

NEWS BRIEFS

CSWD returns to per-bag fee structure

As of Monday, August 31, CSWD has discontinued the temporary flat fees at all Drop-Off Center (DOC) locations and has reinstated modified “per-bag” fees in line with our pre-COVID-19 structure. The new fee schedule is below.

Adjusted bag fee structure for all CSWD Drop-Off Centers

All fees are now set at whole dollar amounts to minimize handling of coins and to support quick transactions between staff and customers. In developing this modified pricing, CSWD carefully considered the financial impact on our customers as well as how we could cover our costs and incentivize the public to generate less trash and reduce trip frequency. Separate fees will apply to materials or items that are not commonly generated household trash.

We have also modified our bag/barrel sizes to be more in line with commonly available bag sizes. Bag/barrel size: small (up to 13 gal.): \$2; medium (14-35 gal.): \$6; large (36-45 gal.): \$8; cubic yard: \$42.

New per-bag fees are now posted on the Drop-Off Center Fees page of our website. Disposal and recycling fees for all items that are not household trash can be found by searching our A-Z list at www.cswd.net/a-z.

CSWD Drop-Off Centers are now open in Essex, Hinesburg, Milton, South Burlington, and Williston. The CSWD DOC in Burlington is open for food scrap drop-off only; the Richmond location will be reopening in September.

Comprehensive guide to COVID-19 assistance

By John Mandeville • Executive Director
Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

Please click on the link below for a comprehensive guide to COVID-19 assistance for both employers and employees:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EHc2CZq9OYlboSGOkAyDheUfuHF4VGXQ/view>

Need help paying past due utility bills?

By Charlie Van Winkle

District Representative VT Electric Cooperative (#5), Underhill

Vermonters who are suffering economic hardship due to COVID-19 can now apply for help to pay certain past due utility bill balances. The new program, known as the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program (VCAAP), provides financial support to qualifying Vermont utility customers who may face disconnection of service because of past-due balances. Learn more and see if you are eligible here:

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vermont-covid-19-arrearage-assistance-program-0>

Bolton’s Stage Road closure September 2, 3

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Highway Department will be replacing two culverts on Stage Road on Wednesday-Thursday, September 2-3, requiring road closure. Please plan accordingly as closures could impact drive times.

On Wednesday, September 2: the road will be closed from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM west (toward Richmond) of #2878, requiring all traffic to enter/exit from the east/north.

Thursday, September 3: the road will be closed from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM east of #2981. #2981 and #2878 will have to enter/exit from the west (toward Richmond), all other traffic will have to enter/exit from the east/north.

Bolton Notch Tunnel project update

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer
(August 20)

PROJECT TYPE: Rehabilitation of the existing concrete box culvert to include new lighting.

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: September 18, 2020

LOCATION: The Notch Road in Bolton under Interstate 89

NOTE: All work on this project is complete with the exception of the tunnel lighting system, which is delayed as the contractor is waiting on the delivery of the lighting fixtures.

TRAFFIC IMPACT DURING CONSTRUCTION: Speed limit will be temporarily reduced to 25 MPH within the construction zone for the safety of the workers and pedestrians. Daytime: Traffic control will be minimal. Pedestrians: All work will cease, and the traffic will be held on both sides of the culvert, allowing you to walk through. After you have safely reached the other side, all work will resume.

James Beebe-Woodard: Underhill’s New Town Administrator

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

James Beebe-Woodard has worked for a number of non-profits over the years but the closest he has come to a municipal job was with the Lamoille North Supervisory Union as a special projects manager. That didn’t stop the hiring committee in Underhill from recognizing his talents and asking him to be their new Town Administrator. “My work has had a ton of overlap with municipal organizations in Vermont,” Beebe-Woodard said, “and when I worked for a social service agency in Boston, the grant work I did included a number of agencies. This is my first town job but it’s not too far out of my orbit.”

The timing of the posting of the Town Administrator position was fortuitous for Beebe-Woodard. “I was working in the bike touring business,” he said, “but the vacation and travel industry has suffered with the pandemic. I was a Covid casualty.” Despite his lack of direct municipal experience, Beebe-Woodard was intrigued by the position. “I thought that this was everything I was good at,” he said. “It was in my comfort zone and allowed me to both live and work in Underhill.”

Beebe-Woodard has been an Underhill resident since 2005 and a Justice of the Peace since 2010. “I really love Underhill,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed being involved in the town.” After losing a 2014 Selectboard race to Cliff Peterson, he started a job which involved too much travelling to make running for office again practical. “Life has calmed back down,” he said, “and it was in the back of my mind to think about public service. I’ve already worked with many of the folks in Town Hall so this felt like a really good transition.

“My style is that I don’t come in and start meddling right out of the gate,” Beebe-Woodard said. “I want to observe and get a sense of things. I’m in the onboarding and learning phase and want to figure out what the Town Administrator does, what is being done well, and where the areas for growth are.” One thing on Beebe-Woodard’s to-do list is helping the town be more efficient and proactive. “I’ve heard people say that we are on our heels in terms of responding to things and I’d like to get ahead of the game,” he said. “I don’t know that the town has always done a really great job of communicating to residents.”

Beebe-Woodard recently put together what he describes as a “goofy” six-minute video about what people should expect when they come to Town Hall and was surprised at the positive comments he received. “I’d like to communicate better with folks and have different methods for how they get information,” he said. He explained that he initially heard about the May shooting in Underhill when a neighbor texted him. “We should have some sort of rapid response ability like the schools do,” he said. “It would be nice to get that information out to people more quickly.”

Last year, Beebe-Woodard made the news when he won one of the 2019 Beardie awards, growing facial hair to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. “It’s a really wonderful fundraiser,” he said, noting that he won the award for the best “urban beard” because it was considered well-coifed. He is considering entering



the contest again this year since Covid restrictions prevent him from being able to get his beard trimmed by a barber.

Underhill is a perfect location for Beebe-Woodard, given his interest in outdoor activities including cycling, hiking, canoeing and gardening. Lately he has been growing hops. He is also a woodworker who enjoys cooking and tinkering with cars. In addition to enjoying the natural beauty of his adopted hometown, Beebe-Woodard appreciates the spirit of Underhill. “For the most part there is a really nice neighborly feeling of community,” he said. “This is a town where neighbors like each other and there is a spirit of working together.”

That said, Beebe-Woodard is worried that people have become jaded about government. “I would really like to change the tone and the relationship that people have with Town Hall,” he said. “I feel like most people are pretty satisfied but those who aren’t get the most attention.” Beebe-Woodard has been really impressed with what he’s seen so far in his new position. “The folks that work here are dynamite and the people who volunteer their time are awesome,” he said, “but I worry that we have a hard time getting people to run for Selectboard or serve on commissions because of those perceptions and I’d love to change the tone. That’s one of my longer range goals.”

Beebe-Woodard noted that many of the people who have cycled off the Selectboard stay involved in the town through other committees and task forces and he wishes more people would get involved. “I want to make it more accessible and easier for people to engage in municipal affairs,” he said. “I would love for people to participate and not feel that it’s overwhelming.”

UCU Old Fashioned Harvest Market goes virtual

True to our commitment to present a hint of normalcy at a time when everything is different, the UCU Harvest Market Committee is working to bring the community together through virtual snatches of events traditionally experienced during the Market the last weekend of September every year. During the week of September 20, the United Church of Underhill Old Fashioned Harvest Market website will offer a look into some of the treasured events and activities that have been the source of community togetherness and sharing for the last 45 years — all of which promise to come back in real life in the years ahead.

THE 5K FUN RUN! This is the first event to open the festivities each year. Geared for all ages in friendly competition, what better way to get revved up for the excitement of the weekend! This year it will be a “do-it-yourself” event. Choose your own time and course and let us know your results (information on how to enter below).

DON’T LET THE PARADE PASS YOU BY! Okay, so due to health and safety needs and mandates, this will look a bit different, but we still want to engage in a virtual parade of community! While the Old Fashioned Harvest Market cannot be a face-to-face activity, we don’t want to miss out on the fun anticipated each year with our Lawn Mower Brigade, old and new vehicles, students, bands, scouts, dance troupes, political candidates, library staff, fire department, and other local organizations and individuals that are all vital representatives of our community. Therefore, we have invited these folks to send in a brief video or a series of photos that we can fashion into an online parade of the citizens who bind us together.

ZUCCHINI PATCH CONTEST — Offering categories such as participant age groups, the largest zucchini, the most fanciful costume, we are asking you to send us your pictures (see instructions below) and we’ll do the rest. All will be displayed virtually in a fun video for your viewing.

PET SHOW — Your photos of your precious pets showing off their antics, their habits, their beauty — any and all varieties welcome — will be made into a video designed to produce giggles and “oohs” and “aahs!” Comments on their personal thoughts are encouraged!

HISTORY AND QUIZ — Do you ever wonder how it all got started? There will be a history posted online, along with a Harvest Market quiz to test your memory of happenings over the years. How many years have you enjoyed this community event?

To get the guidelines for entering the Fun Run, the Zucchini Patch Contest, and the Pet Show now, go to <http://www.underhillharvestmarket.com> and click on the 2020 EVENTS link.

All contributions will be edited into a video for viewing on the UCU Harvest Market website beginning later in September (specific dates to be announced). Please plan to join us at <http://www.underhillharvestmarket.com> to help keep the spirit of community alive while we pray that everyone stays well and safe and our Market can return with all its anticipation and excitement in 2021!

Heed thunder warnings — take cover

Thunder is the best warning sign for any imminent danger from lightning. Take cover if you hear thunder... lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the edge of a storm and the risk of a lightning strike can linger for up to 30 minutes after a storm has passed. If you hear thunder take immediate cover — and potentially save a life.

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VT state primary election wrap up

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The August 11 Vermont state primary election saw a record numbers of voters cast their ballots by mail or in person here in Bolton: 393 votes were cast, 262 of those were early voter ballots (304 ballots were requested, 42 were not returned or returned after the election), for a record 39.2% voter participation. By comparison, Bolton saw 285 primary election voters in 2016, and 213 in 2018. Voter turnout was huge across the state, seeing 157K+ voters. Prior to 2020 the next two largest Primary Election voter turnouts were 120K+ in 2016, and 122K+ in 2000. Access specific information on how Bolton voted at <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/> and click on "Election Results." You may have also heard that June Heston, a Chittenden County Senate candidate, has filed for a recount after coming 46 votes shy of winning a Democratic nomination for one of the district's six seats.

Unfortunately, several early voter ballots that were returned were not able to be counted as they either were received AFTER the election or were judged "defective." In all "defective" instances, the voter either did NOT return the two unvoted ballots as required, or did NOT sign the certificate envelope as required, which contained their voted ballot. With the November 3 General Election just around the corner, and the current State of Vermont plan to MAIL an early voter ballot to every ACTIVE voter in the state (whether the ballot was requested, or not), this is the first of many appeals to PLEASE make sure your vote will count by: returning your voted ballot ASAP by mail or by drop box, and to carefully follow all the directions to correctly return your voted ballot.

A special thank you to our poll workers Carol Devlin, Paula Gervia, and Brenda McKeown for a VERY long day staffing the polls, and a huge thank you to all of our ballot counters: Carol, John, and Kat Devlin, Paula Gervia, Brenda McKeown, Deb Shelby, Chrissy Keating, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Andrew Pond, Peter Schoen, Rich and Mary Ellen Seaver Reid, Kat Lisaius, Mica Cassara, and Tim Grover. We so appreciated your willingness to mask up, wash your hands, and jump in to help make for a successful election in the middle of a pandemic. We also greatly appreciated our in-person voters who were kind, patient, and followed the safety guidelines without question. Sadly, that wasn't always the case in some other towns in our state.

More thanks to our pizza deliverer Andrew Gervia, Smilie School custodian Deb Andrews for her help setting up and checking on us during the day, and to the State of Vermont for providing PPE and hand sanitizer for the election.

We'll be looking for assistance counting ballots on November 3 — it's sure to be another record turnout!

Policing in the 21st century

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Select Board received a letter from Lt. Robert Lucas of the Vermont State Police letting their community partners know about their ongoing efforts to ensure that all people in our communities are treated fairly, equally, and with dignity and respect, and to invite participation in shaping their approach to policing across Vermont and in our community.

As you know, Bolton is one of 200 towns in Vermont where the Vermont State Police provide the primary law enforcement. The Vermont State Police would like to begin/continue a discussion about how police services can and should evolve to meet the demands of 21st century policing.

The Select Board would like to gather input from our community around this — what do you think? Please email your thoughts to clerkbolton@gmavt.net with "VSP" in the subject line. The Select Board will gather input until Tuesday, September 15, and then share it with the Vermont State Police. Thank you.

Learn more at <https://vsp.vermont.gov/communityaffairs>.

Inspection information from Jericho Lister's office

Just a P.S.A. for Jericho residents who have an active zoning permit for new builds, audits, decks, sheds, et cetera. We will be out doing exterior inspections only in the next month or two. We will approach the front door to show you our ID to let you know our intentions. Most of these inspections/measurements usually take less than five minutes so we will do what we need to do, leave a card if there is no answer at the door, and also take exterior photos if needed. If you would prefer an appointment for our visit, please feel free to call 802-899-2287 x107, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and we will be happy to schedule a time at your convenience.

Westford Selectboard August 20 meeting draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

What is the your Selectboard discussing? Find out! Read the draft minutes from their most recent meeting here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-20-Selectboard-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Westford burn permit information

By Dennis Angiono, Westford Fire Warden

When applying for a burn permit, please fill out all the information it asks for. Your address and phone number are required because it lets the Fire Department know if a controlled burn or an actual fire is going on in a particular area. Your information is only known by the Fire Warden and the Westford Fire Department and is not shared with anyone else. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 879-1231.

Westford notes

Voter information for the general election on November 3: The Vermont Secretary of State's Office will be mailing a ballot to all active voters around Friday, September 18. If you do not receive a ballot by the end of September, please contact the Town Office, 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us.

Property tax installment: The first property tax installment is due Tuesday, September 15, and will be considered timely if they are received by this date, have a September 15 postmark (USPS, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, September 16. *If you pay your taxes using Bill Pay (generating a check online through your financial institution), make sure you allow sufficient time for mailing.* These envelopes do not bear a postmark, and therefore will be acknowledged by the date received at the Town Office, not by the date on the check.

Dog Licenses: If you have not licensed your dog(s) please do so as soon as possible (licenses were due April 1). A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call or email the Town Office (878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us). For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, and we will mail the license to you. The fee is \$13 unless your dog is spayed or neutered, in which case the fee is \$11.

Senior Luncheon: I hope all our seniors are doing well and that COVID-19 is not affecting anyone in Westford. I'm going to postpone indefinitely our luncheons. As soon as I feel it's safe for you to leave your home and come out again, I'll let everyone know through Front Porch Forum and the monthly newsletter. If you need anything, please call me at 878-3090. Hopefully, we will be back together soon. Please get your flu shot! If you need a ride to do this, call me and I will see that you get to a place that is providing them. Carol Howrigan, President

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

The Town Office is open — conditionally — to the public Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM; Zoning Administrator hours are Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (by appointment only).

Access to the Town Office is conditional upon the following: You are not experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other symptom of a respiratory illness; and you have not had contact with a person who has tested COVID-19 positive. Masks are required. Appointments are required for Zoning and are strongly encouraged for other matters. Adhere to any signage present. Access is limited to the front counter. Zoning matters are limited to the lower level (please use entrance located in the back of the building).

Free, fast public Wi-Fi is available on the Westford Common thanks to grants from the Public Library Association and the VT Department of Public Service. Just search for "Westford Public WiFi" on your device.

There is a new Westford Town Trail Guide available on the town website <https://westfordvt.us/boards/conservation-commission/>. All Westford trails are featured with information, descriptions, maps, and photos to help you and your family explore the lesser-known trails. Please respect private landowners whose property trails may run through. All trail users and their animals must stay within trail right-of-way limits. Please let the Conservation Commission know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails by emailing westfordcc@googlegroups.com. Happy hiking!

Westford seeking dog warden

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as Dog Warden. What is a Dog Warden, you ask? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance. What qualifications are needed? A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively, and a location to bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner, to name a few. You may think you need a kennel to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be kept in a healthy environment until it is reunited with its owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water, and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves.

The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500 and there are funds available for training, supplies, and mileage. The Town also has a dog house that can be utilized. If you would like more information on helping your community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office, 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. Westford residency is preferred but not required.

Westford Library seeks new trustee

By Bree Drapa, Librarian, Westford Public Library

First of all, a big THANK YOU to Laurie Wight who has served as a trustee for the past several years! The Library is looking for a new trustee to fill Laurie's place. Trustees must be at least 18 years old.

What does a library trustee do? Trustees have four main tasks: *Advocacy:* They are a voice for the library in the community. They can answer questions, talk about services, and spread library love throughout the community.

Fundraising: Trustees run the annual Fourth of July Book Sale. They also create the yearly town-supported budget.

Policy: Trustees review and shape library policies to keep them relevant to the times and the community.

Support: Library trustees work closely with the library director on any other tasks that need addressing.

Trustees meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Current board members are: Peggy Rodgers, Pat Hechmer, Vicky Ross, and Leanne Saddlemire.

Joining the board allows you to help plan and shape the library for the future of Westford. We are looking for board members who use the library in diverse ways — especially digital users and people whose children use the library (be their voice!). If you have any questions, please contact a current board member or Bree at the library.

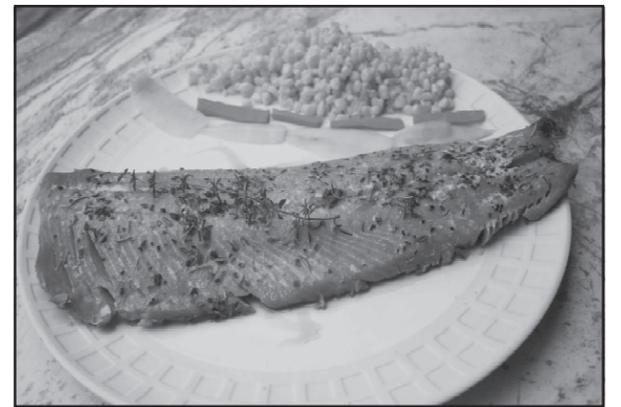
Westford Town Center projects questions and answers

By Melissa Manka, Westford Planning Coordinator

Over the past few months the Westford Planning Commission has been working on several potential development projects in the Town Center. One is community wastewater and another is the redevelopment of the property at located at 1705 VT Rt. 128, a.k.a. the Pigeon property. Many residents have had questions about these projects. The Planning Commission has created a Q&A page on the town website, which can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Town-Center-development-Questions-Answers.pdf>.

The Town is considering applying for a planning grant to help it further research and analyze the development potential of the Pigeon property. The public hearing on that application was scheduled for August 27. If you have additional questions, please forward them to Town Planning Coordinator Melissa Manka, planner@westfordvt.us, and we will try to answer them as quickly as we can. The Planning Commission meets regularly on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 PM, and has also been meeting on the first Monday of the month. Agenda are also posted in advance and public participation is welcome.

4-H NEWS



Blake Bentley of Jericho tied for runner-up in the Main Course Plating category of the UVM Extension 4-H Edible Art Contest with his artistic presentation of wild salmon and side dishes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BENTLEY FAMILY

Winners announced for 4H Edible Art Contest

Nearly 40 entries were received for the Edible Art Contest, sponsored by University of Vermont Extension 4-H this summer.

The judges considered a number of criteria including artistry, individuality, and creativity when selecting winners in each of the five categories. Ribbons and certificates to indicate placement were awarded to the winners and runner-ups, with the winner in each category also receiving a 4-H clover cookie cutter. Other entrants received a special certificate of participation.

The categories were cake decorating, main course plating (meal artistically arranged on a plate), dessert plating (dessert artistically arranged on a plate), food on the vine or the shelf, and silly/fun food (using ready-to-eat food to create a work of art). While only one entry was allowed per category, youths were invited to enter as many categories as they chose.

Contest categories and results were as follows:

CAKE DECORATING: Winner: Lucia Hackerman, Charlotte; Runner-up: Isabella Lamonda, Orleans

Certificates of participation: Annabelle Astin, Wallingford; Abigail Bunch, Morrisville; Sylvia Burkman and Caylan Wendel, both from S. Burlington; Misha Chirkov and Uma Chirkova, both from Newbury; Anthony and Bianca Davis, Orleans; Bristol Holcombe, Passumpsic; Ellie Young, Winooski

MAIN COURSE PLATING: Winner: Uma Chirkova, Newbury; Runner-up (tie): Annabelle Astin, Wallingford, and Blake Bentley, Jericho

DESSERT PLATING: Winner: Misha Chirkov, Newbury; Runner-up: Cora Burkman, South Burlington

Certificates of participation: Emerson Astin, Wallingford; Bianca Davis, Orleans; Leah Fitzgerald, Georgia; Regan Howrigan, Highgate

FOOD ON THE VINE OR SHELF: Winner: Lucia Hackerman, Charlotte; Runner-up: Isabella Lamonda, Orleans

Certificates of participation: Annabelle and Emerson Astin, Wallingford; Anthony and Bianca Davis, Orleans; Regan Howrigan, Highgate; Cooper Lamonda, Orleans; Ellie Young, Winooski

SILLY/FUN FOOD: Karanpartap Singh, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Runner-up: Archie Evans, Charlotte

Certificates of participation: Annabelle and Emerson Astin, Wallingford; Layla Blatchly, St. Albans Town; Anthony Davis and Cooper Lamonda, both from Orleans

Animal Scoops interactive sessions from UVM Extension

Kids in grades 3-5 can explore animal topics for six interactive and enjoyable sessions on Wednesdays, twice a month, 9:00 – 10:00 AM on Zoom. Activities include trivia, videos, books, and recipes. We hope that you share what you know and hopefully learn something new. Appropriate for ages 8-18. Check out the flyer at https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/4-H-and-Youth/events/Animal_Scoops_2020fall.pdf to learn more! To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Wendy Sorrell three weeks prior to the program, so we may assist you. Pre-registration is required online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Animalscoops> by the Tuesday before each session, and the link to join the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you. Sessions will cover: Swine, September 2; Pollinators, September 23; Llamas & Alpacas, October 7; Wildlife, October 21; Migratory Birds, November 4; and Turkeys, November 18.

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COMING EVENTS

IN-PERSON, and VIRTUAL AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED Available online (mostly)

CPR/AED class online, with in-person session to verify CPR skills. The Community Center in Jericho is sponsoring another CPR/AED class offered by Richmond Rescue for residents of Jericho/Underhill. There are six AEDs installed in Jericho (Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho Market, Jericho Town Hall, Jericho Café, Jericho Community Center, and Jericho Center Country Store). The course, made up of slides, modules, and videos, can be completed at your own pace online. Cost including certification: \$40 per person. Required skills verification sessions, to be scheduled at a later date, will be under these guidelines: All participants will be required to wear a mask. All participants will answer health screening questions and have temperature checked prior to beginning skills session. The rescue breathing will be simulated so all participants can keep their masks on. Each participant will have their own set of disinfected equipment for skills, supplied by Richmond Rescue. All skills will be individual; there will be no two-rescuer/multi-rescuer CPR. If you would like to sign up, please fill out the online form at <https://forms.gle/nfb5EVTGRYtiUzFr8>, or contact Alex, cprcenter@richmondrescue.org.

Through Monday, September 14
Echo is free to visit - no library pass needed! ECHO is open Friday-Monday, with two time slot options: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and 1:00 – 3:00 PM. (Also offered: a morning time slot as a special member-preferred time for visiting the museum.) Must reserve tickets online. To learn more and secure tickets, visit <https://www.echovermont.org/plan-your-visit/reopening-information/>. ECHO has been following mandatory safety standards put forward by the state of Vermont and the Governor, and will continue to adhere to best practices to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 virus at all times: All staff will be wearing protective equipment including masks; frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces; hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. (Thanks to Westford librarian Bree Drapa for this information)

Sundays
Weekly peaceful protest for Black Lives Matter, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, VT Rts. 15/108N Rotary, Jeffersonville. Although this Roundabout Rally for Justice is held outdoors, masks are recommended; if you don't have one, we will have free masks available courtesy of the VT State Police. Bring a sign or use one of the extras that will be on site. Parking is available at the silo field and along Main Street. Please do not park on private property.

Wednesday, September 2
Free Legal Clinic for VT Seniors 60+, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. VT Legal Aid is hosting a virtual legal advice clinic by phone for free legal assistance to VT seniors, age 60 and up, to answer your legal questions about COVID-19, or any civil legal question — health care, social security, consumer debt, housing, unemployment, and more. Call and leave a message to book a free 20-minute appointment: 802-318-4169. (If you have an immediate legal problem, call the general phone number to ask for help: 800-889-2047.)

Friday, September 4
Coffee with a Consulting Forester, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Join Vermont Coverts and Vermont Woodlands Association for an informal discussion over coffee with Consulting Forester Markus Bradley, a partner with Redstart Forestry and a licensed forester and invasive plant specialist who works to support private landowners in their forest management. In addition, he has completed the *Game of Logging* safety training, manages a Christmas tree plantation, and is a certified Tree Farm Inspector. Join us to learn about what a consulting forester does and ask your forestry questions. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87440450306?pwd=L09SbUpFZk8wVmMw1M2NjVDB3K0pxQT09>, Meeting ID 874 4045 0306, Passcode 171723.

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Fall VTeen Science Exploration offerings from UVM Extension

Students in grades 7-12 (registration required) are invited to join us every Wednesday afternoon, 3:30 – 4:45 PM, at our weekly virtual teen science café, where you will meet a scientist, learn about their work, explore different science pathways, engage in informal discussions, and ask questions. Open to all youth in grades 7-12 in Vermont and beyond. The program runs September 16-December 16 and will resume in January 2021. Café flyers and registration links will be posted at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements.

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

- Topics to be explored include:
- September 16: Mitigating Climate Change in Electrical Engineering
 - September 23: Sharky Science: Studying Populations of Sharks and Rays Around the World
 - September 30: Living Robots
 - October 7: Computer Science Immersion
 - October 14: Café Space: the Challenges of Building Systems for Space
 - October 21: How Does Our Nervous System Confer Different Reactions to Stress?
 - October 28: How Do Plant Cells Talk to One Another to Make Decisions for Development and Defense Responses?
 - November 4: Climate Change and Plant Nutrients: Will the Grass be Greener on the Other Side?
 - November 11: Consumer Products and Your Health: An Intro to Environmental Health and Exposure Science
 - November 18: The Power of the Small: Why Nanomaterials are Unique
 - November 25: Privacy on the Internet: Why Does It Matter and How Do We Get It?
 - December 2: Three Dimensional (3D) Cell Culture: Why Flat Stanley is a Great Learning Tool... But Not for Studying Cells
 - December 9: Breaking Bad: DNA Double Strand Break Repair with DNA Polymerase Theta
 - December 16: Biomimetic Membranes and Nanotechnology
- Watch recordings of previous teen science cafés online at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1SDrjSz2kkSiTWqigqWcxjBpZbWHBoIv>.

Wednesday, September 9
Using Trail Cameras to Study Wildlife Behavior, 4:00 – 5:15 PM. This one-hour talk followed by Q&A will introduce trail cameras, how they work and how to set them up, and then discuss smart camera placement so that you too can capture photos and videos that reveal the secret habits of animals. "Camera traps" have become critical to wildlife research because they are a noninvasive way to shed new light on the private lives of wild creatures. But you don't need to be a scientist. Anyone with curiosity, persistence, and an inexpensive trail camera can study cutting edge animal behavior topics. With a master's degree in conservation biology and a Level III Wildlife Tracking certificate from CyberTracker, presenter Janet Pesaturo teaches wildlife tracking and camera trapping through Winterberry Wildlife in Massachusetts. She is the author of *Camera Trapping Guide: Tracks, Sign and Behavior of Eastern Wildlife* and chronicles her nature discoveries and adventures online at winterberrywildlife.ouroneacrefarm.com. For more information, contact lisa@vtcoverts.org.

Saturday, September 12
Annual Plant Sale and Auction, 8:30 AM, Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center. Bring plants to donate at 8:30 AM. Plant sale and silent auction start at 9:00 AM. Bid sheets called at 10:00 AM, and payment in cash or check form follow. Please park at Moore Park. Plants can be dropped off at a designated spot. Wear a mask, and social distancing is a must. Have fun, and thank you!

Chainsaw Safety for Women: Basic Chainsaw Safety, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert. This course is designed to introduce the safe handling of a chainsaw, as well as boosting the Beginner Use & Safety confidence level of anyone who has very little or no experience with a saw. This is a hands-on full day course, and is an excellent foundation for someone who may go on to attend the Game of Logging Levels 1 through 4 training. For ages 14 and up, with a parent present. Cost: \$200. For more information or to register contact Christine@merckforest.org, 802-394-7836

Tuesday, September 15
Winter Wildlife Ecology and Forest Management at Andrews Community Forest, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, on Zoom. Join Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper and VT Fish and Wildlife Wildlife Biologist Andrea Shortsleeve for a virtual presentation on Vermont's wildlife, wildlife ecology, and forest management. This presentation will focus on the Andrews Community Forest, a public, conserved property owned by the Town of Richmond, and how an upcoming forest management project on this property is expected to influence wildlife habitat and behavior. This event is co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Richmond Free Library. Bring your wildlife, habitat management, and forestry questions, both general and specific to the ACF, for a Q&A session after the presentation. The Andrews Community Forest is a 428-acre conserved property owned and managed by the Town of Richmond since 2018. Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87440450306?pwd=L09SbUpFZk8wVmMw1M2NjVDB3K0pxQT09>

Thursday, September 17
Snake Mountain WMA Walk, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Snake Mountain WMA, 2514 Mountain Rd., Addison. Rain date Thursday, September 24. Walk to the summit of Snake Mountain with ecologist Eric Sorenson and State Geologist Jon Kim to learn about the geologic features and how they influence the unique natural communities and habitats on this special WMA. This walk is recommended for adults and kids age eight and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration for up to 15 participants is required on VT Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) with a link on the front page.

Saturday-Sunday, September 19-20
Game of Logging Women's Courses, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert; Level 1 on Saturday, Level 2 on Sunday. Level 1 focuses on precision felling techniques; Level 2 focuses on Maximizing Saw Performance. Level 1 is required before taking Level 2. Preregistration is required. Participants must bring a sound hard hat and chaps. (People signing up for ONLY LEVEL 1 will be placed on a wait list to avoid having Level 1 fill at the loss of Level 2 participants.) Minimum age 18. Cost: \$200. For more information or to register contact Christine@merckforest.org, (802) 394-7836

Friday, September 25
4th annual VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference: Reframing Aging, a virtual event. Keynote speaker Patricia D'Antonio of the Gerontological Society of America. A helpful resource about reframing aging can be found at <https://www.geron.org/programs-services/reframing-aging-initiative/>. Register at <https://pheedloop.com/register/v4a2020/attendeel/>.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Bell Ringing at United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill has been ringing their church bell each morning to let everyone know that they are being thought of during these extraordinary times. We have changed the time to 10:00 AM because we have changed the Sunday worship time to 10:00 AM.

As you hear the ringing let it be a time to pause, reflect, and be thankful for all we have.

Weekly Peace Vigil welcomes Black Lives Matter too

The Peace Vigil is back from 5:30 – 6:00 PM on Thursdays at Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Richmond. Our church would like to extend a hearty welcome to the community to share signs and waves of positivity, peace, diversity, justice, and inclusion such as "Black Lives Matter" and "Love Your Neighbor."

Please bring a sign, wear a mask, and stand physically distanced on our front lawn as we share the message of the type of community and world we all hope to live in. I hope to see you there! Peace, Rev. Katelyn Macrae

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

Hey all, the folks at the Second Congo Church in Jeff and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to 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.

So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space!

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

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways that we never could have imagined. Many of us are now working from home, home schooling, and in some cases, separated from those we care deeply about. We at Jericho Congregational Church want you to know that we are here for you during this unsettling time. If you need a listening ear or someone to pray with about any of the impacts of this crisis, please contact us at 858-5452 or jjchelps@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. 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. 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.



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The Mountain Gazette

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One letter per writer, per calendar month.

Must be signed for attribution

with writer's address and phone number.

Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net

HEALTH NEWS

Triple your Farmers Market purchase with Crop Cash

Have 3SquaresVT/SNAP benefits? Now through October, when you spend 3SquaresVT benefits at a participating Farmers Market, you'll get up to \$20 extra in Crop Cash to purchase fruits and veggies. That means \$10 in 3SquaresVT buys \$30 of local food!

Help for family members of those with mental illness

NAMI Family-to-Family Class is a FREE, evidence-based eight-week course structured to help families and friends of individuals with a mental health condition understand and support their loved ones while maintaining their own well-being.

The course is designed specifically for parents, siblings, spouses, teen-age and adult children, and significant others of individuals living with severe mental health conditions. Many participants describe the impact of this program as "life-changing."

The free class is being offered online using Zoom, every Tuesday for eight weeks beginning September 22, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Space is limited; advance registration is required. To register, go online to www.namivt.org; or, email Program@namivt.org.

COVID Support VT promotes mental health and wellness

COVID Support VT aims to help alleviate the emotional impacts of the pandemic by connecting Vermonters to easy-to-access self-help tips, resources for emotional well-being and mental health supports, connections to community services, local/national helplines.

For more information: <https://covidsupportvt.org>.

CPR/AED class offered by Richmond Rescue

Richmond Rescue is looking for a few more participants in their online CPR/AED class. This class is sponsored by the Community Center in Jericho. Six new AEDs (hear defibrillators) have recently been installed in public places in Jericho (Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho Market, Jericho Town Hall, Jericho Café, Jericho Community Center, and Jericho Center Country Store). Richmond Rescue has devised a way to do this safely during the pandemic.

This course is adapted to fit your schedule as well as keep all participants out of a classroom setting during the COVID-19 pandemic. This course can be completed at your own pace and time on an online platform made up of slides, modules, and videos. Cost for the full course, including certification, is \$40 per person.

There is a required skills verification session to demonstrate in-person CPR skills. The rescue breathing will be simulated so all participants can keep their masks on. Skills sessions will be scheduled at a later date, to be determined.

CPR skills session guidelines: All participants will be required to wear a mask; all participants will answer health screening questions and have temperature checked prior to beginning skills session; each participant will have their own set of disinfected equipment for skills supplied by Richmond Rescue; all skills will be individual — there will be no two-rescuer/multi-rescuer CPR.

If you would like to sign up, please email Alex at cprcenter@richmondrescue.org.

Help if drinking causes problems in your life

Alcoholics Anonymous can help. Visit <https://aavt.org> for more information, or call 802-864-1212 to speak with someone anywhere in Chittenden or Grand Isle County.

Testing for COVID-19

COVID-19 Testing is offered at pop-up clinics throughout Vermont. These clinics are intended for people who want to get tested and have no symptoms associated with COVID-19.

IN LAMOILLE VALLEY, TESTING IS OFFERED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT THE HYDE PARK VFW. See Register for Testing below for times and other locations. These clinics in Hyde Park are planned through September 2020.

Register for testing at <https://vermont.force.com/events/selfregistration>.

Here are the steps to set up a testing appointment:

- Register to get an account;
- receive an email with your patient ID and use that to confirm your account;
- log in with your patient ID;
- set up an appointment.

If you need assistance registering or you can't register online, please call the Health Department Call Center at 802-863-7240, or call 2-1-1.

Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19. Use the CDC Self-Checker at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html> to find out if you should be tested. If you think you may need to get tested, talk with your health care provider. If you don't have a health care provider, call 2-1-1 to connect to care, or contact the nearest Federally Qualified Health Care Center at <https://bistatepca.org/community-resources/vt-health-centers-or-one-of-vermonts-free-referral-clinics>. <https://vtfreeclinics.org/>.

Learn more about testing for COVID-19 at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-covid-19>. For general COVID-19 information, see <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/about-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#prevention>

COLLEGE NEWS

Caitlin Erb of Jericho, VT has been named to the spring 2020 Dean's List at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

Francesca Frost of Underhill, VT has been named to the spring 2020 Dean's List at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

Separating vaccine facts from fiction

Parents nowadays are reading lots about vaccinations, especially with a vaccine for the new coronavirus on the horizon. Some of this information is factual and some less so, so I thought I'd take my best shot at doing some myth-busting when it comes to separating vaccine facts from vaccine fiction.

First, let me remind you of the key fact that vaccines help prevent many serious infectious diseases and save lives.

Myth: Many parents are concerned because they've heard that a child's immune system will be weaker if they get vaccinated or get multiple vaccines at one visit.

Fact: This is not true. Many studies show that the body's immune system stays strong after a vaccine and can rev up to keep your child healthy if the germ we have vaccinated your child against invades their body. In addition, being vaccinated against one disease does not weaken your child's ability to respond to another disease. So if you can immunize to multiple diseases at once, the sooner and more effectively your child is protected from life-threatening infections.

Myth: Some fear a child will get the disease from a vaccine that is supposed to prevent that disease.

Fact: If the vaccine is made with killed parts of the germ we are trying to protect your child from, but not the whole germ itself, then it is impossible for your child to get the disease. If it is made from a weakened or mild live form of a virus like the chicken pox or measles vaccine, then it's extremely rare to get the disease. But if so, and your child's immune system is otherwise normal, it will be a very mild form of measles or chicken pox — much less severe than getting a full-blown case of those viruses.

Myth: Some people believe getting the disease is a good way to build immunity.

Fact: This is not the answer — you've seen with how sick adults and even some children have gotten with coronavirus in the absence of a vaccine.

Myth: Some parents feel they need not vaccinate their children since they are healthy, and since other children are vaccinated in the community they will be protected.

Fact: Not true, since each child who goes unvaccinated increases the chance that a life-threatening germ will be able to spread. In fact, this is what has happened over the past few years in communities around the country that have seen decreases in their vaccination rates and significant increases in outbreaks of whooping cough, measles, and mumps.

Hopefully tips like these (and not just sharp needle tips) will de-myth-tify vaccinations for you so you have a better understanding of why they are so important to keep your children healthy.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

CSWD returns to per-bag fee structure

As of Monday, August 31, CSWD has discontinued the temporary flat fees at all Drop-Off Center (DOC) locations and has reinstated modified "per-bag" fees in line with our pre-COVID-19 structure. The new fee schedule is below.

Adjusted bag fee structure for all CSWD Drop-Off Centers

All fees are now set at whole dollar amounts to minimize handling of coins and to support quick transactions between staff and customers. In developing this modified pricing, CSWD carefully considered the financial impact on our customers as well as how we could cover our costs and incentivize the public to generate less trash and reduce trip frequency. Separate fees will apply to materials or items that are not commonly generated household trash.

We have also modified our bag/barrel sizes to be more in line with commonly available bag sizes. Bag/barrel size: small (up to 13 gal.): \$2; medium (14-35 gal): \$6; large (36-45 gal): \$8; cubic yard: \$42.

New per-bag fees are now posted on the Drop-Off Center Fees page of our website. Disposal and recycling fees for all items that are not household trash can be found by searching our A-Z list at www.cswd.net/a-z.

CSWD Drop-Off Centers are now open in Essex, Hinesburg, Milton, South Burlington, and Williston. The CSWD DOC in Burlington is open for food scrap drop-off only; the Richmond location will be reopening in September.

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Dr. Mary H. Kintner

MISCELLANEOUS

New contact for Jericho Community Center

After 27 years, Andrea Hook has retired from being the Building Manager and Scheduler for the Jericho Community Center. She did a fantastic job over many years, and we are all very appreciative. Now we are pleased to announce that Laura Olliver has been hired to take over that position. You can contact her by emailing ccjvermont@gmail.com or calling 802-734-1342. Many thanks to Andrea, and a warm welcome to Laura. (From the Community Center Operating Committee.)

Paul Dragon appointed to VT Adult Learning Board of Trustees

Paul Dragon has been appointed to Vermont Adult Learning's Board of Trustees. Over the past 15 years, he has worked at the Agency of Human Services in several roles, including the Deputy Secretary for the Agency, the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and currently as the Director for Field Services. In each of these roles, he has sought to bring the Agency's vision of holistic and integrated services to Vermonters. As the Director of the Healthcare for the Homeless Program in Burlington, he led the development of the Safe Harbor Clinic and the Pearl Street Clinic.

Dragon received his Doctorate Degree in Education from the University of Vermont where he received the Herman B. Meyers Excellence in Doctoral Policy Research Award. He is the Executive Director of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity.

Dragon's commitment to ending poverty, promoting equity and building an inclusive community started as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali West Africa when he realized there needs to be an "ecological approach to building community that includes not only health care and social justice, but a deep connection and respect for the environment and all its inhabitants." Dragon lives with his wife and three children in Underhill.

"I am so pleased to be on the Board of Vermont Adult Learning and have long admired their passion, commitment and expertise in serving adult learners and in helping to strengthen our communities," Dragon said.

Vermont Adult Learning's Mission is to create an innovative, inclusive and equitable learning environment that provides personalized opportunities for education and career development for Vermont residents by building relationships, strengthening communities and fostering life-long learning. Learn more at www.vtadultlearning.org.

Ashley Messier appointed to VT Commission on Women

Speaker of the VT House Mitzi Johnson has appointed Ashley Messier of Jericho, VT to serve a four-year term on the VT Commission on Women (VCW), the state's non-partisan commission working to advance rights and opportunities for women and girls.

Messier is the executive director of the Women's Justice and Freedom Initiative, which supports and advocates for women, girls, transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people impacted by systems of oppression, and is expressly committed to prison abolition. Messier's years of community organizing, advocacy and direct experience with the criminal legal system inform her passionate and powerful approach to advocacy and abolition. She was previously incarcerated at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

Messier also serves as the Vermont Organizer for the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. The Council is a network of formerly and currently incarcerated women and girls committed to reimagining communities and creating the shift from a criminal legal system to community-led human justice. Messier served as a consultant and then as lead Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont's Smart Justice, a campaign fighting in the legislatures, the courts, in the voting booth, and in the streets to end mass incarceration by addressing sentencing, bail and prosecutorial reform, as well as parole, release and re-entry reforms.

Messier is a member of Vermont's Human Trafficking Task Force and participates on its Housing sub-committee. Her related work includes an active role in an Act 146 work group exploring using restorative justice in domestic and sexual violence and stalking cases.

FLAG host families needed

By Laurie Forsman

FLAG (Foreign Links Around the Globe) is seeking host families for several exchange students this school year, or even as a welcome family for six to eight weeks this fall. These students have been offered spots at Champlain Valley Union High School, but they can go to any Vermont high school that will accept an exchange student. Their placement deadlines are quickly approaching, so time is of the essence!

We're offering a \$300 referral bonus for educators and school staff. For each host family you refer you'd receive \$300. This Classroom Cash referral bonus can be used any way you'd like for virtual or in-person learning, for a student club, supplies etc.

Here are some quick descriptions of the boys we're seeking host families for:

Wassilly is a 17-year-old Swiss boy who lives in France. He likes younger kids, cooking, skiing, volunteering, and being outdoors. He rides a unicycle, plays in an orchestra, and likes pets. Both of his parents are teachers.

Fernando is a 15-year-old boy from Chile. He loves to play soccer and tennis. He also enjoys playing guitar and flute, biking, scouts, and listening to music. He enjoys learning about history and hopes to be a lawyer some day.

Jan is a 17-year-old boy from the Czech Republic. He practices Judo and has been playing the violin since he was 7 years old. He enjoys cooking, hiking, and enjoying a healthy lifestyle. He hopes to be a nutritionist one day.

Paul is a 15-year-old boy from France. He likes skiing, running, swimming, and outdoor sports in general. He enjoys being

FLAG host continued on page 5

News continued from page 1

Broadband in Bolton — great news!

The Bolton Economic Resource Committee and your survey results helped Waitsfield Telecom receive a grant to bring fiber to Duxbury road! We are very pleased for this funding as it means there will be no cost for those residents who responded to the survey to now have fiber installed to their homes. This is a great long term solution for these folks and it will be completed before December 31, 2020. Awesome!

This summer has evolved quickly with new opportunities to address the issues of high speed Internet for many residents around the country and in Bolton. Funding for broadband services from the federal government due to COVID-19 became available for distribution in Vermont very recently and the state has been working with telecommunications companies trying to help as many of the underserved community as possible as with this money. One of the restrictions from the federal government requires that the projects must be completed before December 31, 2020. This short time frame means everyone is crazy busy getting permits, ordering supplies, updating equipment, installing new equipment all over the country.

With the available funding, the short time frame for completion, and the lack of core infrastructure in many areas, the approach the state of Vermont is taking will take advantage of all technologies to help meet this demand for high speed internet for as many people as possible.

The VT Department of Public Service has announced \$3,926,650 in grant awards to Internet Service Providers to serve over 5800 eligible locations with broadband connections in response to COVID-19. You can read the press release online at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/8-20-20%20PSD%20Announces%20Awards%20for%20COVID-19%20Emergency%20Connectivity%20Initiative%20and%20Get%20Vermonters%20Connected%20Now%20Initiative.pdf>.

There are two other opportunities that are available to other parts of town depending on where you are located. One grant is a line extension that is for \$3000 but requires that fiber is fairly close by, and the other is a wireless service provider is updating their tower capabilities to reach folks who are further from fiber but within the range of their tower.

The state and all these companies are working diligently to help as many folks as possible, but this is a great deal of work, and not much time to get it done. It is also very confusing. To help explain things a bit more please go to this page on the Bolton town website, <http://boltonvt.com/bb-funding>.

FLAG host continued from page 4

around animals and watching movies. He loves to travel and his goal is to become a pilot.

Rentaro is a 16-year-old boy from Japan. He plays on a baseball team and likes to exercise. His favorite subjects in school are English and PE. He also enjoys painting. He is allergic to cats and dogs.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. Your consideration is very appreciated! Those who are interested or who have questions should contact Laurie Forsman, 802-497-7171 or epaula@flag-intl.org.

For more information about FLAG: www.flag-intl.org.

Jericho Commercial District planning

By Jason Cheney, Jericho Planning Commission Chair

The Planning Commission has spent many (most of them) months of the last 5+ years working on planning for the future of the Commercial District.

It started with a survey in early 2015, followed with a study conducted by Landworks land consultants in 2016-17. We followed Landworks with another consultant, this time Dubois & King. Through a series of meetings, workshops, open houses, and open dialog, we have adopted a new vision (<https://jerichovt.org/2360/widgets/7066/documents/5796/download>) for the Commercial District. On our agenda right now is the latest draft of zoning changes (August 14, 2020 draft with changed pages only) all aimed to support that vision that has already been adopted.

(Recently) a few of us met with a planner from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to discuss the next Commercial District Planning Project: The Official Map. My only request here today is that people will take some time to read what has been developed and look to that 25-30 year horizon and ask, “what do we want Jericho to be?” and “how can we plan for that future today?”

Where is the District?

Along VT Rt. 15, between Clark’s Truck Center and the Community Bank. Includes South Main Street near Mount Mansfield Animal Hospital and North Main Street near Autosmith.

Why are we making changes?

Central and convenient, between Jericho Corners and Riverside Village Centers, sensible location for future growth, landowners seek development opportunities and shared infrastructure. Existing zoning prioritizes industrial uses, low density, and driving. Development is not currently coordinated and connectivity is highly desired.

What are our community priorities?

Integrate the Villages, preserve iconic Mansfield views, expand housing choices, encourage locally owned small-scale businesses to serve residents, promote local jobs, more walkable, compact development, keep it green, access the river, allow for flexible creative land uses, inclusive for kids and seniors, attract young families, plan for the future.

How will this be accomplished?

Since May 2018, developed a Master Plan (Fall 2019), revised the Town Plan (January 2020), revising zoning regulations to support smart growth principles and balanced development (in progress since February 2020), consider an Official Map and future infrastructure needs (next phase, grant already received), capital planning and implementation (future phases).

What now?

Zoning updates have been drafted, revised, drafted, revised, drafted, revised... thank you to the many residents and landowners who participated in this 5+ year process with the Planning Commission, led by a professional outside consultants and supported by all Jericho Committees and Select Board.

Please help us finish this project phase of zoning updates. This is a process, step by step making iterative changes for the betterment of Jericho and its citizens. <https://jerichovt.org/commercial-district>

Clarification: wastewater vs. August 27 grant public hearing

By Melissa Manka, Westford Planning Coordinator

Like many taxpayers in town, the Planning Commission is concerned about the tax burden on property owners. We continue to investigate the possibility of community wastewater and development of the 1705 VT Rt. 128 property with the goal of creating little (or no) additional tax burden. With regard to wastewater, we are awaiting a preliminary engineering report for the wastewater and will share this with the community in the coming months. Rest assured there has been no decision to move forward on construction. We remain in the information gathering stages so we can answer many of the unanswerable questions that exist today.

Unrelated to wastewater, the August 27 public hearing was to discuss the town’s application for a Community Development Block Grant to study the developability of the 1705 property (old bus garage). The town has an interested partner in the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) that would establish and conserve public access to the Browns River via the 1705 property. Ideally the VRC would partner with other affordable housing partners to create affordable home ownership units and the town would end up with commercially developable land at little to no cost. This represents a unique opportunity and significant value to the town and Town’s tax base. We are working closely with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to submit a grant that would pay for much of the site research to see if the property could be developed. It would be mid to late 2021 to complete the work included as part of the block grant. Not until the grant is complete would we know what next steps are or look like.

We hope this is helpful in separating the wastewater from the 1705 property Community Development Block Grant. These are both really big and important; we value the feedback and engagement.

For more information on both topics go online to <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Town-Center-development-Questions-Answers.pdf>.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Why is healthcare in Vermont and the nation so expensive?

By Bill Schubart

A recent audit report by State Auditor Doug Hoffer lays bare the staggering cost of healthcare to Vermonters — \$9000 per year, almost \$2000 more than the national average. For a worker making Vermont's minimum wage, that's over 40% of their gross income of \$22,500. The report details many of the drivers of this cost, but nowhere on the list is pharmaceuticals.

The explosion in Pharma costs and profits is well-documented, tripling between 1997 and 2007, as are examples of price-fixing among competitors. There are reasons beyond just greed for such price swings, not the least of which is lack of any significant regulation or oversight.

Deregulation began in 1995 during the Clinton presidency, when the industry managed to convince the administration and Congress that it should be allowed to market its prescription nostrums directly to consumers under the rubric of "education" — illegal in most other countries.

Pharma's big challenge was that most consumers knew little or nothing about the drugs they were given, having always trusted their doctors to prescribe appropriate medications.

Since most prescribed drug names were never familiar to the general public, the industry faced a marketing dilemma. Not only were their drugs outside the vocabulary of most consumers, so were many of the conditions their drugs purported to treat. People's sense of "wellness" is highly subjective.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), of the \$30B Pharma spent on marketing and "disease awareness campaigns" between 1997 and 2016, roughly one third (\$9.6B in 2016) targeted potential patients and half targeted doctors in an effort to induce them to prescribe, all under the rubric loosely described as "consumer and professional education."

Realizing that many consumers didn't know they were sick,

Pharma set out to market diseases to consumers that they didn't know they had in an effort to develop new lateral sales of existing drugs.

Early on there was a memorable ad in which a cringing housewife is asked by an authoritative male voice if she gets anxious when going to the supermarket and is told dramatically that she has agoraphobia. The cowering housewife is then instructed to contact her doctor to prescribe Prozac, which purports to relieve the condition. The ad also flashes a toll-free number to enable consumers to find a doctor who will prescribe the drug if their own won't, presumably MDs who have been "educated" by Pharma.

According to JAMA: "Marketing to healthcare professionals by pharmaceutical companies accounted for most promotional spending and increased from \$15.6 billion to \$20.3 billion (1997-2016), including \$5.6 billion for prescriber detailing, \$13.5 billion for free samples, \$979 million for direct physician payments (e.g., speaking fees, meals) related to specific drugs, and \$59 million for disease education."

In 2005-7, when I chaired the UVM Medical Center (then Fletcher-Allen), I met semi-annually with our several hundred docs to hear their concerns and ask them questions. When asked what constituted the largest waste of their time, the response was uniform... patients' self-diagnosing based on a drug commercial they had seen on TV that led them to ask for a prescription... "the little blue pill," or a similar Pharma TV star drug.

Convincing a patient that they don't have a condition that Pharma has convinced them they have, and talking them out of a pill they don't need that might even be harmful, was the major time-waster. If the doctor denied a script, the patient could now simply call the toll-free number on the screen and find a prescriber who had been "induced" to prescribe it.

Having surmounted the challenge of selling a disease and then its treatment, the industry confronted another prickly problem (pun

intended). [Trigger warning: some readers may find the following content disturbing, or just funny.]

As a regular reader of three U.S. newspapers, I'm confronted daily with an image of a middle-aged man staring at a curved cucumber. On reading the fine print, I am made aware that the cucumber is a hieroglyph for his curved penis. He has... (drum roll) Peyronies Disease (PD). (Cut back to President Clinton, Paula Jones, and Monica Lewinsky.)

In a column that is typically about Vermont, you may ask if this opinion writer has fallen down the rabbit hole?

I raise this issue only to offer an example of how far afield the largely unregulated drug industry has gone, bribing the medical community itself and holding Vermonters and all Americans hostage to its predatory pricing and anti-competitive efforts, such as when their patents expire, paying vast sums to generic companies not to manufacture cheaper generics (generally called pay-to-delay).

Now that members of the Sackler family — Purdue Pharmaceutical — have been accused and compared to a drug cartel selling opiates in easy-prey neighborhoods where low income, hard-working folk are subject to stress and pain as in Appalachia and Detroit, museums around the country are grinding the Sackler name off wings, galleries, and special collections financed with their drug proceeds.

But I write because Vermont is part of a federal system and can't fully control its own destiny. Pharma must ultimately be regulated at the federal level.

Until we Americans make the basic decision about whether healthcare is a basic human right as so many other civilized countries have, or merely a product to be sold to those who can afford it, most Vermonters will never be able to afford health security.

Right now, given that Pharma has spent some \$5B in the last ten years to influence Congress not to impose regulation, the chances of bringing the industry to heel seem remote.

Gun Club, Rotary Club, Booster Club, Babe Ruth

By Douglas Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation recruited me to work in their accounting department, and I still worked part-time for various businesses doing bookkeeping, income taxes, etc. I worked many hours, but I did spend as much time with our children as I could. I joined the Esopus Gun Club, which leased a lot of land from the Catholic diocese to hunt on and had our meetings at one of the monasteries along the Hudson River south of Kingston, NY. We even had some guys from Connecticut as members. I normally didn't like the taste of wine, but they brought homemade wine that tasted good and was "high test." It made me feel really good and was worth the trip. I don't know every animal that was part of our game supper, but I ate it and it tasted good with spaghetti sauce and the homemade wine.

My spare time was limited so I didn't belong to many organizations. When I bought my own business, I chose to join the Rotary Club and found out that the insurance agents were the majority people in the club. I was talking to an older gentleman and he was saying, if I missed a meeting, I could make it up by going to another site that week. So, I asked if anyone had a record in attendance. He said there was a guy who had perfect attendance for 30 years. I couldn't believe anyone could have that long a record, and no one would ever be able to beat his record, so why bother to try?

I left for work at 7:00 AM and I got done at 5:00 PM so I could get to the baseball field before 6:00 PM, which was game time. I started coaching when my oldest son was in Little League and continued coaching until my youngest son was in Babe Ruth League. Our team won the title when my son was on the team. My son and his two friends played on the Arlington High School baseball team while also playing Babe Ruth. My wife would pick up the three boys after the high school game and hustle them over to our game. We usually were starting the sixth inning when they arrived. They got dressed in their Babe Ruth uniforms on the way. When they drove in, I put them in the game immediately and we would win every game. There was one coach that had never beat us, and he was using all kinds of strategy to win. He was winning in the sixth inning, and my wife hadn't shown up yet. He strolled over and said, "Looks like you won't get help in time." He had us by two runs, but I told him, "It is not over until it is over." Sure enough, into the parking lot comes my wife, opens the doors, and I was able to get the kids in the game. My son was an all-star catcher and the other boys were all-stars also: one pitcher and one center fielder. We won that game by two runs after being behind two runs. I enjoyed coaching so much that I continued coaching Little League and Babe Ruth for 25 years, even after we moved back to Vermont.

I was also selected president of the Booster Club. We raised enough money to install electric to an announcing booth and lights at the football field. It was really hard to be in two places at once, but my family always came first. Our two girls were cheerleaders and the three boys played soccer and baseball. One of my sons even played college baseball in Florida. Some of our games were at the same times and we had to split up in order to see them at different locations.

I learned a very important lesson early on, and that was if you are a member of an organization, be sure to attend, or else they will elect you to be an officer. As I got older, I tried to get away from most clubs as I feel I have served my time. When I look back at a work project, a lot of people would say they were showing up, but usually only 10% of the people would show up to help.

Next column: D. I. Y. and R. I. Y. Customers

Private forests, public benefits

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

Whether you realize it or not, the lives of Vermonters are massively enriched by forests, both aesthetically (we are the Green Mountain State, after all, and the "green" on the mountains are forests), economically and culturally (through our working landscape and our forest-based recreation industry), and physically through the clean air, water, and other fundamental resources that forests produce which support the life of every living thing.

I call Vermont's land ownership model an "experiment" — of the 75% of our state that is forested, about 80% of our forests are privately-owned. If you, like me, own some forested land, you know what a joy it is, from being able to tromp around in your woods to being able to cut a little ultra-local firewood for your woodstove.

As a landowner I am also sometimes struck by the absurdity of private landownership — I wonder: "can I own that cliff?" "Can I own that brook?" "Can I own that boulder?" I chuckle at how we draw a line through the forest and pretend that my land is separate from my neighbor's. We increasingly understand that forests are massively complex, interconnected systems and to pretend that a property boundary has any real meaning in an ecological sense is silly. Whether I like it or not, my forest is impacted by the management decisions of those around me, and my management decisions have implications that extend far beyond my boundaries.

Private lands produce public benefits. "My" forest produces the oxygen we breathe while absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide, mitigating its effects on our climate. "My" forest cleans, shades, and protects two small brooks, which contribute clean, cold water into the Winooksi River on its way to Lake Champlain. "My" forest provides habitat for wildlife — from white-tailed deer to neotropical songbirds — that my neighbors and my community value. "My" forest produces firewood and lumber — local, renewable resources that help keep Vermont's iconic working landscape working and provides economic opportunity for my neighbors and my community. "My" forest is even a piece of the beautiful Green Mountains, which anyone can see and enjoy for free from the top of Camel's Hump or while you drive down I-89 on your way to work.

While you can go to the Town Clerk and find a deed with my name on it, I think that we could all agree that these benefits, produced by "my" forest, belong to all of us. They enrich the lives of my neighbors, my community, my state, and my world. While I love the feeling of isolation when I'm alone in my woods, I think that one of the great joys of land ownership is knowing that the sweat and energy that I put into keeping my forest healthy contributes to healthier communities and a healthier world. I will gladly pay my property taxes every year just to know that I'm doing that.

In the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, author Robin Wall Kimmerer talks about how, when we purchase land, we purchase a "bundle of rights." The American idea of "freedom" is largely based on the idea that we can do whatever we want on our land, within the law and these rights. Weirdly, these rights also include the right to destroy the forest, subdividing or developing it, fragmenting it with roads and houses. While it seems ridiculous that one person, in a moment, for individual profit, could destroy a forest that could benefit everyone for thousands of years, this is one of their rights.

Kimmerer suggests a more robust interpretation of landownership, that perhaps when we purchase land we also receive a "bundle of responsibilities" — some obligation to our land, to keeping it healthy and caring for these public benefits that affect the lives and the quality of life of our neighbors. Accepting these responsibilities may mean not exercising some of your individual rights to do something that is good not just for you, but good in the broader sense.

Being willing to forgo individual rights to keep forests healthy, protect our communities and make our world better is perhaps the most radical way to exercise our freedom as landowners. We can make hard choices to accept the responsibility, joy and privilege being stewards of Vermont's amazing forests, both for ourselves and on behalf of our neighbors, our communities, our world, and future generations.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or 802-585-9099.

Beep Beep

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

... says the coffee maker, announcing its first morning brewing. When it is done, it beeps five times. It stays hot for an hour or so, when it beeps again to say it is signing off... only two beeps this time... a rather sad ending.

Oops, there goes the microwave. To get it set up for rewarming my lukewarm cup of coffee takes two beeps. And then there is the ending whistle, that shows it has done its job.

The phone rings... or what would have been called *jangles* in the old days when that was all that a phone was asked to do. And I can hear it because of my hearing aids. When I put them in this morning, they gave a rather pleasant four-note melody, an indication of success in placing them properly. When the batteries are about to die, there is a single dreary loud note... to remind you to do something!

But many of these sounds/signals can no longer be placed in a general category labeled *Beep Beep*. So we have other names, more descriptive of a broad range of noises and sounds that can immediately conjure up the noun that is attached to a sound. It used to be that *Beep Beep* was a car horn, and it was descriptive enough and echoic enough, to serve that purpose so well, that it could be easily understood, even when standing on its own. But time moves on and our modern age had other sounds and signals that demanded a separate "voice." The two-part harmony of my hearing aids could not have a descriptor such as *Beep Beep*. How about *Wish, Tuneful, Scaling, Pleasant, Soothing*. Not quite right, but better than *Beep Beep*.

A phone ringing was usually described as shrill; now it can be anything from Bach to rap or jazz or your Aunt Julie's favorite *Sound of Music* when she calls. And church bells used to go *Bong, Bong, Bong*. A brook perhaps still babbles, even though a river roars. The wind still howls. Dogs usually bark for someone they don't know, but stay silent for the homeowners and guests: friend or potential foe. And there are the tried-and-true connections: a baby chick peeps; thunder booms; a guitar twangs. Some part of the name or phrase creates an action or a sound, and generally can stand alone and still be clear. For example: "moo" belongs with a cow, not a goat. Some "sound" words have held on, but have different connections: a person can hum; so can a machine, and it may have a new function: white noise.

There is a name for this: *onomatopoeia*: a word formed to resemble the sound made by the thing signified. And I wish I could stop there, but the next word is too much fun to miss: *onomatopoeia*, which is the longer version of the first word (above)... a formation of a word by common usage... the buzzing of bees; the small bell has a tinkly song; the sloshy April snow; trees weeping in the rain... And the name that is most echoic: Chickadee, a name that approximately imitates the sound of its song. Another one is a southern name for Red Squirrel: Chickaree or Chirr.

What about new connections? *Online* used to mean something one did with newly-washed laundry. A *tablet* was once a small engraved stone, or a pill to swallow, or a small notebook. A printer? Someone who missed the school exercises for cursive writing. And did we ever think we could take a photo with our phone! *Boot up* used to mean to put on shoes. What new sounds can be attached to these reconstituted nouns? I am sure that people will find some rich and wild words that will add some zest to ordinary writing.

Have fun with your imagination!

Meals on Wheels Lamoille seeks board members

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of older Vermonters? Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County seeks new board members who would like to help us meet our mission to improve health and enhance the quality of life for our community elders by providing nutritious meals and social interaction. Most meeting times are Thursdays at 5:00 PM, bimonthly. Our new focus will be enhancing our program in our new space. Marketing experience desired but not required. Please send an email to Nicole Fournier, nicole_fournier@msn.com, if you are interested, and I will send you a board application.

Send your news to
mtngazette@gmavt.net
or call Brenda Boutin
for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Appointments for browsing are available Thursdays 12:00 – 6:45 PM, Fridays 10:45 AM – 4:45 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Appointments for computer use are available Thursdays, 12:15 – 7:00 PM, Fridays 10:15 AM – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:15 AM – 1:15 PM. Please call 899-4962 to arrange services.

DRML offers curbside pick-up Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 7:30 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 5:30 PM, and Saturdays 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Please contact us, 899-4962 or rawsonlibrary@drml.org, to arrange a pick-up. Our catalog is available at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com/> to check for items that the library owns. For the full guidelines on how curbside pickup works, please go online to [https://mailchi.mp/a2b65877d439/curbside-returns-to-drml?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/a2b65877d439/curbside-returns-to-drml?e=[UNIQID]).

Anyone who has a DRML library card can place a hold from home. When your hold is ready, staff will contact you to confirm a pick-up date. Sign in on the catalog website <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com/> and start browsing! Be sure to click the “confirm hold” button at the bottom of your screen once you have selected an item to place on hold. Any questions, please call 899-4962.

As we move forward into the autumn, we are seeking your input on what our programming should look like. Would you be comfortable with socially-distanced outdoor programs? Is there a virtual program idea that you would like to see as part of our lineup? Are you an artist, performer, or presenter that would like to partner with us? Go to tinyurl.com/drmlprogramsurvey to help shape our fall programming!

Have you visited our gardens lately? The library has been designated as an Extension Master Garden site, and twice a week an enthusiastic group of volunteers gather to plant and maintain a variety of gardens. They include winterberries near the front of the library, yellow daylilies that extend along the side of the building, and Miss Kim lilacs and a butterfly garden at the back of the building, which feature a lush variety of native plants. We also have a vegetable garden that is harvested and delivered to local community members — to the Food Shelf on the third Saturday of the month, and to Jeri Hill Senior Housing on the alternating weeks. Finally, a beautiful Theme Garden has been created to honor author Thornton W. Burgess, so please do step outside and enjoy!

The Third Annual Poetry Walk is now up at Mills Riverside Park! A collaboration between DRML and Mills Riverside Park, the Poetry Walk promote literacy, learning, and a deeper connection and appreciation of the natural world. This year’s featured poet is William Wordsworth (1770-1850), a central figure of English Romanticism. He was chiefly concerned with humanity’s relationship with nature, as well as using a more vernacular vocabulary to connect with the common reader. The eight poems featured exhibit Wordsworth’s characteristic fascination with nature, and his compositions are simple yet effusive with wonder. No registration required; just stop by Mills Riverside Park, which is open dawn to dusk, and keep an eye out for the eight poems located on the Lower Trails. For more information about Mills Riverside Park, please visit <https://www.millsriversidepark.org/>.

Adult programs

Please register for all programs you are interested in attending by going to tinyurl.com/program820. You will then be sent all of the information you need to participate. Registration required; in case of inclement weather, we will contact you with a Zoom meeting link at the email address you provided.

Youth Programs

The Story Walk® is still up! Bring your family, sun protection, water bottles, and a snack and enjoy The Listening Walk by Paul Showers and illustrated by Alikei.

Stopping by to pick up books curbside or do the Story Walk®? Consider trying out our Sidewalk Chalk Challenges! Measure, rhyme, leap, and solve problems! Starts in front of the building and down the left side.

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

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

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

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

As many know, our wonderful librarian Lisa is moving across the country to accept an exciting new position! We want to thank her so much for her hard work, warm and friendly nature, and dedication to our little library. We are so sad to see her leave, but excited for the new adventure she is about to begin! Best wishes and good luck, Lisa!

We want to remind you that curbside service is closed for now, but will begin again the week of Tuesday, September 8 when our interim librarian will step in.

Thanks for your help and understanding during this time of transition! You are welcome to contact Susan Macmillan, JTL Secretary, spmjericho@gmail.com, or any Board member if you have questions.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The library offers curbside pickup of books, audios, and movies; please, no requests for guest passes at this time. Pickups are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, and on Saturdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. You can select specific titles or ask us to put together a selection of books and titles that you might like based on your past choices. You can begin searching for books in our catalog: <https://varnum.kohavt.org> (currently not processing interlibrary loans). When you find what books you’re interested in, email us at varnumrequests@gmail.com and we will answer them in the order that they are received. Once your book is pulled, we will respond to your email and let you know when you can pick it up.

Before you request any materials from us, please read the next section:

• If you or anyone in your household has been ill, please hold off on returning or picking up materials.

• We are practicing social distancing, so materials will be on the table outside on the deck. Please wear a mask in case there are other patrons nearby during pickup.

• We are requesting that one person per family be on the deck at a time. Due to the current health situation, we can only provide this service if people practice social distancing.

If you have books to return to the library, please put them in the book drop so they can be quarantined and then made available to other people.

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.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Westford Public Library is open for limited in-person services on Wednesdays, 1:00 – 7:00 PM (curbside 3:00 – 5:00 PM), and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (curbside 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM). The first hour of each day is reserved for senior and immunocompromised patrons. *Curbside service is still the preferred option.* Please see our detailed plan at <https://westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/visiting-during-covid/>. Visits are limited to 30 minutes or less. The children’s area will be closed — browsing in main area only. Masks and social distancing are required for patrons ages 2 and up; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

The book drop to return library items is open and ready to accept your Westford Library books and other items. Not for the book drop: books from the school, items from other libraries, book donations. Please note that email reminders will resume for overdue books.

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

Adult Book Group meets the third Wednesday of the month (via Zoom), 7:00 – 8:00 PM. September 16: Open Season by Archer Mayor. Book one in the Vermont-based Joe Gunther mystery series, now up to 30 books. Print copies available at the library; audiobooks available on Libby.

Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 PM: Travel Talk (via Zoom), destination: Québec, Saguenay, and Gaspé, with presenter Mark Drapa. Join his trip through Québec City, the Saguenay Fjords and Marine National Park, the entirety of the Gaspé Peninsula and Forillon National Park. October’s destination: Japan. Watch for the Zoom link on FPF and Facebook.

Celebrate Banned Books Week, September 27-October 3. Censorship is a dead end: find your freedom to read! Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access to materials while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted banning of books from across the United States. Resources will be made available via Facebook for those interested. It would be awesome to read a banned book this week, available curbside or in the library.

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.

THURSDAYS: Early Literacy Storytime, for birth to pre-school! We now have in-person, outside, and socially distant storytime at 11:30 AM on the Common. Bring a blanket and masks and talk to your kids about social distancing ahead of time. Snacks or a lunch are a good idea, too. We will sing songs, read stories, move, and have fun! If weather is bad, storytime will be sent out digitally. Feel free to watch a “re-run” at <https://westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/story-time/>.

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.

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>

Like us on Facebook. Bree Drapa, Librarian. 878-5639; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Please note, there is lots of new information on our website, <https://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>, on homeschooling resources (on our home page), finding books and more, a long list of online resources, book clubs, and more.

Outdoor Storytime — Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, on the library lawn behind the building, and observing physical distancing and all other safety protocols. Families are asked to bring their own blanket or chairs, and to set up their space on a premarked spot on the lawn. No registration is needed. Storytimes will include books with big, bold pictures, rhymes, songs, stretches, and the opportunity to pickout some picture books to take home. Outdoor Storytime will continue until it grows too cold, or until COVID-19 protocols change.

Book groups are meeting remotely and books are available at the library; please contact the book group coordinator to find out the plan for each meeting.

Mystery Book Discussion Group — Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Group coordinator Maureen Parent, 434-2055 or mparent@gmavt.net. September 17: Blessed Are Those Who Thirst by Anne Holt; October 15: Snowblind by Ragnar Jónasson; November 19: The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Discussion Group — Tuesdays, 6:00 PM. Group coordinator Gwen Landis, 434-5012 or gwen1972@yahoo.com. September 8: Stardust by Neil Gaiman; October 13: The Alice Network by Kate Quinn; November 10: Britt-Marie Was Here by Fredrik Backman; December 8: Emma by Jane Austen.

Online Resources — Visit the Richmond Free Library Youth Services page to connect with TumbleBooks for a fun, gently animated picture book storytime and Storyline Online to hear great children’s authors and other celebrities reading aloud from fabulous picture books. Here you will find links to other great youth sites as well including resources for elementary-aged and older youth.

Remember to browse our catalog at rfl.kohavt.org! We have more than books to lend — request audiobooks on CD, Playaways,

Magazines, and Movies! Log in to your account with your library card barcode and your last name as the password to reserve items, or call or email the Library. Not sure what to read next? Let us help!

We are again able to offer library patrons access to the physical collection. This includes books, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs. We cannot allow visitors beyond the outer foyer but you will find that this space has been adapted to serve as a safe and convenient place to pick up your item requests. Book bins in the foyer have been labeled alphabetically. Requested items will be bagged, labeled and placed in the bins according to patron’s last name. The door will be left open so visitors need not touch anything except their own bag. Please be mindful of others and wait your turn to enter the space if there is already someone there.

There are three ways to request materials:

• Place a hold on whatever you like through your library account at rfl.kohavt.org. You will need your library barcode number to log in to your account. Your password is your own last name (capital first letter). Please note that the maximum number of holds allowed per account is five.

• Call us at 434-3036. Leave a message if it is after hours.

• Email us at rfl@gmavt.net.

Pick up times are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 – 4:00 PM; Saturday, 12:00 – 2:00 PM. All items can be returned to the outdoor book return bin anytime.

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY WILLISTON

We don’t want technology to be a barrier for anyone. If you would like to join us but need some assistance connecting via Zoom, we are here to help. Please email us at programs@damlvt.org or call us at 878-4918, and we will be happy to help walk you through it.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Library Curbside Pickup Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM.

In light of COVID-19, all of our programs are virtual. Keep an eye on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fairfax-Community-Library/160431583972368> and website <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org> for any updates.

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; contact 849-2420 or libraryprograms@fwsu.org.

For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website: www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

Fairfax Community Library, 75 Hunt St., Fairfax, VT 05454; www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, 802-849-2420. Call or email libraryprograms@fwsu.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

We are not hosting in-person gatherings for now; this could change. We will keep you informed of any additional program offerings or program changes on Facebook and our program calendar at <https://brownelllibrary.org/events/calendar>.

The library offers curbside service, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Place books, DVDs, etc. on hold at <https://brownell.kohavt.org/> by calling us at 802-878-6955, or emailing frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org. Holds and email requests received by 5:00 PM will be available for same-day pick-up. Phone-in requests received by 5:30 PM will also be available for same-day pick-up. We will call you when your request is ready.

Our book drop is open for returns. Because we are still encouraged to stay safe and stay home, all materials will be checked out to you for three weeks.

Downloadable audio books and ebooks are available through Libby or Overdrive: <https://gmlc.overdrive.com/>. For Village residents, we can even offer a temporary virtual card that will provide access to these online services. For a virtual card, contact the library by phone or email.

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

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

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

The Essex Free Library is currently closed to the public, but offers curbside pickup, Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more curbside details, please visit <https://www.essexvt.org/753/Curbside-Services>.

We are accepting book returns in the book drop only. Please do not return books inside the vestibule.

While the building is closed, our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don’t have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRmOhjO_OIGTNOZi_eJS3WJR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

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

Westford Library Trustee meeting

By Bree Drapa, Librarian, Westford Public Library

There will be a Library Trustee meeting on Wednesday, September 2 via Zoom, 7:00 – 8:30 PM. To join the meeting, go online to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86781018277?pwd=VtBqK3NvNVg0QUUcOUU5ZmZlM0Q3QT09>; Meeting ID 867 8101 8277; passcode *Library*. The agenda is as follows: 1. Public Comment (as needed); 2. Approve Minutes (2 minutes); 3. YTD Budget report (5 minutes); 4. Path to next level phase-in (15 minutes); 5. Process to Appt. Trustee (15 minutes); 6. Bldg. and Grounds (5 minutes); 7. Fund-raising activities (10 minutes); 7. Status Update FY22 Draft Budget (15 minutes); 8. Executive Session (30 minutes) separate Zoom meeting. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7.



Compost bin plans available at DRML

The State of Vermont recognizes food waste is the bulk of what goes to our landfills and decided to do something about it. As of July 1, 2020, Vermont state law bans food scraps from our trash. What that means is all Vermonters need to be composting. Are you struggling with how to compost? Do you have a composting bin? Well composting is easier than you think. The UVM Master Gardeners, working with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, would like to introduce you to their composting project. The garden at DRML has a compost bin made with wooden pallets, two boards of lumber, nails, outdoor grade zip ties, and plastic posts. This is a simple project, which will allow you to make your own compost bin. The plans are available at the library. Would you like to see our compost bin and receive more information about composting? Feel free to visit the garden behind the DRML. Or stop the garden on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00 AM while the Master Gardeners are working. They would be happy to answer your questions. In this photo of our compost bin, a sunflower and tomato plant have happily decided to grow and occupy the middle section of the bin!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanking our caring community

To the Editor,

I would like to thank the Underhill and Jericho community for the outpouring of condolences and support I have received after the sudden tragic death of my daughter, Melanie, in an automobile accident.

My family and I are still absorbing the shock and grieving her loss, but I am also realizing and feeling the benefit of living in our small, caring community as so many residents have sent cards and shared their sorrow.

Melanie and her sons were Jericho residents for over 15 years so she had a particular fondness for our Mount Mansfield Union Schools and I am able to take comfort that she is buried in an Underhill cemetery.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out and also to those of you that have remembered me and my family in their thoughts during this difficult time.

Trevor Squirrell
Underhill

Thank You from Alyssa Black

To the Editor,

My deepest and heartfelt appreciation to everyone in Chittenden 8-3 that voted in our Primary Election. It was an historic turnout and I'm absolutely overwhelmed and honored by both the participation, and for all those that offered me their support.

As we move toward the General Election, I'm excited for the opportunity to further connect with our community; I'm ready to listen and learn so that I can truly represent you in Montpelier. I honestly believe your vote is sacred, and I do not take any vote for granted. I'm ready to work and I hope I can earn your vote on November 3.

Thank you,

Alyssa Black
Candidate for State Representative Chittenden 8-3

Why no crosswalk?

To the Editor,

I am genuinely curious, why is there no crosswalk painted on VT Rt. 15 in front of Green Thumb Gardening, where the sidewalk clearly ends at the road and begins again on the other side? I walk that loop (VT Rt. 15, to River Road, to Park Street almost daily, and no one ever stops. Even state troopers have blown past me when I'm clearly standing there waiting, usually with two or three small kids in tow, and wearing a neon pink sweatshirt. I'm not even asking for the blinking light buttons they put in further down the road by Jolley and the Market, just some white lines so people actually might feel obligated to stop and not just pretend to not see people trying to cross safely. I know it is kind of at the point where the speed limit goes from 45 to 35 mph but most times there is plenty of space for the car to see someone standing there in time to slow down.

Julia Porter
Jericho

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Utility bill relief for Vermonters impacted by COVID-19

George Till and Trevor Squirrell
State Representatives, Chittenden-3

Developed by the Department of Public Service, the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program includes federal Coronavirus Relief Fund monies as appropriated by the Legislature. The program will provide 100% of eligible outstanding arrearages that are more than 60 days overdue for regulated utility customers with delinquent balances who may face disconnection of service if arrearages go unpaid. Eligible applicants include residential and nonresidential account holders served by a Vermont electric, natural gas, fixed-line telephone service provider or a private water company.

Applications will be accepted through November 30, 2020 and grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis until funds are exhausted or by the program's end date on December 20, 2020, whichever comes first.

For more information about the program and to apply, visit publicservice.vermont.gov or contact the Department at psd.consumer@vermont.gov or 1-800-622-4496.

Maximum grants increased for COVID-19-hit businesses

George Till and Trevor Squirrell
State Representatives, Chittenden-3

The maximum awards amount under an economic recovery grant program award has been increased for the Vermont business sectors most impacted by COVID-19.

Previously, businesses could receive up to \$50,000 in grant funds. Now, businesses in eligible industries can receive up to an additional \$100,000 in grant funding, for a total of \$150,000 from the program. The increased maximum award is available both to new applicants to the program and to those businesses that have already received a \$50,000 grant.

All businesses that received a \$50,000 grant award from the Department of Taxes are eligible to request an increase to the new maximum award amount and can do so through myVTax starting today. ACCD began contacting eligible businesses that already received a \$50,000 grant, notifying them this supplemental grant funding may be available to them starting Monday, August 24, 2020.

Businesses that have not yet applied for an Economic Recovery Grant are encouraged to apply if they have experienced losses of at least 50% in the months of March-July 2020 (compared to any one-month period from March-July 2019). Businesses that may not have been eligible based on earlier months are encouraged to evaluate their losses for the month of July, as they may now be eligible. More information can be found at Economic Recovery Grant Program website.

More than \$90 million has been awarded to more than 3500 businesses in 22 different sectors and all 14 counties in Vermont, but there are still funds available.

COVID-19 Relief Grants for agriculture, working lands

George Till and Trevor Squirrell
State Representatives, Chittenden-3

VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets announced \$8.5 million in relief funding has been made available for farmers, sugar makers, meat and poultry processors, slaughterhouses, farmers' markets, agricultural food products businesses, forest products businesses, and producer associations, to cover losses and expenses caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Agriculture and Working Lands Assistance Application is the third and final VT COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program (VCAAP) to launch this summer, following the earlier release of the Dairy Assistance Application and the Agricultural Fairs Application.

HOW TO APPLY: Prospective applicants can learn more and apply at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/vermont-covid-19-agriculture-assistance-program/agriculture-and-working-lands>.

Before applying, applicants should complete a W-9 form and gather documentation of losses and costs incurred since March 1, 2020 and that are related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In addition, the Agency hosted a series of webinars to walk through the application process and answer questions from prospective applicants. View the webinar recording at the Agriculture and Working Lands Assistance Application webpage.

Vermont dairy producers and processors who wish to apply for VCAAP relief funds should investigate and apply through the VCAAP dairy application, which can be found on the VAAFM

website. Visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/vermont-covid-19-agriculture-assistance-program/vermont-covid-19-agriculture> to begin your application today.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is October 1, 2020: However, grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so the application may close prior to October 1 if all funds are expended.

Legislature convenes for August session

By Theresa Wood, State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

(August 18)

The evenings are getting cooler, which is a relief! However, under normal circumstances you wouldn't be seeing a legislative update from me at this time of the year. But, as we all know, there is nothing normal about this year.

We are preparing to go back into session next Tuesday, August 25, with a few key actions on the agenda. One of the most important actions is passing a state budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. There is still much that is unknown, but we will do our best to pass a balanced budget taking into consideration the needs of Vermonters as well as the expected revenue to meet those needs.

Between the General Fund, the Education Fund, and the Transportation Fund, current estimates have the state experiencing a gap of between \$150-160 million in what is needed for the current fiscal year (July 2020-June 2021). Believe it or not, this is an improvement over estimates from a couple of months ago.

I will be participating in joint meetings with the House Appropriations Committee this week as we seek to streamline testimony from government officials. Please be in touch about any specific areas of the budget that you may be concerned about. We are expecting to see proposals to cut some programs, and it's helpful for me to hear what's important to you.

You can also tune in yourselves to the YouTube live stream of committee testimony, or tune in at your leisure. You can find the link here (click on "live stream" at the top of the page): <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/agenda/2020/5901>.

As citizens, you also have the opportunity to provide direct testimony on the budget at the scheduled public hearings. You can find out more information about those at this link: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Announcement-Uploads/Press-Release-JT-Public-Budget-Hearing-COVID.pdf>.

These are uncertain times, but one thing you CAN be certain of is that we will our best to meet the needs of the citizens of the state during this pandemic. Thank you, and as always, you can reach me at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

Public hearings on the FY'21 budget

By Robert Bancroft, State Representative, Chittenden-8-3

The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations sought public input on the Governor's Recommended FY 2021 State Budget and held public hearings on Thursday, August 27 and Friday, August 28 via videoconferencing. The Committees took testimony on the Governor's recommended state budget at the above dates and times.

To view the Governor's FY 2021 recommended budget, go to the Department of Finance and Management's website or use the following link: <https://finance.vermont.gov/budget/budget-recommendations/operating-budget>.

The public hearings are available to watch on your local Vermont Access community cable channel. You can find your local channel at <https://vermontaccess.net/amo/>.

VT Legislature back in session

By Lucy Rogers, State Representative, Lamoille-3

The VT House of Representatives began meeting again on Tuesday, August 25. Over the next month, we will construct and pass the state budget that will fund Vermont's state government for the remainder of FY21, from October 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. You can read the Governor's recommended FY21 budget online at https://finance.vermont.gov/sites/finance/files/FY2021_Restatement_-_Commissioner_Greshin_GF_Overview.pdf. If you'd like to submit written comments, they can be emailed ASAP to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee assistants at tutton@leg.state.vt.us and cgilhuly@leg.state.vt.us.

In addition to the budget, the legislature will finish up a few other bills from the 2019-20 legislative biennium. The topics we will likely cover include racial justice and law enforcement, child care, and economic stimulus. We will also finish allocating the Coronavirus Relief Fund money that came into the state through the federal CARES act.

As always, you can be in touch with me at 730-0604 or LRogers@leg.state.vt.us with questions, comments, or concerns.

ART NEWS

"Resilient Dancing" with Vermont Dance Alliance

The Vermont Dance Alliance, a nonprofit serving to enrich the ecosystem throughout the state of Vermont, is launching "Resilient Dancing," an online, open level, drop-in friendly dance class series from September to December!

We are excited to feature eleven diverse dance teachers, each of whom will lead three weekly classes on a wide range of dance topics. All classes are meant to serve anyone interested in dancing!

Register here: <https://forms.gle/qnUTRSGrfshjTXr9>

Class descriptions and teacher bios can be found on our website, <https://vermontdance.org/classes>. Zoom links for the courses you select will be sent to your email address upon completion of the registration form, pending receipt of payment. Payments can be made at vermontdance.org/support.

For more information, to request a group rate, or for scholarship and work-study options, please email info@vermontdance.org.

Please share with a dance loving friend!

Call for applications: Artist Development Grant

The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications until Monday, September 28 for its next round of Artist Development Grants.

Artist Development Grants support artists at all stages of their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills and activities that increase the viability of an artist's business. New this year: Grants can also support teaching artists in developing the skills necessary to provide instruction in K-12 schools remotely during the COVID-19 crisis.

For examples of previously funded projects, visit our list of recent grantees at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/recent-grantees>.

Learn more and apply on our website, <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/artist-development>.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

New contact for Jericho Community Center

After 27 years, Andrea Hook has retired from being the Building Manager and Scheduler for the Jericho Community Center. She did a fantastic job over many years, and we are all very appreciative. Now we are pleased to announce that Laura Olliver has been hired to take over that position. You can contact her by emailing cejvermont@gmail.com or calling 802-734-1342. Many thanks to Andrea, and a warm welcome to Laura. (From the Community Center Operating Committee.)

Paul Dragon appointed to VT Adult Learning Board of Trustees

Paul Dragon has been appointed to Vermont Adult Learning's Board of Trustees. Over the past 15 years, he has worked at the Agency of Human Services in several roles, including the Deputy Secretary for the Agency, the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and currently as the Director for Field Services. In each of these roles, he has sought to bring the Agency's vision of holistic and integrated services to Vermonters. As the Director of the Healthcare for the Homeless Program in Burlington, he led the development of the Safe Harbor Clinic and the Pearl Street Clinic.

Dragon received his Doctorate Degree in Education from the University of Vermont where he received the Herman B. Meyers Excellence in Doctoral Policy Research Award. He is the Executive Director of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity.

Dragon's commitment to ending poverty, promoting equity and building an inclusive community started as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali West Africa when he realized there needs to be an "ecological approach to building community that includes not only health care and social justice, but a deep connection and respect for the environment and all its inhabitants." Dragon lives with his wife and three children in Underhill.

"I am so pleased to be on the Board of Vermont Adult Learning and have long admired their passion, commitment and expertise in serving adult learners and in helping to strengthen our communities," Dragon said.

Vermont Adult Learning's Mission is to create an innovative, inclusive and equitable learning environment that provides personalized opportunities for education and career development for Vermont residents by building relationships, strengthening communities and fostering life-long learning. Learn more at www.vtadulthoodlearning.org.

Ashley Messier appointed to VT Commission on Women

Speaker of the VT House Mitzi Johnson has appointed Ashley Messier of Jericho, VT to serve a four-year term on the VT Commission on Women (VCW), the state's non-partisan commission working to advance rights and opportunities for women and girls.

Messier is the executive director of the Women's Justice and Freedom Initiative, which supports and advocates for women, girls, transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people impacted by systems of oppression, and is expressly committed to prison abolition. Messier's years of community organizing, advocacy and direct experience with the criminal legal system inform her passionate and powerful approach to advocacy and abolition. She was previously incarcerated at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

Messier also serves as the Vermont Organizer for the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. The Council is a network of formerly and currently incarcerated women and girls committed to reimagining communities and creating the shift from a criminal legal system to community-led human justice. Messier served as a consultant and then as lead Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont's Smart Justice, a campaign fighting in the legislatures, the courts, in the voting booth, and in the streets to end mass incarceration by addressing sentencing, bail and prosecutorial reform, as well as parole, release and re-entry reforms.

Messier is a member of Vermont's Human Trafficking Task Force and participates on its Housing sub-committee. Her related work includes an active role in an Act 146 work group exploring using restorative justice in domestic and sexual violence and stalking cases.



We proudly announce...

Hope Boutin and Brandon Francis proudly announce the birth of their son Brantley Brooks Francis on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 12:15 AM at the University Medical Center, Burlington, VT. Brantley weighed in at six lbs. one oz. and was nineteen inches long.



His paternal grandparents are Edmond Francis and Wendy Vanslette of So. Burlington, VT. Maternal grandparents are Brenda and David Boutin of Starksboro, VT.

Brenda is the owner, publisher of the Mountain Gazette which serves the Underhill-Jericho area.

Vermont's future: We are able... are we ready and willing?

By Bill Schubart

We face a difficult choice in Vermont. Do we struggle to recapture the past and preserve the self-interests designed into it or do we exercise the courage and leadership to step up, face down, and address the simmering challenges laid bare by the pandemic and made more difficult by an inept administration in Washington?

The challenges are familiar. Most Vermonters live with them. They're mostly access problems: healthcare, education and childcare, housing, food, broadband, civil rights, public transportation, and living-wage employment.

The tired banner that says our problems can all be solved by lower taxes and less regulation which will spur development fades in our current reality. Like most simple answers, it belies the complexity and risk that real solutions present. Oversimplification is easily consumed like a bag of potato chips — easily swallowed but lacking in nutrition.

We have enough money, we need strategic leadership and shared intelligence. We need to rebalance our State Motto Freedom and Unity and reinvest in unity.

Governor Scott has been one of the finest crisis managers in the country and we Vermonters owe him a great debt of gratitude. Many of us are alive because of his leadership and humility. Like any great leader, he has enlisted and deferred to experts to develop and deploy a plan for the safety of his citizens, and I, for one, am deeply grateful.

But as conditions change, so do the calls on leadership. For Vermont to recover fully and grow again, we must address our endemic challenges. They won't go away with a vaccine or herd immunity.

Various strategic groups are studying how to salvage Vermont's past institutional and administrative infrastructure. But these distract from the need to focus first on Vermonters' real needs. For now, we must ignore existing delivery systems and reimagine how we might deliver these needs more cost-efficiently, starting from our people, our families, and our communities, not our institutions.

Progress will depend on our willingness to leave ideologies and self-interests at the door and examine how we make governing decisions, especially how we move from costly consulting studies to transformative action. We will need to:

- Ignore the endless "problem statements" and focus on articulated "opportunity statements."
- Abandon the natural inclination to insulate the current infrastructure's self-interests from any change.
- Start by defining the needs of the individual, the family, or the community.
- Move our socio-economic investments upstream from remediation and repair to prevention.

Healthcare is a good example. It's far less expensive to educate Vermonters on how to lead healthy lives, prevent and treat early onset of disease than it is to repair late-stage disease, especially chronic conditions like diabetes. So why do we have so few primary, pediatric, and geriatric docs and so many specialists? Repairing broken people is a far more lucrative business; less so, ensuring their wellness. A recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) by Donald Berwick called "The Moral Determinants of Health" expresses this succinctly.

Art continued from page 8

Artists in schools, virtually too

A playwright helps an English teacher to mentor writing students. A dancer and a math teacher collaborate to illustrate spatial relationships through movement. A composer works with a music teacher to help students compose and perform original works of music. These are artists in schools.

The Arts Council's "Artists in Schools" program is now open for applications. The grant funds short-term artist residencies in classrooms or through remote learning with teachers from our Teaching Artist Roster (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/schools/teaching-artists/teaching-artist-roster>). Residencies may be funded for up to ten days and are intended to serve as a model for the integration of the arts across the PreK-12 curriculum. Artists are expected to collaborate with classroom teachers to ensure that the residency meets student learning objectives and that there is a sustainable impact on the school community.

Education and childcare is another. We know enough to move ahead:

- Science tells us that critical brain development begins prenatally and accelerates significantly in the preschool ages.
- Lack of childcare inhibits employment and regular income.
- Lack of income complicates housing and food security.
- The homeless, hungry, or abused child does not learn normally and will be more expensive to help downstream.

Rather than closing local schools, let's use our knowledge of early childhood learning and begin at birth, making the most of those early child development years. Combine this with early intervention, trauma-informed family care and we will significantly lower the downstream costs of special ed, criminal justice, and corrections.

What will higher ed look like next year? Even as each of the system's component colleges have their own group working to ready their institution for the future, the Vermont State College Board of Trustees has charged a statewide taskforce to design the future of the system as a whole. In addition, the Vermont Legislature created a Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont (Act 120). This group is focusing its initial inquiry on the changing needs and profiles of students and their future employers. The vitality of the component institutions and communities remains important, but if the redesign doesn't meet the future needs and financial capacity of Vermonters of all ages, we'll simply be furthering the decline of public higher ed in Vermont.

And how does higher ed's future tie into other challenges? Can unused dorms become temporary affordable or homeless housing... alternatives to corrections? Can empty campuses become labs of innovation and entrepreneurship in partnership with business? Most critical, will we have built out the broadband necessary to reduce residency and infrastructure costs as we move classrooms online?

Environmentally, it's vastly cheaper to care for the communities, natural spaces, and working landscapes we have now than it is to remediate the damage we're doing to our soils, water, and air with antiquated sewer systems, fossil-fuel emissions, and weed-killer and chemical fertilizer applications to our soils. We're making significant progress here with the emergence of regenerative agriculture and regional food systems that supply Vermonters at increasingly competitive prices with food grown nearby without the injurious health impacts of additives and distribution costs from a deteriorating industrialized food supply chain.

In public transportation... I can land in Stockholm, Sweden, board a train into Stockholm and travel by unmanned light rail to many small towns in Sweden without ever renting a car. Such low impact, high-delivery public transportation systems will require major national funding... perhaps a better long-term investment than the F-35s that rattle our homes. During its 60-year lifetime, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) projects this single-pilot, deeply flawed fleet of 535 fighter planes will cost \$1.12 trillion dollars. Imagine if this had been invested in a national rail system.

We can do this. It will take courage, leadership, and a deepened sense of community. Our egos and privilege haunt our past. But our families, communities, and institutions are our future.

The pandemic has presented us both with an accelerator to our problems and a time to reflect and reinvent a better life for ourselves and our children.

VT Arts Council resource central: grants and more

Visit the Council's COVID-19 and Vermont Arts Council Grantmaking web page (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/covid-19-vermont-arts-council-grantmaking>) for updates on the Council's grant programs.

Are you an artist seeking COVID-19 grants and resources? Visit the Council's Resources for Artists page (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources-artists>).

Are you part of an organization seeking COVID-19 grants and resources. Visit the Council's Resources for Organizations web page (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources-organizations>).

In addition, our Knowledge Center (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/knowledge-center>) has business and legal resources, information on insurance and disaster preparedness and other sources of funding, including for specific disciplines, i.e., visual artists, craftspeople, writers, musicians, and filmmakers.

the Jungle

By Kimberly Madura

i know a place
wild, natural and free,
pull back the green velvet curtain and reveal
an emerald city,
this viridescent oz

come away to
this secret garden
my private canopy
full of soft rain

find the rainforest
through the ivy and ferns, eucalyptus and sage
grass and meadows, and oh so many trees
both pale and neon
peridot, cucumber and lime
tropical watercolors

follow where the huntress goes
with abandon
and the echo is heard
unfolding across time

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What will higher ed look like next year? Even as each of the system's component colleges have their own group working to ready their institution for the future, the Vermont State College Board of Trustees has charged a statewide taskforce to design the future of the system as a whole. In addition, the Vermont Legislature created a Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont (Act 120). This group is focusing its initial inquiry on the changing needs and profiles of students and their future employers. The vitality of the component institutions and communities remains important, but if the redesign doesn't meet the future needs and financial capacity of Vermonters of all ages, we'll simply be furthering the decline of public higher ed in Vermont.

And how does higher ed's future tie into other challenges? Can unused dorms become temporary affordable or homeless housing... alternatives to corrections? Can empty campuses become labs of innovation and entrepreneurship in partnership with business? Most critical, will we have built out the broadband necessary to reduce residency and infrastructure costs as we move classrooms online?

Environmentally, it's vastly cheaper to care for the communities, natural spaces, and working landscapes we have now than it is to remediate the damage we're doing to our soils, water, and air with antiquated sewer systems, fossil-fuel emissions, and weed-killer and chemical fertilizer applications to our soils. We're making significant progress here with the emergence of regenerative agriculture and regional food systems that supply Vermonters at increasingly competitive prices with food grown nearby without the injurious health impacts of additives and distribution costs from a deteriorating industrialized food supply chain.

In public transportation... I can land in Stockholm, Sweden, board a train into Stockholm and travel by unmanned light rail to many small towns in Sweden without ever renting a car. Such low impact, high-delivery public transportation systems will require major national funding... perhaps a better long-term investment than the F-35s that rattle our homes. During its 60-year lifetime, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) projects this single-pilot, deeply flawed fleet of 535 fighter planes will cost \$1.12 trillion dollars. Imagine if this had been invested in a national rail system.

We can do this. It will take courage, leadership, and a deepened sense of community. Our egos and privilege haunt our past. But our families, communities, and institutions are our future.

The pandemic has presented us both with an accelerant to our problems and a time to reflect and reinvent a better life for ourselves and our children.

Message from LUHS school counselors

By Brian Schaffer

Lamoille Union High School Principal
Hi Lancers!

We are excited to be back in the building and preparing for your return on Tuesday, September 8, whether in-person, hybrid, or remote. This is going to be a school year unlike any other, and we are sure you have a million questions about how things will work. We wanted to send you some information about how the schedule will work this year, and how you will be scheduled into classes.

If you attended any of the community forums this summer, some of this may be repeat information. If not, you may be hearing this for the first time. The LUHS schedule will look much different this year, so that we can follow the health and safety guidelines set down by the state and our district leaders.

The Octave Model

This year, instead of taking up to eight classes at a time for a whole semester or year, students will be taking two classes at a time for one quarter each. This will allow us to be more flexible if things need to change mid-year. You will still be in school for the full day, for an AM class and a PM class. These classes will be longer than the classes you're used to, but be structured to make use of the extended time.

Weekly Schedule

To begin the year, most students will be attending in-person school two days per week and working remotely three days per week. We have received the district survey results and will begin assembling your schedule. You will be in-person either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. ALL students and teachers will be working remotely on Wednesday. We will try to honor requests as best we can, however we are also seeking to divide students based on total numbers within safety limits. We intend to keep siblings together across the district (elementary/middle/high school) to make it easier on families.

Student Pods

This was a non-negotiable aspect of this schedule due to health and safety. Students will be placed in groups ("pods") of about 15 that will stay together for the school day. Within these pods, you will have two teachers per quarter. At the end of each quarter, you will move into a new pod, with new students and teachers.

Pod Assignments

Many of you sent in course requests in the spring, in preparation for a traditional schedule of classes. Since we are not using that schedule, you will have another opportunity to request your two classes for Quarter 1. You will be given a list of options of course pairings. We will also have more specific descriptions of the courses and proficiencies covered in those pairings. You will be asked to rank these options in terms of preference. Pods will be filled on a "first come first served" basis based on your submitted ranking. There will be more information coming soon about the exact dates/times of this request period. Please keep an eye on your school email inbox.

We know this represents a big change in how we do things at LUHS, and we will all need to adapt. We have all the confidence in the world that we will rise to this challenge as a community.

There will be a mailing home which includes this letter and annual registration forms. Please return this to our school as soon as possible; you may do so by mail or by dropping it in the red "Homework Drop Off" bin located at the main high school entrance.

You will receive another communication that will include your schedule and some VERY IMPORTANT procedure information in our updated student handbook in the upcoming weeks.

We know there are many questions heading into the school year. Please send your school counselor questions, and we will do our very best to answer them:

Deb Zmich, dzmich@luhs18.org

Emily Braggins, ebraggins@luhs18.org

Ian Trombulak, itrombulak@luhs.org

Or for general inquires, email Christine Cooney, Registrar, ccooney@luhs18.org

We may not have immediate answers, as everything about this is brand new, but answers will come. As always, your patience and flexibility are incredibly appreciated.

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY September 23, 2020 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following

- A request to the DRB by Wesley Grove & Mari Leme for a conditional use review. This property is located at 91 Governor Peck Road which is in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zoning District.
- A request to the DRB From Edward Minicozzi for a preliminary and final plat review to amend a previously approved subdivision from 2 lot to a 4-lot major subdivision. This property is located at 422 Browns Trace which is in the Low Density residential Zoning District.
-

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net or call Brenda Boutin for more information.

We print obituaries, marriages, engagements, births and other life's milestones for free.

SPORTSNEWS

Adult recreation soccer in Westford

Adult soccer registration is now open. The plan is to have both a women's and men's program if we have the numbers. We need 12-16 participants for both programs. A point person will be needed for each group. Please indicate on your registration form if you are interested.

Both programs are to run Sundays at 4:00 PM at the Westford School. Registration: \$45.

The registration form has been updated with a COVID-19 release agreement to ensure the safety of our program participants, and our community. Additionally, all participants will be signed-in at the start of each program to ensure the safety check-list has been completed.

Sign up via the Registration Form at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WESTFORD-RECREATION-DEPARTMENT-REGISTRATION-FORM-July-2020.pdf>.

GMC's HikeVT recommends hikes in Vermont each week

HikeVT knows that summer plans are likely different than hoped for, so to help make the best of it the Green Mountain Club (GMC) will suggest — each week — a set of hikes that are easy, moderate, difficult, and accessible around the state. The suggestions will have directions, descriptions, and places to visit along the way.

Recent recommendations featured the Lamoille River Valley in Johnson, with trails along the riverbank and trails to cliffs above.

- Lamoille River Bridge: easy
- Prospect Rock via Long Trail: moderate
- Laraway Lookout: difficult
- Lamoille Valley Rail Trail: easy, accessible

For more information, see the HikeVT page on the GMC webpage, <https://www.greenmountainclub.org/hiking/hikevt/>.

Fall baseball for ages 8-11

Fall baseball sign ups for 8-11 year olds are happening now. Players play at the level they will play at next Spring: 8-9 year olds play minors fall ball, 10-11 year olds play majors fall ball. The season runs mid-September through mid-October, games on Saturdays only, with one weekly practice typically. There is a nominal cost to play.

Please reach out to Coach Bill Laporte, bill@apofvt.com, if interested! The deadline to sign up is Thursday, September 3!

For 12 year olds aging out of Little League, join fall ball Babe Ruth! Reach out to Coach Andy Tosch, atosch@ups.com, for information!

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2020

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

The *Mountain Gazette* store-delivers - Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Essex Junction, Essex, Essex Center, Fairfax, Huntington, Hinesburg, Jonesville, and Richmond.

Circulation varies at this time due to COVID - 19

The *Mountain Gazette* is owned and operated by Brenda Boutin. Boutin has a B.A. in Graphic Design and is the Graphic Designer. Ads are designed for you at no added cost.

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\$8.25 column inch,
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10-1/4" x 8" or 5" x 15-1/2"
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Subscriptions \$35.00 per year

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Advertising – 5:00 PM

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Contract rates available, More sizes available

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INSERTS: 1 – 4 PAGES, 8-1/2" X 11" COST: \$45.00 PREPAID PER 1000

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General Election/Town Meeting/Presidential Primary

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTERS

1. Mark each ballot, put ballot(s) in this envelope, and seal envelope.
2. Complete and SIGN the certificate below.
3. Place this certificate envelope marked "Voted Ballot(s)" inside the envelope marked "Vermont Official Early or Absent Voter Ballots."
4. Mail or deliver the "Vermont Official Early or Absent Voter Ballots" envelope to your Town Clerk's office in time to be received before the close of the office on the day before the election. (Be sure to check your Town Clerk's hours.) You can also deliver this envelope to the polling place before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Early or Absentee Voter Ballot(s) of: Jane Doe
 (Print your name)

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am:

1. a.) A legal voter on the voter registration checklist for the Town or City of: Westford

OR

b.) A member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty; or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member; or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.;

OR

Other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.

AND

2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the date of the election), and I am eligible to vote in this jurisdiction; and

3. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. except the jurisdiction:
 Town or City of Westford.

In voting, I have marked and sealed my ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of the ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law. I have not been influenced.

My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document.

The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

SIGNED: Jane Doe **DATE:** 8/20/20

Back

BE SURE TO FILL OUT AND SIGN THE CERTIFICATE/OATH ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS ENVELOPE OR YOUR VOTE WILL NOT COUNT!

NOTE: If these ballot(s) have been brought to you by two justices of the peace, return them to the justices after you have sealed AND SIGNED the envelope.
 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MARK YOUR BALLOTS IN PRIVATE – but if you ask for help, the justices will assist you.

VOTED BALLOT(S)

Voter information for the general election in November

The Vermont Secretary of State's Office will be mailing a ballot to all active voters around Friday, September 18. If you do not receive a ballot by the end of September, or if you have any questions, please contact your Town Office or Town Clerk.

For reference, see the photos, front and back, of the envelope used to return your voted ballot. Please carefully follow the instructions on the ballot as well as the envelopes included with the ballot. Unfortunately, every election there are ballots deemed defective because a voter did not follow the directions. It is a shame that a voter has gone through the effort to cast their vote on a ballot but failed to follow directions to ensure their vote counts. The instructions on the envelopes are clear. You MUST seal your voted ballot in the certificate envelope AND sign the envelope. This is a minimum. Voters should also fill in the blanks where indicated (filled out for a Westford resident in the pictured example).

Any voter may vote in person at the polls. However, due to COVID-19, Vermont is encouraging voters to vote by absentee ballot to reduce the number of people at the polls. If you choose to vote in person, you must adhere to CDC guidelines and the Governor's Order (wearing a mask, social distancing of six feet, etc.). If you are experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other symptom of a respiratory illness, or if you have had contact with a person who has tested COVID-19 positive, you will need to vote by absentee ballot.

A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS!



Milton - \$420,000
 New home to be built on 3 acre private lot in Milton. The contemporary colonial proposed features 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and 1768 sq. feet. Enjoy the south facing full farmers porch to rock and relax at the end of the day. Energy efficient home with full basement & 2 car garage. Easy access to I89 and town.



Fairfax- \$364,900
 To be built! Contemporary ranch on wooded lot on over 6+ acres of common land. First floor master suite w/ large walk-in closet and separate guest wing w/ 2 beds and full bath. Sunlit dining room looks onto front porch and opens into great room. 2 car garage opens into large mudroom w/ half bath and laundry. A Vermonter's dream!



Jericho- \$359,000
 One level home built in 2011. Step in from your covered porch into the open floor plan. 1630 sq ft and 3 bedrooms including master suite. 2 full baths. Deck overlooking your back yard. Attached 2 car garage. Great Jericho Village location close to schools, restaurants and the famous Palmer Lane Maple creamery!



Fairfax- \$191,500
 Two bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome at Mill Hill in Fairfax Village. Close to schools & stores. Open Floor plan with Lg eat-in kitchen, oak cabinets & lots of counterspace. Ample closet space, washer & dryer hookups, partially finished lower level. Attached garage, front porch & back deck.

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