

Christmas Eve: lost package, found package

By Bernie Paquette

It was December 24 and all was still except for the snowflakes drifting lazily down, each arriving exactly where it was supposed to go, the last deliveries from a tumultuous month of deliveries.



All the UPS, Fedex, and USPS trucks were nestled in their respective garages. Their exhausted drivers were deep under covers for a well-deserved rest; each one dreaming of house numbers transposed, street names misspelled, and misguided GPS directions, as mountains of packages descended from the sky.

Only one driver remained on duty. Having rested all year, this driver was spry and active and moving at full speed — in spite of his very old age as one could guess by his white beard, which matched his white gloves and fluffy coat collar.

He had finished his run in record time, having delivered at least one package to every boy and girl in Jericho, Underhill, and Richmond. His rosy cheeks and a belly full of chocolate and cookies gave testament to his reward. He chuckled at first, then rolled out a full belly laugh to think of the joy and happiness that filled the air as kindness drifted out of chimneys, more on this night than any other. And this gave him hope, as all acts of kindness do.

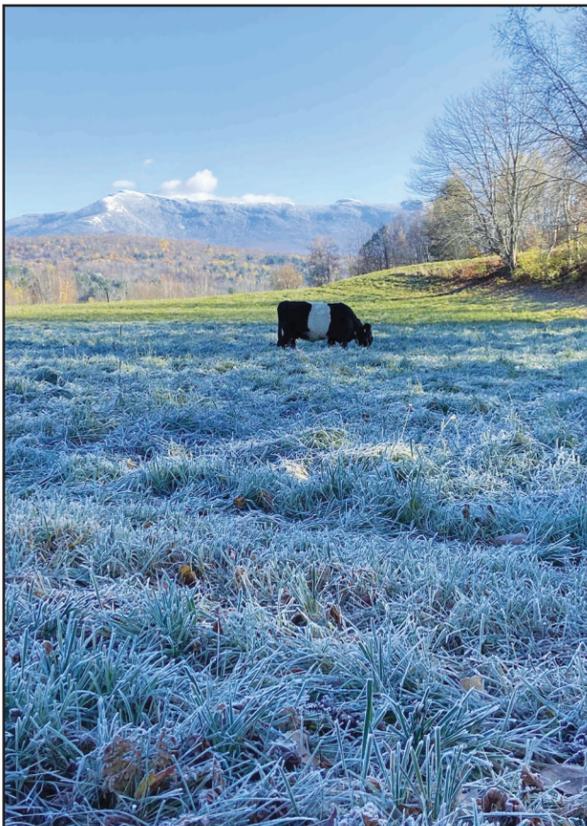
Just as he was about to turn north to head home, an FPF post flashed on his sleigh dashboard. The message read, "LOST PACKAGE!"

"Oh, dear, dear me," he thought, "tonight of all nights, we cannot have any, no not *any* lost packages."

But before he could re-check his delivery list — a list with thousands of names and addresses — another "Lost Package" notice popped up, then another, and another, then ten more, then dozens that announced "MISSING PACKAGE," and one that said, "DELIVERED TO Johnny, but BELONGS TO Sally." The messages started appearing so fast he could hardly finish reading one before another appeared. Some of the lost packages were showing up as "FOUND PACKAGE, if your name is so and so, we have your package." The screen was scrolling so fast now it became just a blur, a flurry of mis-delivered packages on Christmas Eve. This had never happened before, not on Christmas Eve.

In a near panic, he thought, "With only a few precious hours left before Christmas, what to do? And how could this happen? An errant disgruntled elf? An uncalibrated GPS? Did my glasses

Packages continued on page 2



It's not just on the pumpkins: the frost is on this pasture with a view of Mount Mansfield, which the belted cow may or may not appreciate.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS

Westford special Selectboard meeting minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Read the minutes from the Thursday, December 2 Selectboard meeting here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-02-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Open position on Cambridge Town Planning Commission

We currently have an open position on the Cambridge Town Planning Commission. If you are interested please join us on Monday, December 20 so that we may meet you and that you may ask us any questions that you have about being on the Planning Commission.

Things we are currently working on would include: writing an enhanced energy plan for the town of Cambridge; trying to find an Administrative Officer for the town of Cambridge; and endorsing the town being involved with a grant application to study the barriers that communities have with childcare.

So please, if any of this interests you, join us on Monday, December 20 at 7:00 PM. We meet at the Town Hall above the Post Office in Jeffersonville, or you can join us on Zoom. Just look out for the agenda to be posted on the town website for the Zoom link.

Thanks and hope to see some of you soon.

Storm of events causing problems for printing companies...

... including Sun Community News & Printing in Elizabethtown, NY, where the *Mountain Gazette* is printed. Sun Community's President and Publisher Emeritus Dan Alexander says, "Our printing company is confronting an unprecedented series of events: staffing shortages, an outbreak of COVID-19, and equipment failures. Supply chain disruptions are real things, and our print newspaper is very much a manufactured product, made week in and week out by a small but talented and dedicated crew." The *Mountain Gazette* and other small community newspapers in Vermont are likely to encounter delays as a result. We will continue to print the *Gazette*, and will distribute the paper copies in as timely a manner as possible. You can always find our content posted on the *Mountain Gazette* Facebook page, and the full latest edition of the *Mountain Gazette* (and most recent 15 years of past editions) on our website, www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com.

Jericho zoning regulations draft

By Katherine Sonnick

Jericho Planning Commission

Here is some information that sums up the Zoning changes.

Here are the main categories:

- 1) make it easier to add an Accessory Dwelling Unit in Jericho;
- 2) changes to certain subdivisions called PUDs; and
- 3) changes to how duplexes and multi-family buildings are permitted in town.

Here's a link to minutes on the Planning Commission page where the changes were discussed (look at the meetings through the minutes for the last year and half, but good summaries as from the summer and the fall of 2021): <https://jerichovt.org/planning-commission>. The Planning Commission wants to thank the public for providing feedback and input throughout the process for the past 18 months.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing Tuesday, December 14 to hear comments on the draft zoning. The meeting was held at Town Hall and also via Zoom. After hearing from the public on December 14, if the PC finalizes their recommendations, the draft will be passed to the Selectboard for formal consideration and public hearing(s), likely to occur in January.

Please feel free to contact me for more information, at ksonnick@jerichovt.gov.

New hours: Cambridge Food Shelf

The Cambridge Food Shelf, located in the basement of the Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville, has new hours! We are now open on Tuesdays, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and are no longer open on Monday evenings.

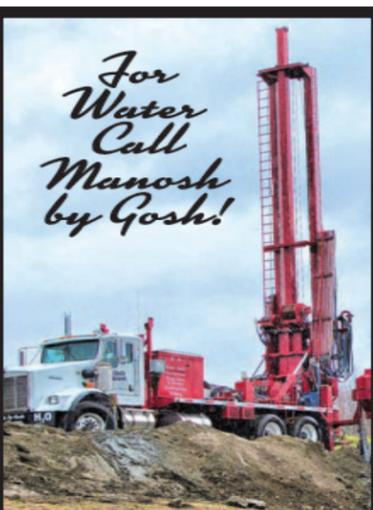
On order to keep everyone safe, please bring proof of vaccination to shop downstairs. If you are not vaccinated, you are still welcome to come and have your order filled by volunteers while you remain upstairs.

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Pump Sales & Service
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Construction Drilling
Pond Aeration
Fountains

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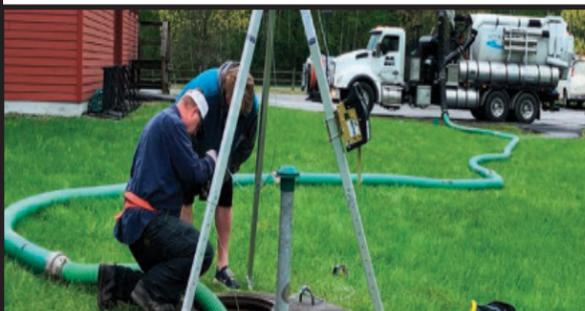


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Packages continued from page 1

fog up? I knew those signs did not look right. No matter, the important thing now is to deliver these misdirected packages, each to their rightful child. But how, with so little time left?" Santa looked over at his reindeer and realized even if he was still spry, they were wasted from pulling the sleigh all night. He could not ask them to do much more tonight.



"There is only one thing to do," he thought. "I must call on the goodwill of these communities to help me. These boxes, each carefully filled with a gift, stuffed with love and care, sealed tightly with the glue of a warm hug, addressed in large block letters with the utmost accuracy and legibility, must — they must — be delivered to the correct address by Christmas morning."

And so, as increasing snowflakes clustered together as though holding hands (and severely limiting visibility), Santa abandoned his sleigh and began knocking on doors, walking from house to house, asking for help.

Luckily some of the first houses he came to were those of UPS, Fedex, and USPS drivers who, after waking and quickly downing some coffee, gathered around Santa to see how they could help.

Soon neighbors were stepping out to see what all the flashlights and scurrying was all about, and once informed of the lost and found and misdirected packages, jumped in to search and match lost and found with the correct deliverance.

Within an hour hundreds of folks were making corrected deliveries, only not through chimneys but by knocking softly on doors to deliver in person. And a strange thing happened as a result of the lost and found on Christmas Eve. Neighbors got to know each other a little bit better. Some were invited in for cookies and hot chocolate. Some made plans to have a skating or sledding outing together to allow whole families to meet up. And the Fedex and UPS and USPS folks gained additional respect for helping out, especially given the knowledge that even Santa can occasionally make a delivery error.

Santa finally made it home, mission accomplished, as the clock struck the early hours of Christmas morning. Mrs. Claus had been very worried, and when Santa had told her the whole story they both shared a long-lasting hug, knowing that even when things go wrong, even when a problem is bigger than any one person, community — folks working together to help each other — gets the job done. Ribbons on packages are pretty and presents are fine, but the kindness that goes into those packages is the most important gift of all.

As the last snowflakes fell from the sky, an errant wind threatened to blow them off course. Just then two neighbors stepped out onto their porches to wish each other a Merry Christmas, and the warm air, some would say the warm air of kindness, drifted out of the two houses and combined, pushing back against the cold breeze, allowing the snowflakes to land just where they were supposed to go.

Wishing you all, kindness received just where and when you need it. — Bernie



SMOOTH HOLIDAY RETURNS



TIP #1

Make stock from your turkey and bring the bones to a CSWD Drop-Off Center for composting.



TIP #2

Recycle burned out string lights as scrap metal but don't put them in your recycling bin.



TIP #3

Take your natural Christmas tree to CSWD's Williston, Essex, or Milton Drop-Off Centers to be chipped for composting.

For holiday waste and recycling tips even a Grinch will love, visit cswd.net. Happy waste-free holidays from CSWD!

LEARN MORE:
(802) 872-8100
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WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 PM; contact info@mmuuf.org for Zoom information. January 9: Gaye Symington. February 13: Sarah Ward. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be exclusively held over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We are young and old; single, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. All are welcome. Some people think of us as the Harvest Market Church or the Clutter Barn Church. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children's sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 802-899-4583.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church now worships in person at the church on Sundays at 9:30 AM. Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho; Calvary has a new phone number: 802-899-0453. All are warmly welcome!

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

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

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

St. Thomas Catholic Church

St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center invites you to join us in person for the Holy Mass at 8:30 AM every Sunday. There is also a vigil Mass at 4:00 PM on Saturday evenings. Our priest, Fr. Richard Calapan, also celebrates Mass during the week, on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and Fridays at 8:00 AM. Confessions are available on Tuesdays before Mass. Our Christmas Masses will be celebrated at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, and 9:00 AM on Christmas Morning, Saturday, December 25. At our sister parish, St. Mary's in Cambridge, Fr. Calapan will celebrate Mass at 7:00 PM and at midnight on Christmas Eve, and at 10:30 AM on Christmas Day. Visit us at www.stthomasvt.com or call 802-899-4632 for more information.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. The building is accessible — all are welcome! In addition, online offerings include Monday evening *Lectio Divina*, Tuesday Vespers, and Centering Prayer on Friday mornings. Good Shepherd also hosts the monthly online *Racism in America* Forum. Access information and more about the church is at GoodShepherdJericho.org. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information at 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Impressionism

By Kimberly Madura

turquoise rivers in the rain
fish suspended in deep violet hued pools
hyacinth blue ink-stained views

News briefs continued from page 1

Westford Winter Road Policy

By Nanette Rogers
Westford Town Clerk

The Westford Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining 39.4 miles of town roads, of which 36.9 miles are gravel and 2.5 miles are paved. This policy is based on the goal of obtaining safe highway travel surfaces during winter months. It is our goal to achieve this at the earliest practical time and in the most cost efficient manner during and after a storm event. Providing bare, dry travel surfaces during a winter storm event is not practical and therefore not expected.

Each winter storm event is unique. It is impractical to develop specific rules on winter maintenance operations. Therefore, the judgment of the Road Foreman often governs the quantities and type of applications used to control snow and ice.

Snow plowing

The Town of Westford begins plowing when snow has accumulated 2-3". Plowing may begin as early as 4:00 AM and stops when the storm has ended or 10:00 PM, whichever comes sooner.

Sand

Sand will be applied to all gravel roads. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as ¼" in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for any vehicle repairs, such as the replacement of windshields. When ice is present under the sand, instant stops are impossible.

Plow routes

Each plow route takes approximately four hours to complete, sometimes longer depending on the storm. This means if plowing started when there was 2" of snow on the road, by the time the truck finishes the route there is the potential for up to 6" or more of snow on the road again. Therefore, during a heavy snowstorm, at times there will be snow on the roads. There shall be no riders in the town trucks other than the operator of the truck and authorized town officials. All town trucks shall be pulled to the side of the road when the operator is using a cell phone.

Freezing rain

It is important to note that salt or sand is less effective if applied before the rain stops. There is little the Westford Highway Department can do during a freezing rain storm. Salt and sand will be applied to the roads sparingly during the event and more aggressively as needed once the storm is over.

Bare roads

The Town of Westford does not have a bare road policy. Travelers who use Town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution while driving during the winter months.

Mailboxes

The Town will not repair or replace mailboxes damaged by snow or ice clearing operations. Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes/posts that have not been adequately mounted and maintained or braced, or those mailboxes with doors left open. Also, mailboxes/posts may be damaged by a private contractor or homeowners during driveway clearing operations.

Trash placement

Trash and trash receptacles should be placed in a manner that will not interfere with winter road maintenance. The Town will not be responsible for damage to trash receptacles or trash clean up as a result of its obstruction of snow removal.

Parked vehicles

No vehicle shall be parked on the Town's right-of-way from the start of precipitation until 48 hours after the storm ends. The Town reserves the right to tow parked vehicles at the owner's expense. The Town is not liable for damages incurred to vehicles parked in the Town's right-of-way.

Plowing across roads

The practice of plowing snow from driveways across Town roads is prohibited. Residual snow creates a dangerous obstruction (piles, ridges, etc.). Snow shoveling into the roadway will cause similar problems. Once frozen, the piles/ridges can cause vehicles to lose control and can also cause damage to vehicles and town trucks and equipment. Generally, the Town will warn the responsible resident for a first occurrence. Subsequent violations may result in further action, which may include but is not limited to fines.

You can find the Winter Road Policy on the Town's website here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>.

Town of Underhill winter plowing

By Brad Holden,

Underhill Town Administrator

As winter quickly approaches, please make sure that vehicles do not interfere with snow removal operations — parking is not allowed on Town Highways during winter months.

In addition, please ensure that mailboxes are set to rural mailbox standards. Mailboxes that do not meet the standard may be subject to snowplow damage. Thank you.

LVRT and Cambridge Greenway updates

By Laird MacDowell, Chair
Cambridge Trails Committee

VTrans has awarded a contract for the final section to be built of the 93-mile-long Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). The 12.44-mile section from Morrisville (Tenney Bridge) to Hardwick Village, passing through Wolcott, was awarded to S.D. Ireland Construction of Williston.

The other unfinished trail sections now under VTrans contracts are: Hardwick to West Danville, 17.85 miles, GW Tatro Construction of Jeffersonville; Cambridge to Sheldon, 18.37 miles, Dirt Tech Company of Colchester; seven bridge rebuilds or replacement, JP Sicard Inc. of Barton. All of the above projects are required to be completed by November 2022.

The completed sections of the LVRT are: Sheldon to Swanton, 12.6 miles; Cambridge to Morrisville, 17.5 miles; West Danville to St. Johnsbury, 17 miles.

Cambridge Greenway update: The nearly half-mile long railbed portion of the 1.25-mile long Cambridge Greenway, from the Brewster River Bridge to the LVRT intersection, now has a new layer of crushed gravel that is two inches thick and seven feet wide. A portion of the Greenway adjacent to the GW Tatro Construction yard also has a new layer of gravel along with the start of the Greenway next to the parking lot located across Church Street from the Mobil Station.

Bolton: Sand - yes! Salt - no!

By Amy Grover

Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

REMINDER: The Town is continuing the policy of allowing residents to take a *reasonable* amount of town sand (the sand pile is located behind the Town Garage) for *personal use*.

However, the road salt in the salt shed is OFF LIMITS! Over a recent weekend, more than two yards of road salt was taken from the shed. We hope that that the folks responsible were simply unaware that road salt is off limits. However, the Town will address this issue, if it continues, with additional security, or perhaps even gating access to the Town Garage driveway. We hope that this will not be necessary. Thanks for your help with this.

Underhill seeks responses to Hazard Mitigation survey

By Brad Holden

Underhill Town Administrator

The jurisdictions of Chittenden County are preparing an update to the 2017 Chittenden County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The multi-jurisdictional plan will identify local policies and actions for reducing risk and future losses from hazards such as floods, severe winter storms, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and more.

This survey provides an opportunity for you to share your opinions and participate in the mitigation planning process. The information you provide will help us and your community better understand your hazard concerns and can lead to mitigation activities that help lessen the impacts of future disasters. Participation in the survey is voluntary and none of the information you provide will be attributed to you.

The Town of Underhill is reposting the Chittenden County, Vermont Hazard Mitigation Public Survey in hopes of getting more participation. We had four responses to the prior survey. If you have time please follow the link below and provide your input. Thank you

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KLB6RM>.

The Mountain Gazette

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HEALTH NEWS

Lions Club Blood Drive January 8

The Underhill Jericho Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood — please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season. The Red Cross is requiring everyone to wear a face mask regardless of their vaccine status. Please schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org> and entering COVENANT in the search bar. Thank you!

Kids 5-11 can get a COVID-19 vaccine

From the VT Department of Health

Getting our children vaccinated against COVID-19 will keep them safe and healthy. It also means more freedom so kids can be kids. They can see friends and family, travel and stay in school — all with less worry.

The COVID-19 vaccine for kids is a smaller dose made just for them. It teaches your child's body how to fight off the virus. And it's safe, effective, and free.

Visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/KidsVaccine> to make an appointment for your child. You can also check with your local pharmacy or your child's health care provider to see if they offer the vaccine.

Cambridge Fire Department Blood Drive January 8

Please consider donating blood at this returning annual blood drive on Saturday, January 8, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville. Please visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=alexthefighter> to sign up for an appointment. Last time we had to turn away any walk-ins, so please plan ahead and schedule your time slot!

Vermont's Health Care**Advocate (HCA) HelpLine**

Vermont's HCA HelpLine is a free resource available to help all Vermonters solve problems related to health care. The Helpline can:

- tell you what free and lower-cost programs you may be eligible for;
- help you apply for and get free and lower-cost health coverage;
- find out what your health plan covers;
- provide advice about how to solve billing problems and make complaints; and
- work for fair treatment and affordable health services for everyone.

The Office of the Health Care Advocate is not an insurance company and is not part of Vermont state government. It is a special project within Vermont Legal Aid, an independent non-profit law firm.

Call 1-800-917-7787 to speak with a health care advocate, or fill out our Help Request Form.

To get help with a health care issue, call the HCA HelpLine at 1-800-917-7787. To speak with an advocate, call during business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday, except holidays) or call anytime and leave a message. You can also ask for help by filling out our Help Request Form.

You can also use our online help tool. Answer a few questions to find the health care information you need. Use the Legal Help Tool and choose "Health."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Toys for Kids barrels — drop toys until December 21

To the Editor,

I am volunteering as a barrel monitor again this year for the Marine League Toys for Kids collection in our community. This community is wonderful and in the few years I have done this, I have noticed an overwhelming amount of toys donated for children who might otherwise go without. Thank you!

This year collection goes through Tuesday, December 21. You will find barrels for toy drop of at Jerihill Hardware, Village Gifts, Community Bank, Dollar General, Mountain High Pizza, Jericho Country Store, Jericho Market, Farrell Chiropractic, and MMU. Wow... what amazing business support right here! You can go to the Toys for Kids Website for more information on how to donate toys or money from the comfort of your home. Also — why not check out Village Gifts bargain barn for a lot of toys for your money! Thanks ya'll. Happy Holidays!

Kevin and Teri Hawley, Jericho

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Tips for parents expecting twins

Expectant parents and grandparents of twins have been doubling up their questions about what they need to know when it comes to parenting two new babies at once. Well let me see if I can deliver some helpful tips on having twins.

While sleep may be less, start-up costs higher, and there's the expense of extra living space or perhaps a larger car, parenting twins brings many rewards as you get to love two wonderful additions to your home and marvel at the relationship that develops between them and you! It just takes a little extra planning.

Try to sleep when your babies do if at all possible, and feed both when one wakes up to try to coordinate the schedules and minimize your own extra wakeups.

Be prepared to still breastfeed the babies. Some mothers even nurse simultaneously. A lactation consultant can help, and breast milk should be pumped if at all possible so that dads and other caregivers can help with the feedings.

Make sure you have a support system in place before the babies are born if you are expecting twins, and if you just had twins be prepared to call upon those supports. Take time for yourself and your partner. This is more a necessity for peace of mind than a luxury.

Look for a support group in your area that can help give you advice and ideas to improve the quality of the experience of having twins.

Help your twins develop their own identities. While you may want to dress your twins identically at first, by six months individuality becomes quite important, so outfits should begin to differ so that the individual identity of each child emerges. Other ways to stress individuality are to give your twins distinctly different names and call them by those names rather than refer to them as "the twins." Keep their clothes in different drawers, give them their own toys, have separate gifts and cakes on their birthday, and encourage them to cultivate different interests.

Hopefully tips like these will be twice as valuable when it comes to knowing a bit more of what to expect when you have the pleasure of welcoming twins into your family.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PC proposes changes to zoning, affordable housing in Jericho

To the Editor,

Hi neighbors, SJ here from your local Affordable Housing Committee. We on the committee wanted to let our neighbors know that we are in favor of the changes to Jericho's zoning regulations proposed by the Planning Commission. We think these changes improve affordability in three ways.

- Diversify housing stock and increase density in designated areas:
 - permit duplexes (two-unit household dwellings) in every district where a single-family dwelling is permitted;
 - permit multi-household dwellings (three or four units) in the Village Center, Commercial, and Village districts (and elsewhere if an adaptive reuse of an existing structure);
 - decrease minimum lot size for Planned Unit Developments in the village and commercial districts.
- Relax restrictions around Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):
 - permit any single-family dwelling to have an ADU, regardless of district;
 - remove unnecessarily restrictive requirements like number of bedrooms and owner-occupancy;
 - increase allowable size from 30% to 50% of the primary dwelling or 1300 square feet, whichever is greater.
- Encourage Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) that are consistent with principles of affordable housing by incentivizing:
 - at least 20% affordable units;
 - inclusion of smaller units and mixed housing types;
 - clustered development with open spaces;
 - use of renewable energy technology.

SJ Dube, Jericho Affordable Housing Committee Chair

Clark's Trucks sign to continue messages

To the Editor,

The sign has been a big hit for many years with special notes and well wishes, thanks to my father Randy H., and it is continuing. Allegiance Trucks, while a large International Truck dealership in the Northeast, will still work to be an essential part of our communities that we are part of. Allegiance Trucks will still allow our team members that are Volunteer Firefighters to respond during the work day, have community messages and special messages on the sign, and the many other ways we can be a supportive community member.

For sign messages you can reach out to Randy H. Clark, honorarychief@aol.com or 802-899-2233.

Randy E Clark, General Manager Allegiance Trucks, Jericho/Plattsburgh, Jericho

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

VT Senate update: the state of the pandemic

By Kesha Ram Hinsdale

State Senator, Chittenden District

This year we have much to be thankful for, though we know at least 410 families may not have had a loved one at the Thanksgiving table due to a pandemic-related death. While our case count is rising, I hope Vermonters remain assured that we are navigating the daily challenges of the pandemic together, even when we disagree on the path forward.

After months of watching trends and discussion about the best course of action, the legislature gathered in Montpelier for an emergency special session this past Monday (November 30). The area of agreement we were able to find across our diverse geographies and perspectives was the ability to expedite town health ordinances that allow for mask mandates and other public health provisions within a municipal jurisdiction. If approved by a city council or select board, indoor mask policies in public settings may now be made for an initial 45-day period, subject to renewal every 30 days until the end of April.

The decision to support these town-by-town public health provisions was not made lightly. As of November 19, 2021, the Center for Disease Control has deemed our entire state an area of high COVID transmission. At this transmission level, the CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals wear a mask indoors in public settings in order to maximize protection and avoid spreading the coronavirus to others.

In the Senate, in addition to passing the compromise language for municipalities, a majority of us supported a resolution urging the governor to take additional measures to protect the health and safety of Vermonters. Specifically, we requested that the Governor increase testing capacity throughout the state, expand access to free or low-cost rapid tests, create a clear statewide masking policy, provide greater relief for schools and health care workers, and direct the Department of Health to provide more detailed and timely information on town and county risk and transmission.

Vermont has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country, which is a testament to the strength of our community response to the pandemic. Vaccine appointments for children ages 5-11, as well as those seeking booster shots, can now be made through <http://www.healthvermont.gov> or by calling 855-722-7878. You are eligible to get your booster if you are 18 or older and have received either your Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago, or your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago.

We are all fatigued by this ongoing pandemic, none more so than impacted families and frontline workers. As always, I welcome your thoughts on these decisions. As we continue the holiday season, please keep those who are feeling the absence of loved ones in your thoughts. We face our fair share of struggles as a small, rural state, but as we experience the hardships of this pandemic and the pain of lives lost, we know that we are stronger when we look out for each other.

P.S. It is also a critical time for health care enrollment. The Vermont Health Connect Open Enrollment Period ends on Saturday, January 15. During this time, Vermonters can sign up for health insurance or switch plans for 2022. Call Vermont Health Connect at 855-899-9600 or visit <http://www.healthconnect.vermont.gov> to sign up today. This is often easier said than done, and the Office of the Health Care Advocate is your free resource for questions about health insurance or access to care. Contact their HelpLine at 1-800-917-7787 or visit <http://www.vtlawhelp.org/health> to connect with an advocate and get confidential advice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Volunteer delivery drivers needed for Meals on Wheels Lamoille

To the Editor,

Hey neighbors. I'm coming up on my one-year anniversary as a volunteer delivery driver for Lamoille County Meals on Wheels! I cannot articulate the amount of joy doing this twice a month brings me. If you have ever thought you wanted to give it a try, I say do it! Nicole and all the paid staff and volunteers there are truly amazing. The recipients are so appreciative and I am equally appreciative of the stories they share with me. It's a win-win!

Tami Wuestenberg, Cambridge

Jericho Town History, volume 3

To the Editor,

Jericho Town History, volume 3, is now available for purchase at Palmer Lane Maple in Jericho Corners, the Jericho Center Country Store, and Jeri-Hill Ace Hardware. The hardcover book is 415 pages, has lots of photos, and gives the history of many organizations and families around Jericho, covering the years from 1963-2013, and for only \$25, these make a great Christmas gift!

Gary Irish, Jericho

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 21
Winter Solstice Snowshoe, 5:30 PM, Lamoille Nature Center, 1600 Cole Hill Rd., Morristown. Join the Lamoille County Conservation District for a moonlit snowshoe (or walk in the event of no snow) in celebrations of the winter solstice. Bring your own snowshoes, or go online to reserve a pair of ours to use; additional sets available at the Morristown Centennial Library. Family friendly trail, about 1.5 mile. Visit <https://lcnrcd.com> to reserve snowshoes or facebook.com/LamoilleCountyConservationDistrict for more information.

Saturday, January 8
Cambridge Blood Drive, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Cambridge Fire Department, 153 Church St., Jeffersonville. The Department is happy to announce the return of its annual blood drive! Please visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=alexthefighter> to sign up for an appointment. Last time we had to turn away any walk-ins, so please plan ahead and schedule your time slot!

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Abner Eaton's farm lifeFrom *Abner Eaton, Underhill, Vermont 1850, Historical Fiction*

By John Connell

Recently, we learned about Abner Eaton's schooling. He is now nine years old, having graduated from the eighth grade in 1858. He was a happy, hard working boy of his time. He and his five siblings (Ralph, Earl, Everette, Burdette, and Clara) were responsible for the many chores necessary to maintain the family farm. The 107-acre farm was located on Irish Settlement Road near Doon Road. The Eaton farm was typical of the diverse network of farms dotted throughout Underhill.

Fortunately, Abner's parents did not join the most profitable agricultural industry in mid 18th Century Vermont. They kept their cows and chose not to raise sheep. Sheep lost favor in Vermont during the time of Abner's youth.

None of the Eatons ever heard of a vacation. Abner's brothers and sisters worked every day hauling water, gathering eggs, tending the vegetable garden, filling the wood box, milking their 15 cows by hand, keeping pigs, and the many other chores. They raised most of the food required for their family consumption.

Of the 107 acres, 20 were cultivated with wheat, rye, and barley. Some extra income was earned selling potatoes to the starch mill near the Jericho-Underhill line. Any extra milk was sold at the Riverside creamery. During this time there were starch, clapboard, grist, and saw water-powered mills in Underhill. Abner's father sold lumber at the Bear Town mill.

Abner's mother sold cheese and cider at the Poker Hill village center. The most common apple varieties were Russet, Golden, Ribston, and Normandy. Abner thought the Russet variety made the best cider. The Eaton children drank more cider than water.

There were some moments of play for these hard working kids. They built jump scooters from barrel staves, made stilts, pitched horseshoes, and shot marbles.

From Abner's diary:

6 March — the roads were bad, flooding washed out the Crane's brook bridge, have to rebuild abutments

13 April — bluebirds arrive, pruned the orchard

6 June — worked the garden, all planted now

10 June — first cut of hay

12 June — had to do all the chores, father was working at the starch mill in Underhill Center

10 September — we began Lammis Day Harvest celebrations

12 September — spent the day with Ralph and Burdette gathering apples

10 October — mother began apple drying

15 October — gathered chestnuts and walnuts after a strong wind storm

During this time of Abner's youth the Underhill population was near 1600. Most folk were honest hardworking farmers.

They were a hardy lot that comprised the Underhill community of the mid 18th century.

Hommage à Grand-mère Elise et Sa Salade Verte

By Bill Schubart

Born in 1901, Grammie Couture lived over 101 years. She was the family matriarch, the friend we all turned to when our lives tipped over.

Although deeply religious, Grammie bore no judgments. We could count on her unqualified love and understanding. She forbore any comment about my departure from the Catholic Church at 18, my three marriages, and she was always there for my children and former wives.

For much of her life our own mother, Cynthia, battled her addictive demons and would often retire to her bedroom for weeks at a time.

Grammie would "drop by" with a casserole and spend a bit of time tidying up in Mom's absence. Her signature dish and our childhood favorite we called "Cheez-Whiz Broccoli." It could be prepared in a flash by stirring together a box of Minute Rice, a jar of Cheez-Whiz, and a bag of frozen broccoli florets. (Combine all ingredients in a casserole dish, stir gently, and bake for 20 minutes at 350°F.)

The '50s and '60s began the market decline of fresh food and the birth of the industrial food age. TV advertising convinced us that frozen and canned vegetables were superior to the fresh produce available locally. Spam, Velveeta, Junket, Cap'n Crunch cereal, and Tang became staples as did "Bunny Bread" and oleomargarine, the white bars of which came with a small bladder of reddish dye to be blended in to make it look like butter, even though it never tasted like butter.

I remember going into Patch's Market with a grocery list from Dad. "Half a pound of cheese, sir," I intoned to Mr. Patch. "White or yellow?" he answered, even as a large wheel of Vermont cheddar sat atop the meat case under a glass cloche.

On the first Sunday of each month after ten o'clock Mass at Holy Family Church in Morrisville, we'd gather around Grammie's dining room table for Sunday dinner. It was an enduring ritual until one Sunday, sporting a blue-black bruise around her left eye, Grammie announced she could no longer live alone and charged Claire with finding her a retirement home.

For a decade leading up to her moving out of her apartment, we'd parade into her house dressed in our church finery and encounter the smell of her signature pork roast sizzling in her new electric oven. Her large farm table displayed her best porcelain China and starched linen. The protocols of serving and consuming Sunday dinner matched those that my brother and I, both altar boys, were familiar with serving mass, all very formal.

Dad would process in bearing the large ironstone platter of charred pork and mint jelly. Grammie had grown up with a fear of trichinosis, so pork was routinely charred to ensure the elimination of any parasites. Grammie would bring in a smaller platter of roast potatoes and one of us kids would bring the bowl of canned green beans and another the saucer of bread and the butter dish.

Dad would slice the pork and Grammie would serve the potatoes and beans, passing to each of us a full plate. If Mom was sentient, she would be at the dinner table with us. Still a toddler, Claire would sneak a small slab of butter and slip it in her mouth like fudge.

**About
11:00
AM in
Underhill
on the
morning of
August 11,
1906, an
oil stove in
the home
of Walter
Grace
exploded.**



Mr. Grace was asleep at the time, and Mrs. Grace was in a hammock in the front yard. By the time it was discovered by Mrs. Hattie Palmer, a neighbor, it was too far advanced for the structure to be saved, Mr. Grace escaping without time to even save his hat.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GARY IRISH

Fire strikes Jericho and Underhill (1800s-1900s)

By Bernie Paquette

Gary Irish reports in his fourth and last entry in Bernie Paquette's blog.

Here is an excerpt from *Heritage in Historic Homes* — one that reminds us of the fortunate situation we have today with the nearby Underhill/Jericho Fire Department:

"As the seriousness of the fire was realized, word was sent to Burlington, where a special train was made up in 20 minutes by conductor J.L. Berry, with engine 328 under the control of engineer H.H. Knox and fireman George Fortier hauling a flat car on which had been loaded a fire engine" (arriving in Underhill, scene of the fire, 55 minutes after word was sent to Burlington).

Read more at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/11/jericho-underhill-vt-fire-destroys.html>.

This Sunday dinner tradition continued for almost two decades.

One year when Mike and I were in our teens, Mike asked Grammie if she ever made green salad.

"No," she answered abruptly. "I 'ave a 'iatal 'ernia and dem leaves gets caught in my t'roat." That ended the salad conversation, we thought.

The following month, the family tramped in for Sunday dinner expecting the regular menu. But then to our surprise, Grammie returned to the kitchen and came out bearing a dinner plate featuring a quivering dome of green Jell-O in which were suspended canned mandarin orange sections, miniature marshmallows, walnuts, and multi-colored M and M's.

"You like da green salad, so I made one. Eat it up!"

We all just stared at the green quivering mass.

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PEOPLE - OBITUARIES



Duane E. Chase of North Cambridge and Jeffersonville, VT: *"Vermont Bottle King"* Duane E. Chase, remembered by Jerry Russin Jr. In the fall of 2015 I was first introduced to the late Duane E. Chase, of North Cambridge/Jeffersonville, VT. For those who might not be familiar with who Duane was, I will try to give you a small idea of the man. In the realm of antiques and collectibles, particularly antique bottle collecting, Duane Chase was considered by many people, not only locally here in

Vermont but across New England and throughout the country, as being the leading authority and most knowledgeable individual on the subject of Vermont bottles. His knowledge was very vast regarding the histories behind the various pre-20th century medicine manufactures and druggists that once operated and ran the medicinal medicine and drugstore trade here in Vermont. For those who knew Duane in regards to antique bottles, they would've had the ability to understand best that he owned the largest and broadest Vermont bottle collection ever assembled. Duane's collection touched every category known in antique bottle collecting: from medicines, spring waters, cure alls, poisons, Indian medicines, druggist and pharmacy bottles, pontiled bottles, bitters, and so, so much more. His collection represented nearly every town in Vermont that was known to have produced some type of bottle, whether embossed or paper labeled. Duane was such a thorough historian that if he learned of a Vermont bottle he didn't own, but knew it existed, he would document everything by writing it down in his notebook. He would take measurements and write down any other important characteristics that he could use as a reference should something similar or different be discovered in the future. The story of how Duane and I first met begins with me discovering a magazine article that mentioned Dr. W. S. Nay, who had created embossed antique medicine bottles that were marked from Underhill, VT. Winfred Scott Nay was a doctor and druggist here in the Riverside area of Underhill and Jericho, VT from the 1870s to the 1940s. I obtained the information about these bottles upon reading an article called *I Didn't Know an Antique Bottle From a Hole in the Ground* in the *FOHBC Bottles and Extras* magazine. The article was written by Don Fritschel, formerly from Jericho, VT. Immediately upon realizing the possibility of local hometown bottles, I was determined from that moment on to find and own my own examples. I first reached out to Don himself to see if by chance he still owned any of the local bottles he wrote about and photographed. I was curious to know if he still had them, and if possible maybe some duplicates that he might consider selling. When Don replied back I was informed that the examples he dug had all been sold to this guy named Duane Chase, and that I should try to contact him to see them. Don provided me with only his address at the time, and so the only way I was going to meet this man was to show up without notice to his house. I asked my good friend Aaron Howland if he would be interested in going for a ride with me to find this guy, and to see his collection. He was up for the experience. The date was October 23, 2015. I was 18 years old and was not at all familiar with the roads in the Lamoille County area. At one point along the journey we managed to get ourselves lost on a class four road, trying to find Duane. A silly situation to get in when you look back, as we were missing the easiest roads to travel! Eventually we did find our way and headed up the driveway. Upon our arrival I was immediately taken back, many years prior when I was a very young boy, me and my dad had once visited this very place, except it was for Duane's father Roger Chase. In those days Roger had a gun shop, and allowed for people to sight in their firearms on the property. I remember the encounter so distinctly because for those who knew Roger they might recall he had a hard time hearing. I can remember my dad almost hollering at Roger just so he could understand that he was looking for targets to sight in his gun. Eventually a notepad found its way into the discussion and the situation was much quieter! For me I never forgot it, and so immediately I was in suspense about what might happen once Duane came to the door. To my surprise, it was a great person and a good friend who opened the door that day, and upon my inquiry regarding Underhill, VT bottles we were excitedly invited inside. To this day there will never be anything that compares to the almost magical feeling one gets when they entered into Duane's Vermont bottle collection. Just to stand among hundreds of years of some of Vermont's most fragile historical artifacts, all perfectly displayed to amaze, create wonder, and curiosity into why all these objects exist. Overwhelmed is a great way to describe those first visits, as there were thousands of bottles from Vermont to see. Duane immediately upon entering the room that first day placed a bottle in my hand that was embossed, "NAY & HANAFORD DRUGGISTS UNDERHILL DRUG STORE." In the 1980s in the town of Cambridge, VT Duane dug the bottle from the side of a river bank, and miraculously the bottle managed to survive undamaged out in the Vermont elements for over 100 years. This particular Underhill druggist bottle could be specifically dated to the years of 1876-1877, as this was the only registered timeframe when Winfred Scott Nay and Leonidas Hanaford were in partnership. From 1878 on, Dr. W.S. Nay was the only registered druggist operating in the Underhill/Riverside area. Therefore this makes it the earliest embossed bottle from Underhill to have survived. Perhaps a Dr. A. F. Burdick bottle might still exist; Dr. Nay was Dr. Burdick's successor to the drugstore and physician practice here in Underhill, Jericho, and for parts of West Bolton. Burdick began his practice in the medicinal trade approximately in the late 1850s, it is likely that the bottles he might have distributed were paper labeled only. I know Duane always wondered if such a bottle existed and I always hoped one day I could prove this to be so, but that day has still yet to come! Once Duane was done showing me the Nay & Hanaford example, let's just say a whole line up was created in his mind, and a custom bottle show was underway. By the time we concluded the visit I had seen every known variation of a Dr. Nay bottle, and I was also able to examine every known embossed Jericho, VT bottle from either J.A. Percival or E.B. Williams! I was struck by such serious amazement at the idea that all these different bottles existed, and was reminded by Duane that all the bottle variations he had in his collection were likely ordered in batches, so I should keep in mind that likely other examples would surface if I was persistent enough to keep searching. Fast forward to today,

I now can say that I'm very fortunate to own 13 of these bottles produced for Dr. Nay's drugstore, even including the earliest known example that Duane dug in the 1980s. My dear friend in the months leading up to his passing told me one day during a "bottle visit" that he insisted I take back home with me his prized Nay & Hanaford example. I was reminded that it should serve as an inspiration to keep collecting and documenting Vermont bottles, to keep persevering my hometown history, and most importantly the bottle would forever serve as a reminder to never forget him. A very moving gesture, but also a complete honor to have such a great friend who would give me such a remarkable piece of history. Thank you Duane. Often at times I find myself thinking back to that very October day that we met Duane, particularly more so now that Duane has passed away. A lot happened for me that day and in that moment. It was where a great amount of inspiration was sparked, not only to learn more about my hometown history, but it sparked a deeper curiosity about antique Vermont bottles, what was the medicinal and drugstore trade, and a realization that these glass artifacts are in some cases the only objects that document a person, business, or in rare cases a town's existence. That day ultimately led me to start a career in the antiques trade, and somehow since my very own Vermont bottle collection. Most importantly though, it established a very sincere friendship between Duane and myself. I shared many hours visiting him at his family estate, talking with him on the phone, going for "joy rides" as he'd say, and even on special occasions digging, or even going on trips to pick up bottles one of us bought. Duane was a fun and quirky character, and I will fondly reminisce for the rest of my life over all the great memories and experiences we shared. I will miss hearing his unique voice, sense of humor, or even his solid words of wisdom and encouragement. I will forever admire his deep self-education in the various subjects related to Vermont history, one could only dream of having a fraction of the knowledge he retained. Duane truly was a great man, and I'm so grateful to have been treated like one of his family members, and to have shared as much time as I did with him! I have a good feeling though that Duane Chase touched the lives of many people across Vermont. Starting from customers of his family's gun shop, to folks in the antiques world, people researching their family histories, to his small engine repair customers, or maybe those who shared a casual conversation with him at the local stores or flea markets. For anyone who took the time to talk with Duane, they would know that he was such a sincere, happy, and considerate person. He was so profoundly devoted to bottles and family lineage histories that if those subjects ever came up in a conversation you better hang on, because he could quite literally talk the ears off a wooden Indian! I do think however that this paper and any other form of documentation in the future citi Duane should at least state the following: that *Duane E. Chase made the single greatest effort of any Vermonter to document and preserve to the greatest degree, the medicinal drug business that once operated and flourished across pre-20th Century Vermont.* Rest in peace Duane E. Chase — my friend and, most importantly, the "The Vermont Bottle King."



Gloria Mary Goss, 79, of Jericho, VT passed away Saturday, December 4, 2021. Gloria was born April 22, 1942 to George and Babs Brown of Bridlington, East Yorkshire, England. She grew up in Bridlington and helped care for her four sisters until, while visiting her newlywed sister Sheila in France, she met her husband of 52 years, Robert H. Goss of Barnet, VT. They eventually settled in Underhill, VT to raise their family. She was active in Underhill ID PTA while her children were in school, then worked many years at Ames in Essex, VT. She retired from TD Bank North in Williston, VT and some may remember her friendly face and English accent at Natural Provisions in Williston. Gloria loved walking her dogs, the ocean, and gardening. She enjoyed music and was also a talented artist. She was predeceased by her husband in 2017 and is survived by three children: Dean and his wife Misty, Tracy and her husband David, and John. She also leaves behind grandchildren Chris, Jessica, and Orin, as well as three sisters in England, Veronica, Pamela, and Patricia. Per Gloria's wishes, the family will hold a private celebration of life. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Vermont.



Richard Paul Squires of Jericho, VT passed away on Monday, November 29, 2021 at the UVM Medical Center, Burlington, VT. Dick is survived by Ann Squires, his college sweetheart and wife of 57 years. He is also survived by his sister Paula Ehrenberg, nieces and nephews, Eric Barkyoub and Martin "Okie" Oakland, and many other wonderful friends. Dick graduated from Arlington, VT high school and got his masters at St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT. Dick taught in the Jericho and Essex, VT schools for 37 years and spent his retirement hunting, milling his own wood, woodworking, carving decoys, growing giant pumpkins, and helping Ann with her many gardens and annual pumpkin event. Dick was always willing to help a friend or neighbor with woodworking advice or with their own woodworking or outdoor projects. Dick graduated from the University of Maine with a Forestry degree. While he ended up teaching for most of his life, he was most comfortable hunting in the woods and he was particularly talented at felling trees. Dick was an accomplished deer hunter and fisherman. Dick served in the Vermont National Guard, was an avid Boston Red Sox fan, and member of the Vermont Giant Pumpkin Association. Most of all, Dick was a wonderful husband, great friend and neighbor, and the guy you wanted to hunt, fish, and log with anywhere and anytime. There was a memorial service at the Jericho Community Center in Jericho Vermont on Wednesday, December 8, 2021; masks optional but vaccinations required. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Jericho Historical Society's matching restoration fund: PO Box 35, Jericho, VT 05465. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the Ready Funeral Home Mountain View Chapel, 68 Pinecrest Dr., Essex Junction, VT. Please visit www.readyfuneral.com to place online condolences.

Bert Francis Broe, age 67, passed away on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at his home in Jeffersonville, VT. He was



born on May 11, 1954 in Colchester, VT, the son of Reginald Sr. and Nellie (Rich) Broe. His early years were filled with the love of a large family and many neighbors. Everyone on Main St., Fairfax (VT) was considered family. Bert was eleven years old when he worked the summer at the McNall farm. He attended school at BFA Fairfax. He loved sports and especially excelled in soccer, playing on the All State soccer team. He cherished the home town gang and loved to tell stories of life on the Blake farm. Upon graduation from high school Bert worked at Toof farm. He went on to learn the art of meat cutting from cousin Cole Ward at Joe's Country Store. Store owner Peter Perley became a lifelong friend. Later he worked at ICV Construction for his father-in-law. In the early 1980s he began a thirty-year career at IBM. Bert then worked at Green Top Market as store manager. He ended his dedicated career at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. He made countless friends over the years. Bert met his future bride Laurie Gillespie in 1974 and they married in 1975. Their brief courtship was filled with a love that lasted a lifetime. Together they raised two sons, Ben and Tyler, who were simply the most important humans in his life. They shared the love of sports, spent summers in the pool with the boys' friends, enjoyed summer vacations in Maine, and also spent many days on the golf course. Bert and Laurie welcomed their daughters-in-law, Amber and Brandi, to the family. They were "daughters." Life was complete when he became a grandfather to Jake, Saige, and Marshall. He treasured every moment, supporting them in every highlight of their young lives. Bert had many interests. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, a devoted coach of his sons' grade and middle school basketball teams, and ran the Cambridge basketball program for many years. He longed for the next great fishing trip to Gloucester with dear friends. Bert was an avid golfer and thoroughly enjoyed the last few years playing the senior men's league at Enosburg Falls Country Club. He also treasured his poker club formed years ago with a group of IBM buddies, brothers for life. Together Bert and Laurie enjoyed a simple life together, taking a ride in their old red convertible, cooking together, spending time with their kids, visiting the Marsh's summer camp, boating with the Cotes, driving the back roads in his truck and traveling to their next adventure. Their trip of a lifetime was an anniversary vacation to Hawaii. "To have him forever would not have been long enough." Bert and Laurie had a close circle of friends that were like family. One friend's happiness and sorrows were the whole group's happiness and sorrows. Some enjoyed summer trips to Hampton Beach and Maine and winter vacations to a warm island. Bert was bestowed with more birthday celebrations than any person deserved, and he was surprised every single time (private joke). His family was his life. He was caretaker and protector of his large family. They did Broe camping trips filled with good food, endless stories, hikes, campfires, and pranks. He was planning for the upcoming Broe Christmas party and volunteered the turkey and ham. He was always ready for his mother-in-law's famous Christmas sing-along. And, maple sugaring season was a chance to enjoy the outdoors, sugarhouse, and his Gillespie family. Bert's favorite time of year was hunting season. He looked forward to it all year. He savored time spent in the woods with his boys and the camaraderie at the family deer camp. He was beyond proud of his buck of a lifetime that he bagged in Ontario and the day he shot a doe and a buck during muzzle loading. He said it was "the best day of his life." In later years he was excited to share his knowledge and spend time with his grandkids in the woods and at deer camp, eager to mark their height on the door way. Bert loved taking a ride in his truck on the back roads with his faithful companion Ruby to look for deer. Bert cherished those who stopped in to spend time in his garage, admiring the antlers on the walls over an LTD and ginger. He loved Williamson Rd and his cream of the crop neighbors. Bert leaves his beloved wife Laurie (Gillespie) Broe; his loving sons and their families: Ben, Amber, and Jake; Tyler, Brandi, Saige, and Marshall. He also leaves his loving sister Eleanor (John) Cross; loving brothers Reggie (Pat), Greg (Cindy), Gary (Ann); special sisters-in-law Vicky (Michael) Broe and Laurie K Broe; his deeply loved mother- and father-in-law Lois and Hubert Gillespie; brothers-in-law (whom he thought of as brothers) Gary (Lauren), David (Bobbi), John (Linda); special sister-in-law Cindy Gillespie; many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Bert was predeceased by his dear parents, Bud and Nellie Broe; cherished brothers Michael and Jeffrey Broe; and by his brother-in-law to eternity Timothy Gillespie, Sr. Family and friends were invited to celebrate Bert's life on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the Smugglers' Notch Inn, Jeffersonville, VT and were encouraged to bring a written story or memory to place in the book. Guests were asked to please wear a face mask due to Covid. Donations in Bert's memory can be made to United Church of Fairfax (44 Sweet Slattery Rd., East Fairfield, VT 05448) or Cambridge Food Shelf (PO Box 75, Jeffersonville, VT 05464). Please visit awrflh.com to share your memories and condolences.

William Arthur Donahue, 66, of Bolton, VT passed away suddenly at his home on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Bill was born on July 26, 1955 in Barre, VT to Howard "Zeke" and Beatrice (Demers) Donahue. He attended Marian and Spaulding High Schools in Barre and was a career member of the U.S. Air Force and the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG), retiring in 2015 at the rank of Staff Sergeant. Known to his co-workers and friends as Willie D, Bill served in the Avionics Branch on three separate airframes during his 36 years of service, including deployments to Central America and the Middle East. After retiring, Bill continued to work in connection with VTANG as a civilian contractor performing system maintenance and stayed in contact with his former unit, volunteering for support duties at the base on drill weekends. His kindness and generosity will be missed by all. Bill is survived by four brothers: Thomas "Tom" Donahue of Northfield, VT, John "Jack" Donahue of Rockland, MA, James H. "Jim" Donahue of Frisco, TX, and Michael "Mike" and wife, Paula (Flanagan) Donahue of Santa Rosa, CA; by five nieces and nephews: Meaghan (Donahue) King and husband Michael of Guerneville, CA, Christopher "Chris" and wife, Sarah (MacNab) Donahue of Santa Rosa, CA, James T. Donahue of Northfield, Catherine "Catie" Donahue of Northfield, and Jameson Donahue of Frisco, TX; two great nieces, Charlotte

Obituaries continued on page 7

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



The Underhill Jericho Fire Department, 2021.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

UJFD: who we are today, and in future

By Sean McCann, UJFD Assistant Chief

In 2021, the Vermont State Fire Association (VSFA) honored the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) with three prestigious awards.

Chief Mat Champlin won the VSFA Robert E. King Fire Chief of the Year award. Chief Champlin has been UJFD's fire chief for almost seven years, four years as an officer prior, and serving the people of Underhill and Jericho a total of 17 years. Chief Champlin always puts UJFD first and cares deeply about the firefighters, EMS responders, specialists, and staff. Some of the highlights of his accomplishments as Chief include continual updates to budget and capital plans, new by-laws and policies, a brand new first response EMS program (named Vermont's 2021 EMS Agency of the Year), the awarding of numerous grants, the purchase of a new apparatus, the state of the art UHP first line of attack defense for fire suppression, and a successful response plan through the COVID-19 pandemic with zero department-related exposures. The UJFD is very happy to know that this exemplary leader has been recognized by the VSFA with this distinguished award.

Firefighter Parker Ripley won the VSFA Firefighter of the Year award. With his 18 years on the UJFD, Parker's knowledge and experience are unparalleled on everything fire-related, including fire tactics, driver training, pumping, operations, and fire command. Parker led the committee to plan, purchase, and outfit the newest edition to the UJFD fleet: our new Engine 2, a combination tanker/pumper with state-of-the-art technology and equipment. He has led the department in many positions as a firefighter, lieutenant, captain, and assistant fire chief. Parker's unwavering commitment to calls, training, and his brothers and sisters in the fire service is matched only by his passion for the job.

Sam Slayton won the VSFA Rescue Squad/Ambulance Member of the Year. Sam was an integral part of getting the UJFD EMS First Response program up and running. Thanks to her efforts, the UJFD EMS First Response program received the distinguished 2021 EMS Agency of the Year award. With Sam's help, the EMS program is filled with amazing first responders who now protect the towns of Underhill and Jericho. Sam maintained one of the highest response rates UJFD has ever seen and fulfilled a leadership role as EMS Supervisor for many months.

UJFD members and staff love to serve the Jericho and Underhill Communities in fire suppression and EMS response. We take pride in answering the call and performing above and beyond. We know you will join us in honoring these three leaders who have earned this special recognition.

What does the future hold?

Times certainly have changed. In a world of volatile politics, COVID, a changing and warming climate, and global political instability, we often feel the need to be rooted and safe at home. We need to feel a sense of security in our community. The members of UJFD wish to provide some of that protection and sense of safety. We are here 24/7, both volunteers and staff.

In summary, the UJFD continues to be a well-recognized and well-respected fire and rescue agency in the State of Vermont. While this article contains some highlights and history of the department, a lot has happened in the past 100+ years and we couldn't possibly include it all. Over the years, many members have received VSFA awards. The current group of honorees is a continuation of the commitment to excellence the department has shown year after year, member after member. We continue to work closely with the communities to continue to meet their needs and provide the highest level of service.

We are exceptionally proud of being awarded the EMS First Response Agency of the Year by the State of Vermont. It is an outstanding achievement to rise to the level of an award-winning



An 18-year veteran on the UJFD, firefighter Parker Ripley won the 2021 Vermont State Fire Association Firefighter of the Year award. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

service in such a short amount of time. And we continue to train, critique, improve services and increase our knowledge to provide you the best medical (and fire) service we can.

We also wish to thank all the families of the members of the UJFD. Without their encouragement and support, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do. Husbands, wives, sons, and daughters all understand when their loved one misses a ball game, dinner, anniversary, or birthday party, it was to help someone in critical need. It is not only the firefighter or EMT that makes the sacrifice, but the families as well. A deep and sincere thank you to all the families that help support the UJFD.

For more information about the UJFD, please contact Chief Mathew Champlin at Chief@UJFD.org or 802-233-0656. The Underhill Jericho Fire Department can be found online at UJFD.org, where applications can also be found. If you have a desire to serve your community and neighbors, have a hunger for new

Andrew Collier joins board at the Howard Center



The Howard Center has appointed Andrew Collier to its Board of Trustees for a three-year term. Collier was recently appointed deputy commissioner at the Department of Liquor and Lottery after spending the last 11 years serving the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in a variety of roles. He grew up in Colchester, VT, then moved to Westfield, MA before returning to Vermont; he and his wife and daughters live in Westford, VT. Collier serves on his local Town Development Review Board and State Natural Resources board (NRB).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



In 2021, the Vermont State Fire Association (VSFA) honored Chief Mat Champlin, Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) with the VSFA Robert E. King Fire Chief of the Year award. Chief Champlin has been UJFD's fire chief for almost seven years, four years as an officer prior, and serving the people of Underhill and Jericho a total of 17 years. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

challenges, or would just like to learn how you can serve or support our efforts, look us up. You could be part of the team that moves the legacy of Vermont fire and EMS response into the future. And who knows, maybe a neighbor or friend is already a member of the department. Ask us questions if you see us on the street or in a store. We love to talk about UJFD fire and EMS.

Obituaries continued from page 6

King and Rowan Donahue and one great nephew, Carter Donahue of California. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Monica's Catholic Church, Barre on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Spring burial will be in the Donahue family plot in St. Sylvester Cemetery in Websterville (VT) when conditions allow.

Richard M. Brace Jr., 60, of Jeffersonville, VT and North Hyde Park, VT, died Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at his hotel surrounded by loved ones. He was born June 27, 1961 in Middlebury, VT, the son of Richard M. Brace Sr. and Sandy Brace. Richard spent the first part of his life in Addison County working on dairy farms and later moved to Lamoille County where he and Juanita Larose became friends and business partners and ran the Deer Run Motor Inn together. Rich was a kind and caring person with a heart of gold. He always tried to help anyone he could. He was a great son, brother, uncle and friend. He enjoyed antiques, his cars and loved his flower gardens, especially stargazer lilies.

Marjorie Bradley Hunt passed away peacefully at her home in Jericho, VT on Sunday, November 14, 2021. She was predeceased by her husband Maitland R. Hunt, her son Malcolm R. Hunt, and several siblings. Left to cherish Marjorie's memory are her sons Marvin Hunt of South Carolina, Murray Hunt of Jericho, daughter Martha Prince of Jericho and their families, brother Jim Bradley and sisters Lois Kittell and Barbara Kittell. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. A celebration of Marjorie's life will be held in the spring. A complete obituary will appear at a later date. Arrangements are in care of Gifford Funeral Home, Richmond, VT.

Merry Christmas

Christmas observances

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Come share the joy and the community experience of worship at Good Shepherd Church this Christmas season. The church is located at 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, just west of Browns Trace, and is ADA accessible.

Several special services will celebrate this wonderful time in the church year. All are welcome! And, for the well-being of all, masks are required indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Music leaders sing indoors, while the congregation hums along — and everyone joins in caroling outdoors. For more information, call 802-899-3932 or visit goodshepherdjericho.org.

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

Friday, December 24, 7:00 PM: This lovely Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion celebrates the good news of Christmas with candlelight and choral music. Worship is in the beautiful post and beam sanctuary, followed by caroling outdoors.

Sunday, December 26: Christmas Lessons and Carols, 9:00 AM. This festive service with Holy Communion celebrates the birth of Jesus through a series of Bible readings interspersed with carol singing. Fellowship time with coffee and treats follows outdoors, weather permitting.

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Christmas Eve service at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be held on Friday, December 24, 4:00 PM; contact info@mmuuf.org for Zoom information. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

For COVID safety we regret that there will not be an in-person service for Christmas Eve. However we will be holding a Zoom service at 5:00 PM on Friday, December 24. If you would like to attend this service, please contact the parish administrator at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453 and Sue will send you the Zoom login information. All are warmly invited!

Jericho Congregational Church

The Church on the Green in Jericho Center will offer these services for the Christmas season: Lessons and Carols Service, Sunday, December 19, 10:00 AM; the Christmas Pageant, Friday, December 24, 6:00 PM; and a Christmas Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 9:00 PM. To contact us: 899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org.

St. Thomas Catholic Church

St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center will celebrate Christmas Masses at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24; and 9:00 AM on Christmas Morning, Saturday, December 25. At our sister parish, St. Mary's in Cambridge, Fr. Calapan will celebrate Mass at 7:00 PM and at midnight on Christmas Eve, and at 10:30 AM on Christmas Day. Visit us at www.stthomasvt.com or call 802-899-4632 for more information.

Christmas meal delivery for Chittenden County seniors

To reserve a free meal (ham dinner or vegetarian lasagna dinner) to be delivered on Christmas Day to anyone 50 years or older in Chittenden County, please call Age Well at 802-865-0360 by Friday, December 17.

For more information or to donate, please go to <http://handsvt.org/>. Happy Holidays!

Westford Rec winter fundraiser makes Xmas dinner simple!

The Westford Recreation Department's Winter Fundraiser wants you to spend more time with family! Let Chef Shawn Calley prepare your Christmas dinner's side dishes and desserts!

Order online by Friday, December 17 at <https://forms.gle/PYGPKyVsJEMSbF587>, and pay online at <https://westfordvt.us/payments/> or when you pick up your dinners at the Red Brick Meeting House on Friday, December 24, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The cost is \$50 for sides and desserts for four. No substitutions, sorry!

The sides and desserts on the menu are:

- glazed carrots;
- wild rice stuffed squash;
- Parmesan garlic herb roasted cauliflower;
- roasted herb potatoes;
- cranberry sausage stuffing;
- honey wheat rolls;
- gingerbread cookies;
- chocolate Yule log.

Underhill Jericho Fire Department holiday bake sale

We all know the holiday season is busy, so let us do the baking for you — and support a great fundraiser! This is the Underhill Jericho Fire Department Holiday Bake Sale! Choose among these options:

Cookie Tray #1, \$20: two dozen, four each of chocolate chip, peanut butter, snickerdoodle, M&M, and brownies.

Cookie Tray #2, \$10: one dozen, a mix variety of chocolate chip, peanut butter, snickerdoodle, M&M, and brownies.

Cupcake Box #1, \$22: 12 decorated cupcakes, six each of vanilla with chocolate frosting, and chocolate with buttercream frosting.

Cupcake Box #2, \$11: six decorated cupcakes; choose vanilla with chocolate frosting, chocolate with buttercream frosting, or pumpkin with cream cheese frosting.

Choose a Friday to pick up your order, December 5 or December 19.

Please provide your full name, email address, and date choice along with your order to teapot treats@gmail.com or kmf0508@comcast.net. Payment will be collected at time of pick up.

Thank you for your support! To see example pictures before ordering, contact teapot treats@gmail.com.

Door Drop activity kit for Westford kids

In Westford, the Recreation Committee will activity kits for kids to your doorstep on the first Monday of the holiday vacation week; \$25 each. For information, contact recreation@westfordvt.us.

Monday, December 27, first Monday of School Winter Vacation Week: Sugar Cookie Decorating Kit

Jericho 2022 calendar a great holiday gift!

The holidays are coming and if you need a gift for someone special or a hostess gift, consider the Jericho 2022 calendar! A fund-raiser for the Community Center, it is full of historic photos from the late 1800s and early 1900s in Jericho. It hangs on a wall and has space to write in all your appointments.

Find the 2022 Jericho calendar at Jeri-Hill Hardware, the Jericho Center Country store, the Old Mill craft shop, the Jericho Town Hall, and the Gruppe Gallery. Cost is \$15, which all goes to supporting the Community Center.

Town of Bolton Holiday Crates of Cheer

As we enter the holiday season, we are starting our annual food drive to benefit the holiday Crates of Cheer. We are looking for donations of nonperishable food items or toiletries that we can include in the crates. Donations can be left at Smilie School in a box in the front foyer.

If you are unable to make it to Smilie during routine school hours but want to help, you can leave a monetary donation at the Town Office, which we will use to buy additional items.

This activity is solely funded by the generosity of the residents of the town of Bolton, so any support is very much appreciated.

If you know of someone who may be open to receiving a Crate of Cheer, please forward their information to Amy Grover at the Town Office.



Letters for Santa in Westford

The Santa Mailbox will be back again this year! The Elves will deliver it on Saturday, November 20 at the Westford Library. Drop in a letter to Santa — with a return address if you'd like Santa to write back! PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Happy New Year

Marine Corps League in VT provides toys for Vermont kids



Thousands of Vermont kids live below the poverty level during “normal times” — and 2020 was far from normal.

2020 was certainly a challenging year for all of us. It goes without saying that the worldwide COVID pandemic dramatically impacted our health and our overall life experiences in ways that we never could have imagined. These effects were clearly felt

by Toys for Kids through the loss of about 30 toy barrel locations, which had all of us concerned going into the Christmas season.

Despite these significant challenges, our local community stepped up with toy and financial donations. The Marine Corps League Donald Cook Detachment and Toys for Kids would like to thank all our toy barrel monitors, all the businesses that provided toy barrel and coin can locations, and all the Vermonters who donated countless toys as well as those who made financial donations. It was an unprecedented team effort that helped thousands of underprivileged children in our area have a “Good Toy Day” at Christmas.

Charitable agencies expect a high demand once again in 2021. We are concerned that the 2021 Christmas season may be significantly impacted by many challenges (e.g., inflation fears, supply chain issues, COVID, etc.). With all that they have been through in 2020, we do not want the kids to lose Christmas in 2021.

Coordinated by the Marine Corps League’s Donald Cook Detachment, Toys for Kids — a 100% volunteer, non-profit program — is the largest Christmas toy collection program in Vermont for needy kids. With the help of NBC Channel 5 TV and many business sponsors, volunteers will work diligently during the Christmas season to monitor and empty hundreds of our signature red Toys for Kids barrels. All of the new, unwrapped toys that are collected will be turned over to agencies like the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families in Vermont.

All toys collected stay local.

Our Toys for Kids red barrels are out and will be picked up on Tuesday, December 21. Barrel locations will be updated on our website <http://www.toysforkidsvt.com> and on Facebook page *Toys for Kids VT*.

Please consider buying toys early from our local merchants, who may have both in-store and an online presence. We recommend that you buy early and ship early in order to avoid Christmas shopping congestion and potential shortfalls of toys. If you decide to buy toys online, you can ship your toy purchases directly to:

Toys for Kids of Vermont,
c/o Jerihill Ace Hardware
249 VT Rt. 15
Jericho, VT 05465.

The Toys for Kids team will deliver them directly to our local agencies.

In addition to toys for children up to age 14 we depend upon your generous financial donations, which enables us to buy \$35 Visa gift cards at Christmas for 15-17 year old kids. If you would like to help us financially, please mail a check to:

Toys for Kids
P.O. Box 4092
Burlington, VT 05406

Or you can also donate via PayPal through our website <http://www.toysforkidsvt.com> (select *Donate*).

Thank you for your toys and financial donations so needy kids can have a “Good Toy Day” at Christmas.

For more information, identifying potentially new barrel locations, or if you would like to be a barrel monitor, please contact any MCL member or John Welsh (Toys for Kids VT State Coordinator), 802-872-0354.

Christmas trees for sale by Scout Troops

Jericho: Planning to buy a Christmas tree? Please consider supporting Underhill/Jericho Scout Troop 627’s annual Christmas tree fundraiser at the VT Rt. 15 Jericho Jolley. These trees from Craftsbury range from 7-10’ and are all priced at \$50. This annual event supports the Troop activities for the year to develop our leaders of tomorrow. Sales are weekday evenings, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, and weekends, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. New this year: tree delivery! Come and pick out your tree and have a local

Scout deliver to your house for \$10!

Essex: BSA Scout Troop 635 is sponsoring a Christmas Tree Sale at Essex Discount Beverage, 70 Center Rd., Essex Junction. The cost for trees is \$50; wreaths are \$25. The proceeds from this sale go toward the operating budget of the Troop. The purchase of your Christmas tree can also go toward supporting a wonderful cause! Thanks for supporting the Troop.

Friend2FriendVT 6th annual winter clothing drive

Happy Winter! A local teen-run social justice group, Friend2Friend Vermont, is doing its 6th annual winter clothing drive for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program! Winter clothing in good condition is needed: coats, boots, hats, mittens, and especially children’s gear. A local bucket is at the Jericho Library. Buckets are also located at Healthy Living Williston; the exit of the Richmond Post Office/entrance to the Town Hall; and City Market South.

Please join us in giving to those most in need just in time for the holiday season and spread the word! For more information, go online to <https://refugees.org/uscri-vermont/>.

Hot Pink at Christmastime

By Kimberly Madura
For Amanda

Don’t be afraid to ask the tough questions
How did you get here?
And then save room for the answers.
Remember to leave space for the mystery.
Treat this as sacred — the ethereal, the thrill, that frisson.

You and I tell each other the truth.
And you surprise me, still.



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.
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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

Adult programs

To register for adult programs, please go to drml.org/programs or email Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers is a monthly adult book discussion group. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Ongoing

Preschool Story Time: too chilly to turn the pages, so story time will be moving inside. Everyone over the age of 2 years old must wear a mask. As of now, no registration required (subject to change).

Sign up for these awesome programs!

Thursday, December 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Drawing and Animation Club for tweens/teens. Make movies! Work on a multi animator project. Come create with us. We will meet in person at DRML. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up. If you would prefer to participate via Zoom, please email or call Abbey.

Friday, December 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Group for ages 6+. Join this friendly group of builders to make creations and have them displayed in the library. Space is limited so please sign up! This program will meet in person in the library program room. Everyone must wear a mask. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Saturday, December 18, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Gift crafting for all ages. Come make something for someone you love this holiday. December 4: ornaments. December 11: use the Cricut to create some iron-on designs for tote bags. December 18: we will break out the button machine to make pins, magnets, and keychains!

Sunday, December 19, 3:30 – 5:30 PM: D&DRML for ages 10+. Have you always wanted to try out D&D? Join the party and stop the rise of the evil dragon queen Tiamat! Beginners are welcome, the library has the books you need to get started (they are in-library use only). Already have some experience? Whip up a level 5 character and come play. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

Tuesday, December 21, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt the Therapy Dog! Sign up for a 15-minute spot to read to Wyatt the Bernese Mountain Dog and his owner Miss Sue. FYI Wyatt's favorite author is Mo Wilems. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Town Library is fully open, no appointment needed. Tuesday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays-Fridays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; note the special evening hours on Tuesdays! Masks are suggested for everyone, regardless of vaccination status; required for unvaccinated people, including kids between 2 and 12.

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

Family Storytime: Join JTL for storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Most weeks, we share a few favorite books and a related craft project. Storytime is intended for children aged 0-5, but all are welcome; no registration or appointment needed. Look for us on the Town Green every Wednesday! On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, we're joined by Miss Emma for a special storytime focused on music and movement, with plenty of opportunities to get out some wiggles and giggles!

Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Thursdays 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday. (Note, hours at the Varnum can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

The weather has finally turned and a cup of joe with a good book is just what you need to ease into the season! Stop by Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM and have a cup (or two!) on us. Bring your own mug or use one of ours. Stay to peruse our shelves or stay to have a chat with a friend. Donations accepted, but not required.

Upcoming programs include:

Saturday, December 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: FrancoFun en Famille (Fun with French for Families). Learn French with your family! Explore simple vocabulary, grammar, and phonetic themes using songs, short video clips, a range of stories, poetry, tongue twisters, and more! All ages and levels welcome. We'll aim for outdoor in-person sessions and then mix in some virtual sessions as well.

DIY Weekly Craft Bags & Story Hour for Kids: Our wonderful library volunteers have put together fall themed craft bags paired with children's books. Parents, come with kids to craft at the Varnum and read a book together. Crafts change weekly.

Tuesday morning Senior & Retiree Programs at the Varnum! Please RSVP to Lesley, lnasemoonspinner@gmail.com, if you would like to join us for any of these events!

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

Please let us know how we can assist you by emailing us at

varnumrequests@gmail.com or calling us at 802-644-2117.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Help support the Westford Library by donating books from our Book Giving Trees! Since some find it easier or safer to access our book trees online, we are making this alternative format. You may also come to the library to grab stars directly off our book trees. Online Book Tree Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0449a9ad2ba1f49-book1>. Phoenix Books is still offering a 20% discount on books purchased through them, or you may purchase books wherever you choose. Items purchased at Phoenix will be left there for the library to pick up later. Items purchased elsewhere may be dropped at the library or in the drop box. If you would like to dedicate the book to someone special, please write the name(s) on the star or a note and stick it in the book. All books should be purchased and/or dropped off by Sunday, January 16. Thank you!

Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals. You are welcome to continue wearing a mask as a personal choice. We are continuing to require masks for all unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated visitors while you are indoors. This includes children 2-5, who cannot be vaccinated at this time, and those 5-11 if unvaccinated. Infants and toddlers aged 2 and younger are not required to wear a mask. Masks are not required at any of our outside programs.

Seeking artists to display at the library! You don't need to be a professional to share your talent — contact Bree about displaying your photography, fiber arts, painting, drawing, and more. You can pair up with a fellow artist. Displays usually stay up for three months.

Kid stuff

The library will be closed Friday-Saturday, December 24-25 and Saturday, January 1.

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

Tuesday, December 14, 12:00 PM: Brown Bag Lunch Series: Preparing for an Emergency. Bring your lunch and learn something new! Are you prepared for an emergency such as natural disaster? Winter is just around the corner and this workshop will prepare you for tips and tricks to stay safe during the winter season. Helen Sterling, Westford's Interim Emergency Management Coordinator, will present several recommendations for Emergency Planning for you and your loved ones.

Wednesday, December 22, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group via Zoom. This month we will share favorite reads, find new authors, and just talk for an hour about books! Come prepared to talk about three book suggestions for the group and you will walk away with a bulked up winter reading list. I also challenge you to read a book, for this meeting, that you have wanted to and have been putting off. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if you just listen for good ideas. We will share the list with the community. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81734343922>.

For kids

Wednesdays: Take and Make Crafts Kits. New kits offered every Wednesday, until they are gone. Crafters of all ages are welcome to take a new holiday themed craft kit each week. Materials, pictures, and instructions included. December 15: Glittering holiday tea light.

Thursdays, 11:15 AM: Storytime, inside the library (masks required for all, regardless of vaccination status; children under two exempt from this requirement). We are moving back inside for the colder weather months, and will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of takeaways and in-person. December 16: Winter Holidays. December 23: Winter Holidays. December 29: Winter.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (January 5), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (December 18), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

The library will be closed Friday-Saturday, December 24-25 and Saturday, January 1.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Fairfax Community Library is looking more like usual with seating areas, new books, and book displays. We are moving forward with our programming as well while following safety guidelines and library protocols.

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

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

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required. Please contact the library if you have any questions or to register for a program. Please sign up at least one week before the program date! Call 849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesdays, December 15 and 22, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Wednesday, December 15, 3:00 PM: Gingerbread Building. Build a structure out of frosting and cookies! Materials provided. Ages 8+

Thursday, December 16, 3:15 PM: Read with Henry. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Henry, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Friday-Saturday, December 17-18, 5:00 PM and 10:00 AM:

Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Take your stuffed animals to the library for a sleepover! Drop your stuffed animals off at the library and we'll take good care of them through the night — we'll even take pictures so you know how much fun they had! When you come to pick them up the next day you can pick your favorite picture and make a frame for it. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up by emailing libraryfairfax@gmail.com or calling 802-849-2420!

Adult events

Thursday, January 6, 2022, 3:30 PM: Library Book Club. The library book club will meet to discuss the book *Climbing the Mango Trees* by Madhur Jaffrey. To borrow a copy of the book or sign up for the discussion: fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

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

Book Chat: Join the monthly Discover Between the Covers book chat with Rebecca Mueller of the Richmond Free Library and Stacey Symanowicz of the Huntington Public Library featuring materials from the two libraries. Chats will introduce readers to a variety of titles old and new, fiction and nonfiction, past and current award winners, favorite series, and perhaps a movie or two. There will be time set aside to let participants share what they have discovered, too! Use the zoom link found at <https://richmondfreeibraryvt.org/collections/book-chats/>. The next chat session will be Wednesday, December 15, 1:30 PM.

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

December Art Show: Lanie Kanat paints in watercolor from her home studio in Jericho. She focuses on nature-based paintings and loves the beauty of Vermont and its changing seasons. Lanie serves on the Board of Directors for the Vermont Family Network and is a co-leader for the Vermont Community Support Network for the Fragile X Foundation. Her work will be displayed on the ground floor walls and in the foyer display case through the end of the year and can be viewed at <https://kanat.site/watercolors>.

Santa's Workshop for Youth through Thursday, December 23: youth ages 4-12 can visit Santa's Workshop on the second floor and make a card or present for someone they love. Art supplies will be available during library open hours and gift projects will change every couple of days. 'Tis the season for making and baking!

Youth Holiday Take & Make Craft Kit: pick up a kit containing everything needed to make a festive Christmas tree ornament. Kits are available until Thursday, December 23 or until supplies run out. Stop by the library inner foyer during open hours to get a bag for your little person. This craft is appropriate for youth ages 4-10.

Colección Española: If you have a child enrolled in the Spanish immersion program at Richmond Elementary School, you may be interested in our new collection of Spanish language resources. Books in the collection range from the simplest of board books to more complex language resources appropriate for intermediate students. Ask to be directed to the shelf where the collection is currently being held.

Tuesday, January 11, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group. *Wintering: The Power of Rest & Retreat* by Kathy Mays. The book explores how the author endured painful events by embracing the singular opportunities it offered. It is a personal narrative shot through with lessons from literature, mythology, and the natural world. Copies available at the library; contact group coordinator Gwen Landis, gwen1972@yahoo.com, for more information on joining this month's discussion.

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Club. *The Searcher* by Tana French. Retired detective Cal Hooper moves to a remote village in rural Ireland. His plans are to fix up the dilapidated cottage he's bought, to walk the mountains, to put his old police instincts to bed forever. Contact group coordinator Maureen Parent, mspparent@gmavt.net or 434-2055 for more information on joining the discussion. Copies available at the library. No discussion in December.)

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

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

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime and Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and songs in the Library Community Room and then it's outdoor play time with old and new friends. For Storytime, families will spread out in the spacious community room. After Storytime we will move outside to the playground for playtime as weather allows. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from 0-5 and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 5:00 PM in the Community Room: Kaiut Yoga with Caroline Sheftel. The Kaiut Yoga method applies biomechanical, integrative, and therapeutic techniques in the practice. Every individual class is designed with the purpose to increase freedom of movement and integration between body and mind. Caroline believes that yoga is for everyone, and finds this universal accessibility in Kaiut Yoga. Bring a yoga mat, a yoga bolster (or equivalent), and strap (or equivalent). By donation; proceeds will be given to charitable organizations.

Free Tong Ren sessions Molly Lawney leads a free bimonthly community energy healing class. She practices a form of

Libraries continued on page 15

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Stabilization Grants for child care providers

From the VT Dept. For Children And Families

Are you a regulated child care program, afterschool program, or approved relative care provider in Vermont? Have you applied for ARPA funds?

If you have not, an ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grant could help you:

- pay your bills;
- decrease staff burnout;
- increase incentives for your staff; and
- buy resources to support children with their social-emotional development.

Learn more about this non-competitive opportunity online at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/arpa-child-care-stabilization>.

Don't wait. Apply today!

Voice of experience: plug-in hybrid EV

By Ruth Machell Julianelle

The Underhill Energy Committee is continuing to answer answers people have about electric vehicles. These FAQs are not intended to be a binding, finally definitive document, but should give enough information and resource websites that a reader can get a general appreciation of facts. If a reader wants updated or detailed information, they should talk directly to dealerships and reference websites with updated information.

What do owners have to say?

Why we got a plug-in hybrid car — Peggy Owen Sands

We are a one-car family. Our previous car was a 2008 Prius. We like to drive a car until the maintenance fees are more than the value of the car! We drove our Prius for 10 years, going across the U.S. at the beginning and end of our owning the vehicle. In 2018 we decided to purchase a Kia Niro plug-in hybrid car. The Niro will go 26 miles on all electric power and then will run as a hybrid. I was able to complete most of my daily driving for work within the 26 miles on the car. With our daughter living in Boston, we wanted to be able to easily travel to see her, and having a hybrid meant that we could easily take a long distance trip without having to plot where the charging stations were along the way.

Another reason that a plug-in hybrid works well for us is that we live in Burlington. We can walk or bike to do most of the activities that we want to do, but on occasion we need to take a car and having electric power to run errands is great. It feels good to not pollute our environment for our errands!

We charge our car using a Level 1 120 volt, plug-into-the-wall plug. It takes about six hours of charging for the car to become fully charged from empty. We are also able to generate electricity while driving the car, through braking and when not accelerating while going downhill. We get a little less than 26 miles with a charge if we are using the heater or AC and when we have snow tires on the car. We rarely need to charge the car when we are doing errands, but the City Market parking lot has free charging stations, so I have used ChargePoint to charge the car while I am doing my grocery shopping! We have gotten into the habit of plugging the car in to be charged once we get out of the car, assuming we used enough miles. It is simple to plug and unplug the car from the charger. When on long trips, we only charge the car if we stop at family or friends' homes. Typically we just drive using the hybrid system and get between 50-62 mpg.

The Niro is small enough that it is easy to park and drive, yet large enough I could get my Mom's wheelchair or adapted trykes easily into and out of the back of the car. The maintenance has been minimal. The brake pads needed to be turned and the Kia dealer wanted to replace the pads, but we went to our beloved mechanic and he was able to turn them again, so that the brakes continue to work great. The car has front wheel drive. We were unable to get up to the top of a steep and very snowy driveway this past winter, but it could be that our snow tires are getting old!

Having driven a hybrid car in the past we were used to having smart keys and pushing a button to start and stop the car. We were also used to the engine stopping when at a stop light, so it was easy to move to a plug-in hybrid. I also think that the car is easy to drive for new-comers to hybrid cars. I have really enjoyed the cruise control on the Niro. If you are within a certain distance of the car in front of you and you are moving at a faster speed than the car in front of you, the cruise control will slow your speed. To continue at the speed you selected, you need only change lanes to pass. And, to us, the car has good acceleration and it is not too noisy inside the car while driving.

The Plug-in hybrid was much less than a fully electric vehicle, so we were happy with the cost of the car. Because we use so much less gas and have no maintenance, the car has been a great investment. And we feel good that we are not contributing to pollution as much as the emissions for a hybrid vehicle is so much less than a gas-run vehicle and we are now using electric power for much of our driving.

We got solar panels about a year after getting our Niro. We are able to generate enough electricity to create a credit from April through to October, even with charging our car at home almost 100% of the time.

Overall, we really are happy with the Niro and have recommended it to many people we know. The peace of mind to use less fossil fuel and to significantly lessen our emissions is wonderful.

Switch to driving electric and save

Save up to \$2500 on electric vehicles (including an extra \$1000 for low/moderate income customers), which can be combined with dealer incentives, up to \$4000 from the state of Vermont, plus a federal tax credit on some models up to \$7500. EV drivers also save thousands in reduced maintenance costs compared to driving a fossil fuel vehicle. Find more details on GMP EV rebates at <https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/ev-rebate/>.

GMP's discount charging rates make charging at home the equivalent of paying about \$1/gallon. The two off-peak charging rates are about 20% less than traditional residential rates, and they're designed to reduce costs for all GMP customers. New EV charging rates details are at <https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/ev-charging-rates/>.

You'll need a compatible Level 2 EV charger to enroll, and we will give you one free to use while you're a GMP customer enrolled in our home charging program. Free charger details are at <https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/in-home-ev-charger/>.

All of GMP's programs are designed to help reduce costs for all customers. Plus, switching to electric driving also makes a big difference in reducing Vermont's carbon footprint. Fossil fuel vehicles are the number one source of carbon emissions in the state! Have questions? Call us! 888-835-4672.

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

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

POOL PARTY — Military Kids Vermont is planning its annual Military Kids Vermont Pool Party at the YMCA in downtown Burlington on Sunday, January 16, 2:00 – 5:00 PM. Help ensure this fun-filled day runs smoothly and safely. Sing up at <https://signup.com/go/gPxFmzC>.

COMMUNICATE — American Red Cross is seeking digital media volunteers to assist with digital media and writing related projects to support their communications team. Volunteers use their social media skills to help maintain and amplify the Red Cross message and help community members on social media platforms. They may also be trained to help with tasks such as social car and social monitoring. Daytime shifts. To join the team, sign up at www.redcross.org/volunteers.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER SPECIAL! — Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is looking for student support at its ReStores in Williston and Milton. Tasks include sorting clothing, unloading incoming donations, pricing small home goods, stocking shelves, testing electronics, and keeping the store tidy and organized. Flexible shifts on weekdays and weekends. Contact Kali Wood, 802-318-7533 or volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

FOOD SHELF — Sheldon Methodist Church Food Shelf has need of volunteers to help direct traffic as clients arrive, hand out service numbers as people arrive, and manage counter service. Hours of service are: Tuesdays, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM; Thursdays 4:00 – 7:00 PM; Fridays 1:00 – 4:00 PM; and Saturday 12:00 – 3:00 PM. There is a special need for volunteers on the third Tuesday of the month to help with deliveries from the foodbank. Contact John Gorton, 802-933-4487 or jgortonfarm@myfairpoint.net.

CHRISTMAS MEALS — Burlington Dismas House is looking for volunteers to help prepare portions of their Christmas meals at both houses. Volunteers are invited to join residents for the meal. Contact Kimberly Parsons, 802-658-0381, or Cory Bragg, cory@dismasofvt.org.

Big Tree Contest video released

For those of you who have been waiting for the video version of how to measure your Big Tree for the Underhill Big Tree Contest, the video is now available thanks to MMCTV. It is also accessible from the Town website, on the homepage.

Measuring your big trees is a great activity to get you outdoors in the winter to soak in some vitamin D. Your big tree could be a prize winner! You never know unless you enter.

Video link: <https://archive.org/details/underhill-nrmctree-contest-11292021>.

This is an outreach project sponsored by the Underhill Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee in conjunction with the Conservation Commission.

If you have questions or need help: underhillbigtrees@gmail.com.

UVM student's research study seeks beekeepers

Do you keep bees? Do you keep bees on other people's land? Are you interested in discussing this relationship?

Annalisa Fiore, a senior at the University of Vermont, is conducting interviews as part of a research study about the relationships between bees, beekeepers, and landowners. The goals are to learn more about the human geographical side of beekeeping, the spatial implications of these relationships, and what beekeepers have to say about their work.

Interviews will be held over video call or in person, taking approximately 45 minutes to an hour. All information that participants provide will be kept anonymous. No information about the location of hives will be revealed to neighbors or community members without the consent of the beekeepers. Participating in these interviews will help expand the existing knowledge around beekeeping.

For more information or to participate, please contact Annalisa Fiore at afiore@UVM.edu.



Write for Rights — Amnesty International

The Write for Rights campaign is underway from now until Saturday, January 29. Please visit <https://champlainvalleyai.wixsite.com/cvai/write-for-rights> for information about how you can join this international effort. If you decide to write letters, please follow the guidelines on the Amnesty International website so that you don't inadvertently harm the people you are writing to support.

Our local chapter, Champlain Valley Amnesty International (CVAI), focuses on human rights issues in the United States and around the world. If you would be interested in helping us to promote justice, please contact us at champvalleyai@gmail.com.

Our website is <https://champlainvalleyai.wixsite.com/cvai>.

We meet (usually online via Zoom) the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

Mentor a farmworker youth in the new year

The Vermont Migrant Education Program is beginning a new cohort of volunteer mentors for young Spanish-speaking farmworkers who want to make connections in their community. Orientation starts in January!

Mentors must be at least age 25, agree to a background check, speak conversational Spanish, have reliable transportation and access to internet, and be able to commit to mentoring approximately four hours a month for at least one year. Mentors will be matched with a youth based on location, schedule, and mutual interests. (Most, but not all, locations are in northern and western Vermont.) Mentoring can include outdoor activities such as hiking or biking, cultural events such as festivals, museum visits, business or college tours, playing games together, or simply chatting. Training and support is provided!

To learn more about this and other volunteer opportunities contact Sarah Braun Hamilton, 802-503-2009 or sarah.braunhamilton@UVM.edu. You can download a volunteer application at <http://go.uvm.edu/olpp>.

Broadband in Cambridge

By Brian Davison, Mansfield Community Fiber

Fiber-optic based Internet is now available and serving customers in some parts of Cambridge north and south of the river, brought to you by local companies Mansfield Community Fiber (MCF) and Stowe Cable. Please check out our websites, <http://www.mcfibervt.com> and www.stoweaccess.com. At the moment MCF is actively extending its network south on VT Rt. 108 through Cambridge and northeast on VT Rt. 109 into Waterville and Belvidere.

We have no contracts, so those who sign up do not have any obligation. Rather, "signing up" is just a way of providing us your contact information so we can reach you as soon as each new section of our network is complete. Once work on the above sections is done, we'll begin extending our network south of the river.

Our company was founded and is run by the same people that originally organized, built, and operated ECFiber/ValleyNet, the first Community Utility District. The Town of Cambridge is now a member of Lamoille FiberNet, a new generation CUD. MCF is in conversations with Lamoille FiberNet to try to find an efficient way to get fiber-optic broadband to all locations in Cambridge that are not reached by our existing network, by our current planned extensions, and by work that is being done by Stowe Cable.

Rebates for home efficiency improvements

If you're getting a new wood stove, upgrading to a smart thermostat, or even just tackling some DIY weatherization projects before the new year, make sure to check out Efficiency Vermont rebates. There are rebates for all of these, and more: <http://www.encyvermont.com/rebates>.

Or, if your furnace or boiler is on borrowed time, take a minute to check out our guide on home heating systems and do some research before your system fails. You may have more options than you think: <https://www.encyvermont.com/blog/how-to-a-guide-to-home-heating-systems>.

A reminder! If you haven't gotten a tune-up on your heating system or replaced your filters... now is the time. Trying to find a contractor? Look for an Efficiency Excellence Network member at <http://www.encyvermont.com/pro>.

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MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2022

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

The *Mountain Gazette* store-delivers 4,500 - Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Essex Junction, Essex, Essex Center, Fairfax, Huntington, Hinesburg, Jonesville, and Richmond.

TOTAL CIRCULATION – 4500 COPIES

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.

OPEN RATE

\$8.25 column inch,
Column width 1-7/16"

Listings below are measured width x height

Business Card

3-1/4" x 2"
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Deadlines: Thursday before publication:

Copy – 12:00 Noon

Advertising – 5:00 PM

Business Directory: \$18 each, must buy 5 issues (\$90 pre-paid) Size: 3-1/4" x 1-1/2.

Contract rates available, More sizes available

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Mountain Gazette

Publication & Deadline Dates 2022

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at noon. The advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

Publisher of the Mountain Gazette

6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

Phone: 802-453-6354 • mtngazette@gmavt.net

On the web at www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

DEADLINE DATES:

THURSDAY

December 30

January 13

January 27

February 10

February 24

March 10

March 31

April 14

April 28

May 12

May 26

June 9

June 30

July 14

July 28

August 11

August 25

September 8

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 10

November 24

December 8

PUBLICATION DATES:

THURSDAY

January 6

January 20

February 3

February 17

March 3

March 17

April 7

April 21

May 5

May 19

June 2

June 16

July 7

July 21

August 4

August 18

September 1

September 15

October 6

October 20

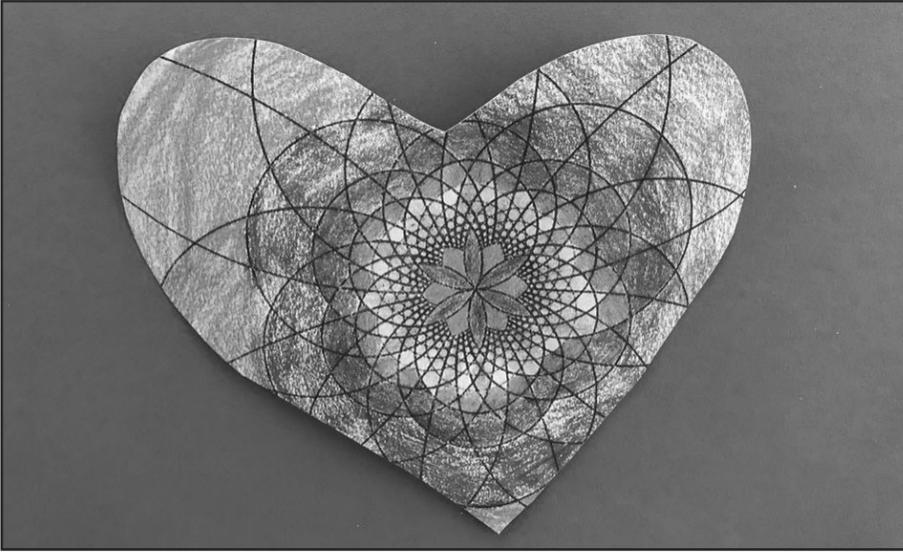
November 3

November 17

December 1

December 15

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Art from the Heart is looking for volunteers to help out on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 – 5:30 PM at the Burlington City Arts Center to make art and creative art kits for people at the UVM Medical Center and Children's Hospital. Join us to help assemble art kits, work on art installations, develop projects, and finish beaded spiritual care bracelets. Reach out to coordinator Rebecca Schwarz (rschwarz@burlingtoncityarts.org) if you're interested! *Art from the Heart* is designed to help patients, families, caregivers, and staff feel better through the arts.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Westford postponing December 18 Coffeehouse: Longing for the Christmas spirit, but... organizer Michael Kirick says that due to the recent continuing surge in COVID cases he feels it best to be cautious, especially during the holiday season, and to postpone the coffeehouse that had been scheduled for Saturday, December 18. It was to be a benefit for the Jeffersonville 2nd Congregational Church, which houses many important community events like the food shelf. Please contact Annie Rheume, anniesingerdj@yahoo.com, if you are interested in performing a few songs for the rescheduled event.

New show *Only Maple* at Gruppe Gallery: Through Sunday, December 19 at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho: a new show *Only Maple* featuring the work of

watercolor artist Harald Aksdal, woodworkers Carl Newton and Toby Fulwiler, and ceramic artist Lucia Bragg. The show's highlight is Newton's exploration of the traditional Norwegian-styled bentwood box called a Tine. These boxes date back to the Viking era and were used to store personal items — much like Shaker boxes but much more intricate in their design. The paintings are of a maple theme and all the wood pieces are made of maple, and End of the Road Maple treats will we also be available.

The Youth Commission, a program of Young Tradition Vermont, will be the featured artist for the Westford Music on Series Sunday, January 9, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. the White Church). These high school



The Youth Commission, a program of Young Tradition Vermont, will be the featured artist for the January Westford Music Series Sunday, January 9, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. the White Church). These high school musicians play and sing in traditional style. Each year a teen is selected during an annual competitive youth festival. The winner goes on to create a small ensemble of four or five members who arrange a program of original compositions with a mentor/master artist of their choosing, then perform together for a year at various festivals and events throughout Vermont. This year's commissioned artist is Hadley Stockwell of Charlotte, a junior at CVU High School. She has been playing fiddle for nine years and trumpet for six. Joining her in the ensemble are Ben Munkres of Cornwall, Maeve Fairfax of Burlington, and Winslow Solomon of Richmond. A rare chance to see budding new talent and developing professionals in the world of excellence in the arts! For more information call Mike Kirick, 802-363-0930.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

musicians play and sing in traditional style. Each year a teen is selected during an annual competitive youth festival. The winner goes on to create a small ensemble of four or five members who arrange a program of original compositions with a mentor/master artist of their choosing, then perform together for a year at various festivals and events throughout Vermont. This year's commissioned artist is Hadley Stockwell of Charlotte, a junior at CVU High School. She has been playing fiddle for nine years and trumpet for six. Joining her in the ensemble are Ben Munkres of Cornwall, Maeve Fairfax of Burlington, and Winslow Solomon of Richmond. A rare chance to see budding new talent and developing professionals in the world of excellence in the arts! For more information call Mike Kirick, 802-363-0930.

Call to artists: TRACKS. Do you see tracks in the snow, railroad, a sporting event, or even the tracings of an idea? Whatever "tracks" calls to mind, established and emerging artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography for *Tracks*, an exhibit scheduled for January-April 2022 in the Jericho Town Hall. The main requirement is that the work must be able to be hung on a gallery hanger system and not a picture hanger. Registration forms are due by Thursday, December 23. For registration materials and information contact Catherine McMains, catherine.mcmains@gmail.com. Registration materials and other information can also be found on the Jericho Town website, jerichovt.org.

The exhibit is one of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort between the Town of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members include: Catherine McMains, Jericho SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander, Jericho gallery owner; and Jericho artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

Unbound and Bradley Borthwick: Objects of Empire will be at the BCA Center, Burlington, Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM through February 5, 2022. Come explore our fall exhibitions! *Unbound* features the work of three New England artists — Rachel Gross, Rob Hitzig, and Kirsten Reynolds — who explore contemporary approaches to abstraction through their use of geometric, shaped forms that push outside the boundaries of the common rectangle. *Bradley Borthwick: Objects of Empire* examines the shared cycles of civilization, combining exquisitely hand-carved marble and cast beeswax reproductions of headstones and amphora with a rhythmic soundscape to create an experiential exploration of memory, place, history, and cultural connection. BCA Exhibitions are funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and Vermont Arts Council.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce the return of MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, through May 2022. For this festival, MNFF Selects presents *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*. The series illuminates the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. Passes: \$105 to cover all films; individual tickets \$16 (under 12, \$7); can be purchased at www.midffilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.com.

org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. COVID-19 protocol: All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated; and all attendees, including children under 12, must wear masks while inside the theater.

Upcoming films in the Series:

Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog [PG] Thursday, December 30, 7:00 PM. From award winning director Lynn Roth, *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog* sensitively portrays the timeless and unbreakable bond between a boy and his dog as it is put to the ultimate test in 1930s Germany. When the Nuremberg Laws are passed forbidding Jews from owning pets, Kaleb, a German Shepherd, is separated from his Jewish family and his beloved 10-year-old master, Joshua. What follows is a story of love and courage during an unforgettable time in history seen through the eyes and perspective of a dog.

From The Wild Sea [PG] Sunday, January 16, 2:00 PM. Directed by Robin Petré, this stunning and poetic documentary portrays the heroic efforts of a network of marine wildlife rescue volunteers who work tirelessly to save sea animals from oil, plastic and escalating winter storms. In depicting the complex collision between humans and nature, the film deftly oscillates between the perspectives of humans and animals.

Duma [PG] Sunday, February 20, 2:00 PM. In this drama directed by Carroll Ballard, an orphaned cheetah becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film and inspired by a true story, *Duma* offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassion in a beautiful and grand landscape.

Buck [PG] Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM. Directed by Cindy Meehl; winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, *Buck* is a revealing examination of the life of acclaimed "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people.

Grizzly Man [R] Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM. Director Werner Herzog delivers a heartrending docudrama that centers on amateur grizzly bear expert Timothy Treadwell, who periodically journeyed to Alaska to study and live with the bears. He was killed, along with his girlfriend Amie Huguenard, by a bear in October 2003. Winner of the 2006 Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary, *Grizzly Man* is an epic tale of the profound and fraught relationship between a man and the animals he dared to befriend.

The Rider [R] Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM. The highly acclaimed second feature from Oscar-winning director Chloe Zhao tells the poignant story of a young rodeo cowboy who, after suffering a near fatal head injury, begins a search for new identity, seeking to know what it means to be a man in the heartland of America. Focusing on life in the indigenous community of the Pine Ridge reservation, Zhao offers a penetrating vision of masculinity and humility set in a world where humans and animals intimately co-exist.

For more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: <http://www.midffilmfest.org>.

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*From the Mountain Gazette staff
Brenda Boutin and Sara Riley*

Libraries continued from page 10

energy healing called Tong Ren, which works well in a group setting and it's contact-free, so it also works well for social distancing purposes. For more information, contact molly@openchannelsenergy.com.

Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfi@gmavt.net.

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For more information, go online to <https://www.vsac.org/try-one-course-tuition-free>.

SPORTS

Browns River Little League information

Registration is now open for the 2022 Browns River Little League! BRLL had a great season in 2021 and it's already time to look ahead to the 2022 season! BRLL registration for '22 will run through January 31 for 9-12 year olds, and through March 15 for 4-8 year olds. Early registration is important for league planning so don't delay. **Registration will take place online only at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com.**

BRLL is now making softball available for 9-12 year old girls! (T-ball/coach pitch baseball is available to girls ages 4-8.

We need help to make next season happen, especially with softball. If you are interested to be part of our great youth sports program, please reach out to us at brownsriverll@gmail.com, or send Casey Knudsen an email at caseyknudsen@gmail.com. Casey is BRLL's new president and together with an energetic board and dedicated league volunteers, we can look forward to many more years of great youth baseball in Jericho and Underhill.

Please consider volunteering with the league if you can next season. Thank you Casey and all who make BRLL a great program!

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Bird feeders - the avian fighting ring



European starlings, blue jays, and a red-bellied woodpecker contest their places at a winter feeder. Feeders might seem like friendly spots where chickadees, finches, woodpeckers, and nuthatches can kumbaya over a good meal, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Some of the most intense avian rivalries are hashed out among the seeds and suet, says Eliot Miller, a researcher at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and author of a new feeder-hierarchy study. "Feeders are these arenas where birds gather and fight," he says. "There's an increased rate of aggression to some degree." For more information and photos, go online to <https://www.audubon.org/news/who-wins-feeder-war?>

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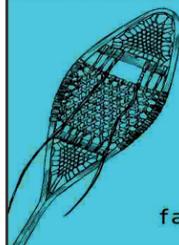
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