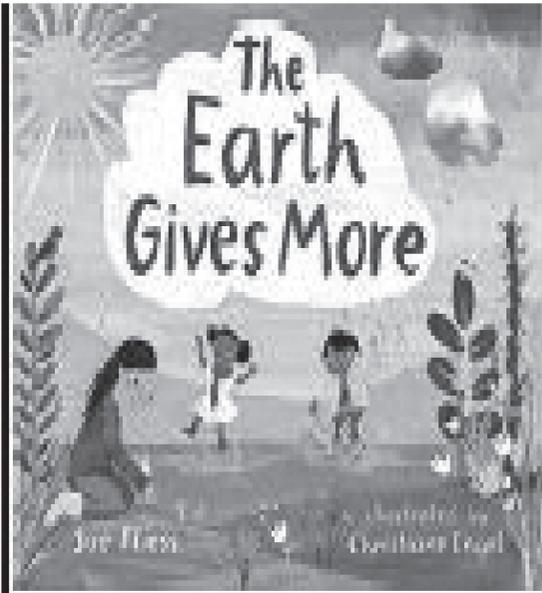
Renters continued on page 8



www.massaudubon.org/EcoKids



## LIBRARY NEWS



It's a great time for a Story Hike! A new story, *The Earth Gives More*, will be up all summer long on the Westford School's Maple Shade Trails (across from the school – park in the lower parking lot and access by the kiosk). Thank you to the Westford Conservation Commission for installing it.  
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

DRML offers curbside pick-up Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 – 5:30 PM, and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please contact us, 802-899-4962 or [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org) with your requests. Staff will place items outside on our bench on the day you would like to pick them up, in a bag with your patron I.D. number on the front. Your I.D. number is located on the front of your library card following the "U2." Only items that DRML owns will be available for pick-up. Our catalog is available at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com/> — check here for items that the library owns. For the full guidelines on how curbside pickup works, please view our recent newsletter at <https://mailchi.mp/a2b65877d439/curbside-re-urns-to-drml?e=70053cdec8>.

You can renew your items and your card over the phone. If you are a Jericho or Underhill resident and would like a library card, staff can issue a temporary card to use until we reopen to the public and you can claim your permanent card. When you come to pick up your items, please remember to abide by social distancing guidelines and wait for any other patrons who are currently picking up their items to return to their car before approaching. Also, while we know it has been a long time since you have seen some of your friends and neighbors, please do not use the parking lot as a socializing space. If anyone on staff becomes ill, this service will be discontinued immediately. Please use this service only if you are well.

The book drop is emptied daily, so feel free to return your items there, but only if you are feeling well. Please note that

your items will not be checked in right away; we will be quarantining all returned items for at least 24 hours before returning them to circulation.

Unbook Club is back! We'll be meeting on the video conferencing platform Zoom to discuss what we've been reading in these weird times. To get an access code, or if you have questions on how to connect, please contact [program\\_assistant@drml.org](mailto:program_assistant@drml.org). Unbook Club is for independent readers who just can't get into book clubs, but still want to share thoughts and opinions with other passionate book lovers. At UnBook Club, we'll discuss what we're currently reading or recently finished, and whether it's worth the time or should be given a pass. All are welcome to join, regardless of their genre-persuasion.

Curbside Crafts are available on Wednesdays during curbside pickup from 1:00 – 5:30 PM. There are only a limited number available, so "first come, first served." Materials included are an assortment of clothespins, pipe cleaners, pony beads, pom poms, construction paper, and wiggle eyes. You will want to have glue, scissors, and paints/markers already at home. Check out our YouTube channel, <https://tinyurl.com/DRMLvideo> for tutorials.

Summer Reading Program — Even though it's going to look different this year, we will still have an awesome summer reading program complete with (virtual) events, reading logs, crafts, prizes and more! Stay tuned for more information.

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

The Story Walk is up and ready to go! It starts at the end of the sidewalk to the right side of the library. The first story is *Holly Bloom's Garden* by Sarah Ashman and Nancy Parent, illustrated by Lori Mitchell. At the end of the Story Walk please sign in with the date, the number of people in your party, and any comments or suggestions that you have for the project. Email [youth\\_librarian@drml.org](mailto:youth_librarian@drml.org) with questions or concerns. Please remember sun protection, water, and to give other readers distance. Thank you and enjoy!

Virtual Story Time for Preschool and Early Elementary — Join Ms. Abbey any time for a virtual story time on DRML's YouTube channel at <http://tiny.cc/DRMLYouth>. The stories will be available until mid-June. New story times are posted to the DRML Facebook page Wednesdays at 10:30 AM.

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

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

Our WiFi will remain active and is accessible from the parking lot or other areas adjacent to the building. WiFi is available 24/7. A password is not needed to connect. Please

be aware that our WiFi does not offer a secure connection.

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

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

## JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

It has been a long two months of quarantine, and I — your fearless Library Director — am finally back to good health and excited to announce our library's first iteration of Curbside Pickup! That's right, once again you will be able to check out items from our beautiful Town Library.

Keep reading for instructions on the magic of Curbside Pickup, or visit <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/>!

\*Wait... how does this work exactly?\*

Each individual in a household is able to check-out up to five items at a time (yes, even if you're three years old and yes, that can include DVDs). You can either request five specific titles, or select a bundle that our library staff will choose for you. Let's call it: Librarian's Choice! If you do not currently have a library card, just fill out this easy form: <https://forms.gle/JeNZNULxfFomnzJ4A>. Need ideas on what items to request? Browse our online library catalog!

\*How do I submit my Curbside Pickup request?\*

Please use this awesome Google Form: <https://forms.gle/PHo1GRPLdsrK6URi6>. (You can also visit the library website to find the Curbside Pickup Request Form.) If you are unable to place your request digitally, you may also call us at 802-899-4686. Please do not email your requests.

\*What if one of my specific titles isn't available?\*

Let's face it. You have great taste... this is bound to happen. But don't fret, you can indicate on the form if you'd like us to replace the unavailable title(s) with another choice. (Don't worry, we also have great taste.)

\*What are these book bundles?\*

Picture Book Bundle: Five picture books selected just for your little one!

Early Reader Bundle: Five early readers to keep your little one learning and reading!

Grade 3-5 Book Bundle: Five titles combining fiction (and possibly nonfiction) for your school-age reader!

Grade 6-8 Book Bundle: Five titles that span middle grade and YA tastes!

YA Bundle: Trust me, if Lisa puts this together, you'll like it. p.s.: You don't need to be a young adult to read YA!

Custom Bundle: If you're thirsting for a particular genre or subject, we'll do our best to meet your needs!

\*What happens after I submit my requests?\*

As a small, rural library (that loves you a whole lot) but often has a staff of one, we will fill your requests as readily as possible. Titles will then be packaged in paper bags and labeled just for you. We will call or email you when your titles are ready for pick up.

\*When and how can I pick up my requests?\*

After you are contacted via email or phone, our Curbside Pickup days and hours are Tuesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and Thursdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. If you cannot pick up items during either of these times, or do not have access to

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

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investments we can, not only in housing, but in economic development and protection, job protection and so on.

That said, our experience with the PPP and other federal programs has been mediocre at best. Businesses report that the money was gone from the initial PPP before their application was considered, and that the strings attached to those programs were insurmountable, especially for small businesses and restaurants. I have heard that there is a "fix" for the PPP being considered in the federal House of Representatives that matches what the original intent was, prior to the last minute changes. Look for it to pass the House soon, perhaps as soon as this week. How it moves through the Senate is anyone's guess.

So, a word of caution about the recent proposal concerning Vermont's use of CARES Act money. The "rules" from the U.S. Treasury are difficult to interpret, and our economists are working overtime to figure them out. As we consider the Governor's proposal, as well as our own, we must keep in mind the calendar deadline (12/30/2020) and the fear of misinterpreting the rules as written, as well as being aware they may change at anytime. We hope we are able to provide Vermonters satisfactory relief with these funds, but please understand we are on a long learning curve here, and we get as frustrated as you when we run into the complexities that are within the proposal.

Legislators have been providing constituents help with receiving UI/PUA payments through a system that has seen some success, where information provided by the claimant who hadn't received benefits yet for a variety of reasons shared information with their State Representative or Senator, which was then shared forward. It has resulted in most Vermonters who had experienced difficulties receiving benefits finding a resolution, at long last. Unfortunately, there are still a good number of people who have yet to see any benefits, and we continue to work with our constituents in cutting through the red tape. Please continue to understand that we (did not) — nor did any other state — have the resources to deal with a near 25% unemployment rate after several years of unemployment below 3%. Every week has seen improvement, but we know the Department of Labor has miles to go before they clear the list. I understand that there will be a new link for Vermonters to use, and when it is live, we will post it.

## 2020 primary and general election voting by mail

By Underhill/Jericho Representatives  
Trevor Squirrel and George Till

*Ensuring our right to vote*

Wisconsin held its presidential primary on April 7, 2020. The event drew national attention not so much because of the outcome — former Vice President Joe Biden beat Senator Bernie Sanders 63% to 32% — but because of how the election was held.

Against a bitter partisan backdrop, and in a state where voting by mail is uncommon, many Wisconsin citizens waited in line for hours — standing in close quarters at crowded polls — to cast a ballot during the coronavirus pandemic. They were forced to choose between their right to vote and protecting their own health and the health of others. The Wisconsin Health Department is now reporting that at least 40 voters and poll workers have tested positive for COVID-19.

Vermonters won't have to make that terrible choice. On March 25, the House of Representatives passed H.681, an act that gave the Secretary of State temporary authority to change the way we hold elections during the COVID-19 emergency. After passage by the Senate, Governor Scott signed the bill into law as Act 92 on March 30. Secretary of State Jim Condos and his team are now actively exploring options for the August primary and November general elections and will make an announcement soon. One way or another, Secretary Condos is sure to expand Vermont's existing early and absentee voting system. It's a safe and secure process that allows any registered voter to cast a ballot by mail. In the 2016 and 2018 general elections, about 30% of Vermonters voted this way. The Secretary could choose to pre-emptively mail a ballot to every registered voter in the state, or simply encourage mail-in voting through a public-awareness campaign. Either way, the polls will be open on election days — in some safe, modified way — for people who can't be reached by mail, or for those who need assistance to vote.

As individuals we can prepare for whatever form future elections take. Start at "My Voter Page" (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>). You'll see two green buttons where you can confirm that you're registered to vote — and register, if not. Then you can sign in with your first name, last name,

town of residence, birthday, and driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If the voter page indicates that you are not registered but you believe you are, call or email your Town Clerk. They will help you correct that. Once you log in, you'll see your own voter page, packed with information. Most important, you should confirm or update your mailing address and submit your request for an absentee ballot. The request will be sent to your Town Clerk, who will mail your ballot when it's ready. You can also request a mail-in ballot by emailing or calling your Town Clerk. The Jericho and Underhill Towns' websites also contain helpful election/voting information.

In testimony before the House Government Operations Committee on April 15, Will Senning, Director of Elections and Campaign Finance for the Secretary of State's office, explained that ballots for the August primary will be delivered to town clerks by Tuesday, June 19, who will mail them to local voters by late June or early July. The return postage will be pre-paid using funds from the federal CARES Act.

Across the country, 26% of ballots were cast by mail in 2018, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. And five states — Hawaii, Utah, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado — will conduct their upcoming 2020 elections entirely by mail. Though it's sometimes raised as a concern, fraud rates remain "infinitesimally small," reports the Center. Since 2000, for example, Oregon has sent more than 100 million mail-in ballots and documented only a dozen cases of fraud. And because vote-by-mail is long-established in Vermont, the Secretary of State has security procedures up and running.

"We have no idea what this pandemic will look like as we approach the August statewide primaries and November general election," wrote Sec. Condos in a late April op-ed, describing the likely "significant" shift to mail-in voting that his office will oversee. "No solution is a silver bullet. But regardless of the steps we take, our democracy must continue to thrive. We won't settle for anything less than safe, secure, and accessible Vermont elections this year."

We welcome your questions and/or comments: ([tsquirrel@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tsquirrel@leg.state.vt.us)) ([gtill@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:gtill@leg.state.vt.us)).

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pick up your request on your own, please email [curbside@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:curbside@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) or call 802-899-4686 to set up individual options.

You will arrive to find your bundled bags on JTL's front stoop. In the case of inclement weather, you may pick up your requests in the library foyer. We really miss you, but in order to keep everyone safe, no one may enter the main library at this time. Please do your best to touch only the bags with your name on them.

\*When and how do I return my items?\*

Library patrons and community members have been responsibly keeping piles of library books at home for months. And we know those piles are starting to tower into small kingdoms... so! Introducing *bulk return days!* Whether you have one item to return or 73, please return them to JTL on Wednesday, June 3 or 17, from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM!

In order to safely quarantine materials and keep our community as healthy as possible, our regular book drop is currently closed and we've put a specialized COVID-19 return system into place. It may take up to two weeks to show that the items you have returned have been removed from your library account. Don't worry, we're a fine free library and we're all doing our best to support each other during this time.

\*Can I leave you a postcard or note with high fives and hearts?\*

Definitely.

\*I have more Curbside Pickup questions. What's the best way to contact you?\*

Please email [curbside@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:curbside@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) or call 802-899-4686.

\*Please remember:\*

JTL's phased re-opening plans are informed by directives from the Governor's Office, VT Department of Health, VT Department of Libraries, and other local, state, and federal associations. And we really, really miss you. You're great. Keep being kind and we'll see you soon!

With library love, Lisa Buckton, Director, Jericho Town Library

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

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

#### VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

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

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

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

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

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

#### WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library will remain closed indefinitely; see the website for details: <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>.

The annual Fourth of July book sale has been canceled. The library is unable to collect and sort books at this time. Thank you for your past support.

The book drop to return library items is open and ready to accept your Westford Library books and other items.

Here's what I DO NOT WANT in the book drop: books from the school (no), items from other libraries (nope), book donations (super nope). The book drop was never really closed, but now that the governor has "loosened the spigot" a bit, I do not feel bad about asking for materials back. With the library providing a great deal of curbside service, our shelves are getting a bit bare. If you still are using your items, by all means keep reading or watching!

You may have noticed the reminder emails went away. That is because I made all items due at the end of May, renewing automatically. That will be going away in June and email reminders will resume.

Summer Reading Program: Planning the Summer Reading Program (SRP) June 19-August 7 this year has been a challenge and a bit of a heartbreak. This is one of my favorite times of year; this year will, of course, be different. It is my goal to provide this community with a fun and engaging program, all the while being mindful of safety and governmental regulations. Some beloved SRP traditions are simply not possible, but others we can "imagine" in a new way. I wish all of you a summer full of fun, wonderment, and adventures beyond compare!

Online registration begins Monday, June 15; the link is on the website (<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>). If you are unable to register online, please call 878-5639 and we will get you registered. Baby Bears, ages 0-2 (babies and toddlers): fun activities for families to do together; Kids, ages 3-8: 10 books per raffle ticket; Tweens, ages 9-12: 3 books per raffle ticket; Teens, ages 13-18: 1 book per raffle ticket; Adults, 18+ (adults do not need to register): 1 book per raffle ticket. Prizes are TBD as many of our traditional prizes are unavailable. We will do our best to provide safe and local prizes.

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the program.

Summer Reading Kick-Off: Friday, June 19, 2:00 – 6:00 PM. Come pick up your SRP materials (reading logs, stickers, book marks, goodies, etc.) in a socially safe manner from our parking lot (please park in Town Office lot, or at the Green). We will have packets for each age group below (not adults). If you would prefer, you can order a packet for curbside pickup this (or any) week. Indicate the ages of children. We will also have a station for online registration if you need it.

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

Town-wide Bingo Game via Zoom, Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. It was so much fun in May, we're doing it again! Use your own bingo cards, print some from online, or make your own. Cards will be available at the library's curbside pickup after June 3. Bree will be calling Bingo via Zoom. Watch the FaceBook page for the Zoom link.

Celebrate Harry Potter's birthday (the night before) on Thursday, July 7, 7:00 PM, with a Family Trivia Game using *Kahoot!* And Zoom!

Curbside Crafts and Storytime: Storytimes will be on Thursdays, either digitally or outside on the Common (weather permitting, and if gatherings of 25 or more are permitted). If on the Common, they will be at 11:00 AM and social distancing rules will be each family's responsibility. We'll know more by mid-June. Each week will have a craft/theme. The craft can be picked up as part of your curbside order (Wednesday/Saturday, request in your order form) or on Thursdays after storytime. These crafts are kits that you will do at home, suitable for all ages, but may contain small parts. Pick up one craft per child. June 24-27: The Magic of Stories – felt puppet-making kits. Be sure to join us for Puppet Zoom on Thursday, June 26, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, for a chance to show your puppets off and tell stories with them. July 1-3: Folktales and Legends – dreamcatcher making kits. July 8-11: Tales from Asia – paper fans. July 15-18: Little Red Riding Hood – baskets. July 22-25: The Gingerbread Man – giant gingerbread figures. July 29-August 1: Prince/Cess Stories – crowns.

Fairy Tale Hike: Friday-Saturday, July 10-11, Schultz Trail. VINS: Animals in Myth and Legend, Friday, July 31 on the Common, 4:30 – 5:30 PM.

MONDAYS: Magic Mondays with a new magic trick from magician Ed Popielarczyk, on the library's FaceBook page.

WEDNESDAYS: Curbside pickup, 3:00 – 5:00 PM; get your orders in by 7:00 PM the night before. Form on our website and FaceBook page.

Teen Book Group, via Zoom, every Wednesday in July, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. The book will be the Green Mountain Book Award book *The Devouring Gray*. Best for those entering grade 7 and up. Participants get a free copy of the book; signup required (see the website or call the library).

Adult Book Group, meets the third Wednesday of the month (via Zoom), 7:00 – 8:00 PM. June 17: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman. July 15: *Circe*. August 19: *The Buried Giant*. For information, contact Bree ([westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) or 878-5639).

FRIDAYS in July: The library will host two days of digital games using Breakout EDU, a fun, problem-solving platform. Using Zoom and playing together, we will try to solve fairy tale-inspired puzzles. Good for grade 3 and up.

SATURDAYS: Curbside pickup 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; get your orders in by 7:00 PM the night before. Form on our website and FaceBook page.

THURSDAYS: Tune in to Virtual Storytime with Ms. Bree; link posted on FPF, FaceBook and our website: <https://youtu.be/BDTPzXeuZ74>.

- First episode: <https://youtu.be/syAXrq60acY>
- Second episode: <https://youtu.be/g95CkkE4FDs>
- Third episode: <https://youtu.be/v0yVXIKrXVI>
- April 16: *Cats!* <https://youtu.be/iCTbB4bRU11>
- April 23: *Trucks*. <https://youtu.be/xARr5aoyAy0>
- May 7: This one is from the heart — it's OK to be sad once in a while and it's OK to miss your community! <https://youtu.be/Le715zGMSxY>
- May 15: *Dinosaurs!* <https://youtu.be/B1ka6C2y0AY>

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

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

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

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

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

#### RICHMOND LIBRARY

RFL has discontinued curbside pick-up of physical items until further notice. If you have any items out right now, please hold on to them, if you can. In the meantime, please visit [www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org](http://www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org) and explore various offerings on the website.

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

Are you or someone in the family home from school and needing help with various subjects or certification programs? LearningExpress is a highly acclaimed eLearning platform

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

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

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

#### DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLISTON

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

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

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

#### FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

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

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

PJ Story Hour — a read-aloud and activities posted to the library Facebook page on the second Thursday of each month.

Knitwits Online, Tuesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: join the knitting circle on Zoom to chat and create with others. Send the library an email telling of your interest, and receive back a link to the Zoom chat.

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

WiFi information: We invite everyone to use the FCL WiFi connection at the library. You will see these networks: *FCL\_Public-2.4* or *FCL\_Public-5* (either one is fine to use). The password is *F2P39AB4* and is posted on the doors near the sidewalk.

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. [www.fairfaxvlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvlibrary.org), 802-849-2420. Call or email [libraryprograms@fwsu.org](mailto:libraryprograms@fwsu.org). For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website [www.fairfaxvlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvlibrary.org), where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

#### BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

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

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

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

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

#### ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

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

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Cool links from our librarians

The Ethan Allen Homestead recently hosted a symposium on the history of Women's Suffrage. Four speakers provided their insights, all of which can be found at <http://www.ethanallenhomestead.org/suffragesymposium>. (DRML)

In addition, Vermont's premiere science museums — the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, the Echo Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, and the Montshire Museum of Science — have banded together to provide a variety of virtual STEM experiences for Vermonters. You can find links the full list of learning experiences at <https://foursciencetv.org/>. (DRML)

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

Cool links and free Internet hotspots and information: With many workers in isolation, Internet access has become more essential than ever before. But what if you don't have access to WiFi at home, or your Internet service is vulnerable to outages? Here is a complete list of free internet hotspots around the state: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/public-wifi-hotspots-vermont>. (DRML)

Mango Languages allows patrons access to conversational language learning lessons in 22 languages. Be sure to create a profile with your email address when you log in for the first time. Access to Mango Languages is made possible through a partnership with the Green Mountain Library Consortium. To register: Enter the barcode on the back of your library card. Choose Guest Access. In the upper right-hand corner

click on the arrow next to "Hello Guest." Choose a name, email, and password to sign up. To use: Click on a language. Choose a course and click on "Get Started." (DRML)

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

The VT Humanities Council has a treasure trove of videos and podcasts available for free on their website. You'll find authors and artists like David Macaulay and Katherine Patterson discussing their craft, as well as talks on history, politics, and artistic movements, all available at the click of a button. <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/programs/digital-programs/>

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

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

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

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

Document created by School Librarian Beth Shelley and Westford Public Librarian Bree Drapa, highlighting ways school aged children can get access to books. Online at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ka2m3uOaX1bCZdmsiuu6sG146LwziWGcWY0X-T9knHg/edit?usp=sharing> (Westford)

A comprehensive (and exhausting) list of homeschooling and teaching from home resources put together by the Vermont School Library Association, online at [https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vTE39Uh5GlvqcdijSDz36hIvHOwhBRndWWuUN5LCSOS4NoEhQ3wkU6isTjUUbZwaaJfShHsHXSBdG6/pub?urp=gmail\\_link](https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vTE39Uh5GlvqcdijSDz36hIvHOwhBRndWWuUN5LCSOS4NoEhQ3wkU6isTjUUbZwaaJfShHsHXSBdG6/pub?urp=gmail_link) (Westford)

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

Famous authors and celebrities reading wonderful children's books: <https://www.storylineonline.net/> (Westford)

Are you missing storytimes at the library? While no digital display in-person storytimes, meanwhile please visit the Library's Youth Services page, <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/youth-services/>. We have provided links to Tumblebooks, a read-aloud platform for all ages and to Scholastic's Learn at Home packages (<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>) from grades pre-K to high school. We've also created a link to the Big List of Children's Authors ([https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm\\_content=1584565321&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&fbclid=IwARIMy1AdDz08OVmaKQAdQUAU5fk2LHghASUfmZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc](https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm_content=1584565321&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwARIMy1AdDz08OVmaKQAdQUAU5fk2LHghASUfmZIUtaBZj66r50V5pgvc)). Vermont's Children's Literacy Foundation has also provided an extensive collection of Literacy Resources for Learning (<https://wordpress.com/read/feeds/45713222/posts/2638693961>). (Richmond)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### College honors

**Gina Airoidi** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Molly Beatty** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Jamie Benson** of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Ella Bergin** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Brianna Borch** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Anna Chaffee** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Andrew Champlin** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. Champlin is a member of the class of 2021.

**Leah Corbin** of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Jacob Crawford** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Nicole Cutler** of Waterbury, VT has been recognized for the Equine Studies Faculty Award and USCAA Academic All-American at the spring 2020 Honor Society Celebration at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT.

**Evan DeMuyneck** of Underhill, VT has been named to the

Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Steven Garcia** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Sierra Gempka** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Mia Guidry** of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Hannah Hyder** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Dyani Jones** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Michelle Lamore** of Cambridge, VT has been recognized for the Veterinary Technology Department Greatest All-Around Academic Development Award at the spring 2020 Honor Society Celebration at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT.

**Nicole Lawrence** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Donna MacDonough** of Jeffersonville, VT has been recognized for the BSN Nurse Leadership Award at the spring 2020 Honor Society Celebration at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT.

**Connor McCormack** of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Letizia Mosca** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Kira Nikolaidis** of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Ryan Parker** of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Ryan Peoples** of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Sydney Pientka** of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Kristin Quiet** of Westford, VT has been recognized for the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society at the spring 2020 Honor Society Celebration at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT.

**Anna Quinn** of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Alexis Soychak** of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Evan Spaulding** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

**Ashley Wheeler** of Cambridge, VT has been recognized for the Vermont Dental Hygienists Association Membership Spirit Award and J. Edward Marceau Memorial Scholarship Award at the spring 2020 Honor Society Celebration at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT.

### College graduates

**Zebulon E. Armstrong** of Underhill, VT, received a bachelor of professional studies degree business minor from Clarkson University in May. The University plans an on-campus commencement ceremony on August 15, 2020 (based on current health directives).

**Alexander George Cummings** of Jeffersonville, VT, received a bachelor of science degree with distinction in mechanical engineering, mathematics minor, from Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY in May. The University plans an on-campus commencement ceremony on August 15, 2020 (based on current health directives).

**Ryan Fay** of Waterbury, VT has earned a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from McDaniel College, Westminster, MD in a virtual Class of 2020 Celebration Day on Saturday, May 23, 2020. An in-person Commencement ceremony for the class of 2020 is slated to take place on campus in spring 2021.

Nearly 3200 students were awarded degrees during the University of Vermont's 220<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremonies, held on Thursday, May 28, 2020. The academic achievement of the class of 2020 was saluted online with remarks from UVM President Suresh Garimella, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, and university and state leaders.

Local students who earned degrees from UVM:

Cambridge: **Owen Bruning, William Hogan**

Duxbury: **Deirdre Charles, Lincoln Pierce**

Jericho: **Molly Beatty, Foster Borch, Anna Chaffee, Clara Douglas, Sierra Gempka, Kurt Goggin, Hannah Hyder, Ethan Kesler, Abigail Linstone, Ryan Morse**

Underhill: **Russell Desclos, Morgan Dreibelbis, Isabel Dunkley, Anna Dumphy, Ethan Oates, Alyson Sarraga**  
Waterbury: **Jamie Benson, Emma Helmken, Eric Mackey, Clayton Scott, Ashley Tang, Abigail Willey**  
Westford: **Mary Farmer, Nicholas Hallowell, John Levinsky, Sarah Smith**

### VT Poet Laureate Mary Ruefle named American Academy of Poets Laureate Fellow

The American Academy of Poets announced today that Mary Ruefle, Poet Laureate of Vermont, has been selected as a national 2020 Poets Laureate Fellow by the Academy.

Ruefle is one of 23 state or local Poets Laureate nationwide to be honored.

Poets Laureate Fellows receive a \$50,000 award in recognition of their literary merit and to support their civic poetry programs.

For Ruefle's project, in collaboration with the VT Arts Council, Ruefle will personally mail out handwritten poems written by other poets to 1000 residents of Vermont, randomly chosen from the phonebook.

"I was thrilled to receive the grant, both for myself and the state. And the timing couldn't have been better — I support myself by traveling around the country and giving readings and talks and my entire 2020 itinerary was canceled," Ruefle said.

"I actually began mailing out poems locally before I got the grant, but receiving the grant will enable me to reach my goal of 1000 poems," she continued. "I know most will end up in the trash, but I hope 10% of them will reach people whose day will be made a little brighter, richer, deeper."

For Mary Ruefle's full statement upon receiving the award, visit [vermontartscouncil.org/blog/mary-ruefle-academy-fellow](http://vermontartscouncil.org/blog/mary-ruefle-academy-fellow).

A writer of worldwide recognition, Ruefle is the author of many books of poetry, including *Dunce* (Wave Books, 2019), finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize and longlisted for the 2019 National Book Award in Poetry. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and a Whiting Award. Ruefle was named the Poet Laureate of Vermont in October 2016. She lives in Bennington and teaches in the MFA program at Vermont College.

Through its Poets Laureate Fellowship program, the Academy has become the largest financial supporter of poets in the nation. The fellowship program is made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which, in January of this year, awarded the Academy \$4.5 million. The award will fund the program in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The poet laureate serves as Vermont's ambassador for the art of poetry and is called upon to participate in official ceremonies and readings within Vermont and nationally. This is a four year honorary position, appointed by the governor based on the recommendation of a distinguished panel of judges. Vermont's first Poet Laureate, Robert Frost, was appointed in 1961. In 1988, Governor Madeline Kunin re-established the position. Since 1988, Sydney Lea, Ruth Stone, Grace Paley, Ellen Bryant Voigt, Louise Glück, Galway Kinnell, and Chard deNiord have held the post.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Email it to [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

# ART / MUSIC / THEATER

## Rapid relief reaches artists in communities across Vermont

From canceled performances, fairs, and festivals to closed galleries and shuttered theaters, the losses to Vermont artists as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are staggering. But for artists in marginalized communities where the virus is hitting hardest, the losses have been particularly acute.

Rapid emergency relief funding from the Vermont Arts Council has tried to fill the gap, for artists in all communities. Through its Rapid Response Artist Relief program, which closed May 13, more than \$170,000 in relief grants of up to \$450 have been awarded to more than 400 Vermont artists.

In addition, in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), the Council also recently awarded special grants to the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association and the Clemmons Family Farm. Both organizations have well-established networks in place to quickly deliver relief to artists connected with their communities.

The Clemmons Family Farm is a 148-acre historic farm and an arts and cultural nonprofit that coordinates a network of more than 160 artists throughout Vermont, all of whom are all ethnically or geographically connected with the African diaspora. Along with the award from the Vermont Arts Council, the Clemmons Family Farm has mobilized additional funding to bring the total to \$15,000 to distribute to black artists in Vermont.

Vermont artists of African descent can register and join the Clemmons Family Farm artist network at <http://www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org/artists-registry.html>.

The Vermont Abenaki Artists Association (VAAA) promotes regional indigenous arts, artists, and culture, and supports a network of artists who share ideas, create cultural events, and provide educational programming.

Arts and culture are vital anchors for many of Vermont's communities, providing more than 40,000 creative-sector jobs and comprising 9.3% of all employment in Vermont, higher than the national average.

The Council's emergency funding for artists was made possible by a combination of private and public funds, including a \$47,000 award from NEFA, more than \$15,000 in individual donations, and a new philanthropic partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation.

Direct grants to artists were the Council's first response to the COVID-19 pandemic on Vermont's creative sector. In partnership with Vermont Humanities, the Arts Council is also providing Cultural Relief Grants to organizations. These grants are funded primarily with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

The Council continues to accept direct donations to support grants to artists and arts organizations in their COVID-19 recovery. Donations can be made at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/get-involved/giving>.

# SPORTS

## Mountain biking at Mobbs Farm now open

By Pete Davis, Mobbs Farm Committee Chair

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Leash 'Em: Keep dogs on a leash, or leave them at home.
- Lower the Gnar: Ride well within your limits to help avoid injury.

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

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

## Stowe Jewish Film Festival — virtual

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

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

To register for viewing this film, go online to <http://www.sprucepeakarts.org/stowe-jewish-film-festival/>.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Blissful banners

Hello dear Underhill,

We did it again!

Thank you to all of the people who painted the banners over the last eight years.

Thank you to the group who agreed to paint a few more these last few months.

Thank you to our neighbor, Chris Butler, who spent a few days hanging the banners around town, and placing them so thoughtfully.

And of course, a big thank you to the Underhill Historical Society, who funds this community project, including buying the supplies and banners themselves over the winter.

You know it's truly Spring when the banners appear.

Mary Hill Underhill

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Helping essential workers get Workers Comp benefits

By Michael Sirotkin

State Senator, Chittenden District

This month my committee added yet another bill to assist those front line and essential workers (fire, police, health care, emergency responders, and many more) who have contracted COVID-19.

On a 30-0 vote, the full Senate adopted our version of S.342, which facilitates eligibility for Workers Compensation benefits for essential workers diagnosed with the virus. I was very proud to be the Senate's lead reporter on this common-sense remedial legislation.

Under the bill, no longer will these workers have the burden of proving they contracted the disease on the job as opposed to at home or during non-working hours. Instead, as Vermont already does with other occupational diseases, such as PTSD, the burden will be on the insurance company to rebut the presumption that the disease was indeed contracted at work.

Where the burden of proof lies — either on the essential worker or the insurance carrier — is critical, as it often very difficult to clearly show one way or the other where and when the essential worker became infected. These claims are much different than your common workplace injury, such as a slip and fall on the factory floor, where proving work relatedness is readily established.

By shifting the burden to the insurance company, the front-line worker's chances of prevailing on their Workers Comp claim is markedly improved.

We already have well over 100 such COVID-related Workers Comp claims pending, where this law should make a significant difference.

Under our Workers Comp system, a claim found compensable can provide the worker full health care benefits for the disease, 2/3 wage replacement for lost days/ weeks of work, and, in the most serious of cases, death benefits.

The bill is pending in the House, where we hope it will be passed before legislature goes on break in late June.

If you have any questions on this bill, or any others, please feel free to contact me at [sirotkin.senate@gmail.com](mailto:sirotkin.senate@gmail.com).

Thank you and be well.

## Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

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

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

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

# OBITUARY



Rev. Janice Annette (Austin) Rathbun of Westford, VT, 76, went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, May 8, 2020, at home surrounded by her family. She was born on July 30, 1943 in Middlebury, VT, the daughter of Rev. Wayne G. Austin and Elizabeth (Palmer) Austin. Janice attended Springfield College, Springfield, MA before marrying her loving husband Maurice R. Rathbun on October 26,

1963. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Vermont (UVM) in 1983, while working as a teacher's aide. She lived a life of teaching and serving others. She taught kindergarten at Chamberlin School, Burlington, VT while completing a Master of Education at UVM in 1989. Janice pursued the call into ministry, graduating from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. in 2000 and was ordained as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 2005. She faithfully served both the Moretown (VT) United Methodist Church and the Waterville (VT) Union Church. Janice loved spending time with her family, especially her well-loved grandchildren. She enjoyed observing monarch butterflies, traveling, camping, gardening, and visiting the seashore. She leaves behind her husband of 56 years, Maurice Rathbun; her daughter, Robin (and Timothy) Witt of Fairfax, VT; her son, Wayne (and Mindy) Rathbun of Gorham, ME; her sister, Nancie (and Blair) Austin-Bradley of Berlin, VT; her five grandchildren, Josiah Witt, Malachi Witt, Anna Rathbun, Molly Rathbun, and Sarah Rathbun; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. In memory of the life of Janice A. Rathbun, please generously give to someone in need, demonstrating the love of God.

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Rate card and publication dates are online at [mtngazettevt.com](http://mtngazettevt.com)

# SCHOOL NEWS

**Retirement Drive-through Party for Ronda Curry**  
**Underhill Central School**  
**Parking Lot**  
**June 12th 5:30 - 6:30pm**  
**Rain or Shine**



Come and help us celebrate with Ms. Curry for her 41 years of dedication to teaching children!

Let's give her a great send off as she prepares for the new adventures that retirement will bring!

As you drive through the UCS parking lot to wave goodbye and wish Ronda well, there will be a table for anything you may wish to drop off for her.

**LUHS Class of 2020 Graduation - June 13 11:00 AM**

**By Brian Schaffer**  
**Principal, Lamoille Union High School**  
 When asked their wishes for this year's graduation ceremony, our Lancers seniors resoundingly responded that they just wanted to walk across the stage to receive their diploma. I am pleased to let the Lamoille community know that we've got a plan to meet their desires, but it comes with some fairly strict strings attached.

Graduates, parents, and families are invited to read the Class of 2020 Graduation process by going online to [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IXI\\_81szm1Ne\\_1QcELPA5E2ICjVbO6zpwuRIP-2jiLM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IXI_81szm1Ne_1QcELPA5E2ICjVbO6zpwuRIP-2jiLM/edit?usp=sharing).

Of utmost importance for the safety of everyone involved, please be reminded of the recent guidance from Secretary Dan French on slide 3.

I look forward to presenting the Class of 2020 their diplomas, and wish them continued success with their adventures on June 13 at 11:00 AM.

## News from MMUUSD

**By John R. Alberghini, Superintendent**  
*End-of-year activities* — As this extraordinary school year winds down, Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) schools are trying to creatively construct end-of-year events and celebrations in accordance with state guidelines. We feel it is vital to recognize key transitions, hard work, and milestones as students matriculate through the school system and move onto post-secondary opportunities. In addition, we miss our students and want to end this school year in the most positive manner possible. Therefore, school teams are planning activities that honor our students and meet safety instructions outlined by Governor Scott and Secretary of Education Daniel French. You can view Secretary French's most recent guidance on end-of-year activities at <https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-guidance-end-of-school-year-gatherings-and-graduations-updated-20200518.pdf>. Families will be receiving information about end-of-year events directly from their child's school. MMUUSD recently shared graduation plans with its school community. We appreciate your flexibility, patience and support as we adjust our end-of-year plans during this unconventional time.

*Links to important information for all:*  
 Breakfast and lunch available at no cost for individuals 18 and under. For additional information, go online to <https://sites.google.com/mmuusd.org/covid-19information/food-service-plan>.

Latest Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 updates are online at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>.

Guidance to safely connect with family and friends: [https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Safely\\_Connect\\_with\\_Friends\\_and\\_Family\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Safely_Connect_with_Friends_and_Family_FINAL.pdf).  
 VT Agency of Education guidance for schools: <https://education.vermont.gov/news/covid-19-guidance-vermont-schools>.

Governor Scott's Executive Orders: <https://governor.vermont.gov/document-types/executive-orders>.

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

*Richmond Elementary School connects with students:* Teachers and staff of Richmond Elementary School took to the streets to visit their students in celebration of all their hard work and commitment during this distance learning period. As the parade of cars honked their way by each home, students could be seen outside with their families waving back to their teachers who they have missed during the closure of school buildings due to COVID-19. This heartwarming event demonstrates the strong relationships between students and staff members. Additionally, it provided some much needed personal connections. Here is a video highlighting the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fQw08Eun-U&feature=youtu.be>.

## Summer 2020 Governor's Institutes go online, new pay-what-you-can tuition

For over three decades, talented young Vermonters have gathered each summer for the Governor's Institutes: college-level academic and artistic enrichment programs where students dive deep into their passions on campuses across the state. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, this summer tradition as much as any was under threat of cancellation, but in early April it was decided the Institutes must go on — virtually.

For the first time in its history, the Governor's Institute (GIV) will be held not on residential campuses like UVM, Castleton, Goddard, and Bennington, but in students' homes and on their screens. As jarring as the loss of an on-campus experience may be, GIV prefers to think of it as an opportunity to innovate, and to double down on their mission of giving all Vermonters access to exceptional, student-centered education.

Find more information online at <https://www.vermontartsCouncil.org/blog/summer-2020-governors-institutes-go-virtual-new-pay-what-you-can-tuition/>.

## SENIORS

### Meals on Wheels in Lamoille County has found a new home

Moving was not an easy decision to make as Meals on Wheels — Lamoille County (MOWLC) has had a strong partnership with the Lamoille County Civic Center that has greatly benefitted the community we serve.

To fully support the MOWLC vision and strategic initiatives, which are focused on not only providing nutritious meals for elders but also on improving the overall health and enhancing the quality of life for elders in Lamoille County — this is an essential next step.

We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with N.A. Manosh and will relocate in the fall to their 21 Munson Ave., Morrisville location. There will be plenty of parking, easy access to the building, and daily dining available. We welcome your input in helping us shape our next twenty years.

Thank you for your support — the MOWLC Team

## VSAC awards scholarships to high school seniors

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) has announced it has awarded over \$1.4 million in scholarships to graduating high school seniors to continue their education after high school. In addition to the scholarships for high school seniors, VSAC has also awarded over \$4.6 million in scholarships to college students returning to school this fall.

VSAC administers 150 scholarships on behalf of state organizations, the federal government, civic groups, and individuals. Scholarships range from \$500-12,500 and many are renewable for up to four years.

Scholarships — like grants — are financial aid that does not need to be paid back; however, scholarships, unlike grants, are competitive, meaning that eligible applicants vie for a limited number of awards. Scholarships are typically based on factors unique to each scholarship, including residency, degree program or major, academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and in some cases, financial need.

Over 60 students received \$159,800 in scholarships in Chittenden County. Six seniors at Essex High School received \$12,100 in scholarships: Allura Garciabuckler, Ines Horozovic, Dylan Jenot, Jason Smith, Emma Whitney, and Nathan Wu. At Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, senior Joshua Keough received a \$1000 scholarship.

Seniors in Lamoille County received a total of \$39,700 in scholarships. At Lamoille Union High School Amelia Adams, Adeline Bonath, Abijah Buttendorf, Lily Granito, Lily Loomis, and Wenzdae Wendling received \$13,200 in scholarships.

For more information, visit VSAC's scholarship page at <http://www.viac.org/pay/student-aid-options/scholarships>.

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## RECREATING & COVID-19

**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

Give people who aren't members of your household six feet or more of space and please leash your dog.

**STAY HOME**

If you are not feeling fully healthy, have been exposed to COVID-19, or traveled from anywhere named in the Governor's Executive Order, please go home. **Do not risk the health of others.**

**KEEP IT CHILL**

Backcountry search and rescue operations require many emergency responders and now is not the time to put extra demands on our healthcare system. Please don't put them at risk and take them away from their ability to care for others. Plan your trip in a responsible way that minimizes risk.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

Trails or other recreation facilities may be closed. Call or visit the location's website before you head out. Please visit [Trailfinder.info](http://Trailfinder.info) to confirm that trails are open before you begin your trip. Remote shelters are not currently staffed or maintained.

**STAY SAFE**

Facilities like restrooms are currently closed and not being sanitized. Please use hand sanitizer and avoid surfaces that are touched often, such as doorknobs, handrails, and playground equipment. Practice **Leave No Trace** principles.

**WEAR A CLOTH MASK OR FACE COVERING**

Anytime you know others may be present, you should have your mask on.

**RECREATE IN VERMONT**

Please stay within Vermont and only drive with members of your household. Out-of-state visitors are still being asked not to come to Vermont for recreational activities, or if they do, to self-quarantine for at least 14 days after arriving in Vermont before engaging in any activities.

For more information visit [HEALTHVERMONT.GOV/COVID](http://HEALTHVERMONT.GOV/COVID)