

A second life for Poorhouse Pies

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Jamie and Paula Eisenberg were tired. Their already popular Poorhouse Pies had flourished during the pandemic and retirement was looking tempting. Their friend Suzanne Tomlinson was at a different point in her life. The long-time restaurant worker was hoping to start her own restaurant but while talking to the Eisenbergs about her plan they had a better idea — buying Poorhouse Pies.

The Eisenbergs opened their two-person operation in 2009 and quickly developed a huge fan base, selling fruit and cream pies on an honor system from a small winter pie shed and a larger summer one. Tomlinson knew Poorhouse Pies was popular but she still wasn't prepared for the response to her new venture. She opened her doors on January 5 and has sold out every single day since then. Originally she was making 100 pies a day, but that has increased to between 120 and 140. The earliest sell-out was February 13, when 140 freshly made pies were out the door in less than an hour. An additional 110 pre-ordered pies were also picked up that day. "It's kind of crazy," Tomlinson said. "Who knew there was such a pie shortage?"

Tomlinson admits she did not grow up making sweet pies, although she did make shepherd's pie and chicken pot pie with her mother. Adding those savory pies has been the major change to the business. Every week, she and her team of three bakers try out a new pie, but doing so requires that one of the old favorites has to be removed from the menu for a day or two. "It's a game to figure out what sells," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson has worked in the restaurant industry since she was a 12-year-old washing dishes in Bradford at the Colatina Exit. "I loved it from the start," she said, "and I learned how to work really hard." By the time she graduated from high school, Tomlinson said she was pretty much running the Colatina Exit dining room. She later worked as a vet tech but continued in the restaurant industry at night, either bartending, waitressing, or prep cooking. She went out west and got her board certification to be a surgical vet tech, but soon she moved back to Vermont and a job at Jericho Café and Tavern. "I figured I'd do it for the summer," she said, "but I stayed for six years."



After buying a house in Underhill, Tomlinson got serious about opening her own restaurant. Long-time friend Jamie Eisenberg suggested that she sign up for Mercy Connections' Women's Small Business Program. "I called that day," Tomlinson said,

"and if I hadn't, I wouldn't have gotten in because someone had just dropped out and the first class was that night."

Through Mercy Connections, Tomlinson met Steve Densham of the Vermont Small Business Development Center, who mentored her. Tomlinson had a business plan and backing from Union Bank to open a new restaurant in Underhill, but permitting issues interfered. When COVID hit, Jericho Café and Tavern shut down and Tomlinson took a job in the pet section of a hardware store; but when the building on VT Rt. 15 came up for sale, the restaurant bug bit again. When Tomlinson told Eisenberg of her plans to buy the building, Eisenberg suggested she use the location for a new iteration of Poorhouse Pies.

"I'm an entrepreneur," Tomlinson said, "so I've had days when my imagination ran wild to the successful side of life, but also days that were full of fear that I'd have pie on the floor and pie in my hair but nobody would want to buy one." Since she was not a baker, she credits the Eisenbergs for teaching her the ropes. "My job was to learn what they do and then tell everyone about it," she said. "Apparently that worked." Tomlinson has harnessed the power of social media to spread the word about her new venture, with great success. Some retail locations have asked her to deliver pies, which the Eisenbergs used to do, but for now she's holding off. "It's very flattering," she said, "but I don't think it's smart to expand too quickly, although in the future we might have a second bakery or a second shift of bakers."

Wanting to retain a bit of the Eisenbergs' old location, Tomlinson asked her husband Jon LeBlanc (who coincidentally comes from a family of bakers) to build a breezeway that looks like the entrance to their old pie shed. "He cut down the trees and milled the wood," she said. "He put a lot of work into it and it turned out beautiful."

In addition to putting savory pies on the menu, Tomlinson has been baking vegan, keto, and gluten-free pies, and will continue to experiment with new recipes. She is already looking for ways to give back to the community that has been so welcoming to her. Once a month Poorhouse Pies will be making *pie for the people*: ten pies which will be donated to the Vermont Food Shelf. "I'm so grateful that Jamie had a vision of this," Tomlinson said. "It's been a long, weird road to get here."

NEWS BRIEFS

Ryan Cochran-Siegle Parade Day videos

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Need some feel-good viewing? These may put a smile on your face.

Here's a link to MMCTV's (Mount Mansfield Community Television's) coverage of the Richmond parade in honor of Olympian Ryan Cochran-Siegle: <https://archive.org/details/RichmondParade-ryancochransiegle2022>.

And this is a short (very snowy) video from donated cell phone footage, where the town grants the skier the key to the town: <https://archive.org/details/cochran-key-award-02192022>.

Stay tuned for an extensive interview by local students of Cochran-Siegle that is now in the editing room.

Volunteer opportunity: Westford Planning Commissioner

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner

The Town of Westford has a volunteer opportunity in the field of land use planning and community building: Planning Commissioner.

The main priorities of the Planning Commission are creating the Westford Town Plan and Westford Land Use & Development Regulations, developing and implementing the Town Center Master Plan, enhancing public infrastructure, services, and amenities, ensuring local resiliency, understanding biological and ecological systems in order to preserve natural resources and working lands, and promoting affordable housing and economic development.

Benefits of serving the community include gaining experience and knowledge of municipal government, enabling law, and the latest planning techniques and tools; and enhancing your knowledge and understanding of energy planning, natural resources planning, neighborhood design, town center revitalization, historic preservation, etc.

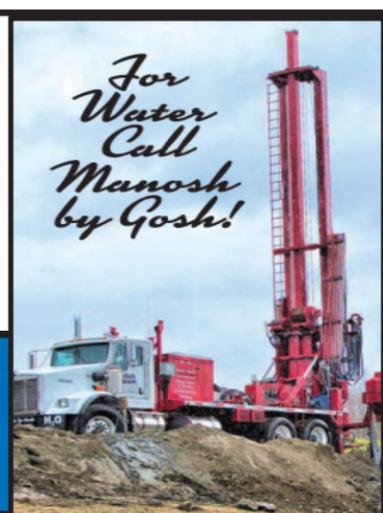
Please complete an online Application for Appointment (<https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/APPLICATION-FOR-APPOINTMENT.pdf>) if interested in serving on the Commission; and feel free to contact Town Planner Melissa Manka, 802-878-4587 or planner@westfordvt.us, with questions.

News briefs continued on page 2



Water Wells
Geo Thermal Installation
Pump Sales & Service
Water Filtration
Construction Drilling
Pond Aeration
Fountains

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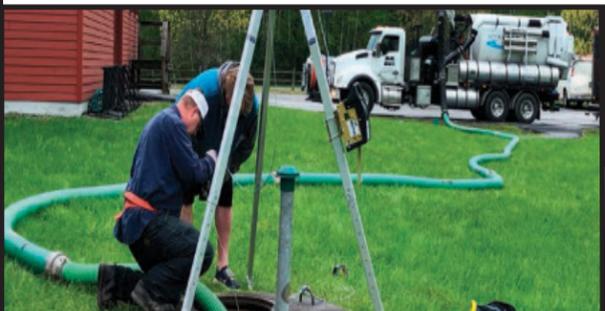


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COMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 5

The Value of Newspapers in Genealogy Research, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Maybe you thought you would look at newspapers to add to your genealogy records “someday,” but Lynn Johnson would like to show you why you shouldn’t wait. Using examples from her research, she will share how newspaper articles can help you break through brick walls, make connections, and learn more about the character and lives of your ancestors. She will include surprising finds in obituaries, as well as the importance of other types of articles. Lynn will also show you where you might access this material for free, or at a much lower cost, before you sign up for subscription sites. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Sunday, March 6

On Being a Vermonter and the Rise and Fall of the Holmes Farm, 1822-1923, 1:00 PM, on Zoom. David Holmes will discuss his new book about the 101-year history of the Holmes farm in Charlotte, **On Being a Vermonter and the Rise and Fall of the Holmes Farm, 1822-1923**. This is the only case study of a Vermont farm during this era. The farm, located just south of the Charlotte covered bridge on Lake Champlain, had a leading-edge apple orchard with apple sales to U.S. cities and Europe. The family also bred, raced, and sold Morgan horses. Building on the experience of the family and the farm, the author will ponder what it means to be a Vermonter, then and now. The presentation will also include old pictures from the early 1900s. Sponsored by the Chittenden County Historical Society. Log in numbers for zoom meeting will be posted at <http://www.cchsvt.org>. For more information contact Ann Gray, 802-878-4088.

Tuesday, March 8

Researching Your Irish Ancestors, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. Free. As part of the 2022 Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, the Vermont Genealogy Library and the BIHF are hosting this program with Ed McGuire. This talk will provide a brief history of Irish immigration to North America and then discuss some of the major problems facing researchers. Ed will discuss techniques for finding your ancestors’ parish and the major record sets in Ireland. The talk will also cover major new collections that



Vermont Works for Women (VWW) is excited to bring back LUNAFEST®, a film festival of award-winning short films by and about women. All proceeds will benefit VWW. There are two ways to watch this year's films: virtual screening the weekend of March 4-6 to celebrate Women's History Month; and in-person screening preceded by music, food, and drinks at The ESSEX Experience on August 5. The virtual screening begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, March 4. You will be sent the link to the films and have until Monday, March 7, 6:00 PM to enjoy. Tickets are \$25 for an individual or \$40 for a household (two or more people). To order tickets, go online to <https://www.vtworksforwomen.org/support/attend-events>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

have recently come online and provide a handout with links to resources. A Q&A period will follow. Register at www.vtgenlib.org.

Saturday, March 19

What is a “Reasonably Exhaustive Search?” 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. In anything we do, failure to use standards can result in frustration or failure. For genealogists our rule is the Genealogical Proof Standard or GPS, which defines five elements to measure whether our research efforts reach sound

conclusions; its first element calls on us to conduct a “reasonably exhaustive search.” In this talk Joanne Polanshek, a certified genealogist, will teach us what a reasonably exhaustive search is and how we can know when we’ve achieved it. Using examples, she will explain how researchers can determine “what” and, just as importantly, “what not” to search. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

City Nature Challenge comes to Bolton beginning April 29

By Virginia Haviland and Pamela “flask” Gude
(for the Bolton Conservation Commission)

The City Nature Challenge, an international event organized by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the California Academy of Sciences, is coming to Bolton this spring! Sponsored by the Conservation Commission (CC), we invite folks to observe and record nature in and around our beautiful town from Friday, April 29-Monday, May 2, with the ID phase occurring Tuesday-Sunday, May 3-8, and international results announced Monday, May 9.

The Bolton CC will gladly support our citizen scientists’ efforts during this challenge. Enjoy time out and about in our lovely rural setting observing any wild organism, or living thing, you might see.

The simplest way to participate is to have a device with an *iNaturalist* account. Group accounts and entries are welcome! For much more information, please go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/> or <https://citynaturechallenge.org/>, and/or contact Pamela “flask” Gude, eflask@gmail.com.

Thanks for your consideration!

4-H NEWS

Start thinking about summer! Free 4-H program at UVM for teens

Agrotek Innovation is a new program being offered by UVM College of Agriculture and Life Science and Extension/4-H that is designed to build AgriScience and Biotechnology skills for youth in middle and high school.

This summer *AgroTek Innovation* will include two free, week-long, residential academies where participants will dive deep into one of two topics: Culturing Cells for Healthier Soils; and Converting Waste into Value-Added Product.

Both academies will allow participants to learn, make connections with University researchers, and build relationships with undergraduate student mentors. We especially encourage those under-represented in ag careers (female-identifying, BIPOC) to participate.

Learn more at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/agrotek-innovation-program-7th-12th-graders>. Applications are due by Friday, April 1, 2022.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Church Services in Waterville

The Waterville Union Church meets in person at 9:30 AM at the church, masks recommended. Zoom is only available when there is bad weather or illness of a speaker. We do not post our recorded services to facebook. But information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>

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 (March 13, 27). 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. 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.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

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

Every old forest was once a young forest and will be one again.
— Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

Church services in Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. 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, VT. Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Peter Anderson. Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages, Fellowship at 9:30 AM, Worship Service at 10:00 AM; Nursery care provided. Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building ~ 899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

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. Services continue to be live virtual for the coming weeks. To join in: Zoom links are provided via Good Shepherd’s communication document called the E-Bulletin. Subscribe ahead of time, by the Tuesday prior to a service you hope to attend, at www.goodshepherdjericho.org. You need to subscribe only once, and you can unsubscribe at any time. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. In addition, online offerings include Monday evening Prayerful Meditation, Tuesday Evening Prayer, and Centering Prayer on Friday mornings. Good Shepherd also hosts the monthly online *Racism in America Forum*. 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.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church in Jericho, now worships virtually via Zoom on Sundays at 9:30 AM due to the Omicron variant’s rapid spread throughout Vermont. If you would like the worship service login information, please contact the parish administrator at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453. All are warmly invited!

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. Visit us at www.stthomasvt.com or call 802-899-4632 for more information.

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Old Red Mill update

By Louise Miglionico

The matching fundraiser was a success! We matched the \$35,000, and raised another \$15,000. These funds will be used for the various preservation projects needed for the mill such as roof repair, window repair/replacement, fire suppression system, painting of outside of mill, etc. We continue to fundraise for these projects. We are also applying for grants.

The riverbank repair and mill foundation project will proceed soon. The project has become much more complicated than originally thought, particularly since the mill foundation integrity has to be dealt with before the riverbank collapse can be repaired. Of course, the cost of the project has increased accordingly. The money raised by the matching donor drive is separate from the cost of the riverbank repair. We had previously raised \$57,000 toward our share of the riverbank repair. The rest of the local share is being covered by a loan being taken out by the town of Jericho. The local share is 25%. The other 75% is being covered by a grant, which the town obtained. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$750,000. I for one am thankful that the engineers realized that the effect of the riverbank restoration on the integrity of the mill foundation was of concern.

Westford Town Hall notes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Dog Licenses are due by Friday, April 1. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let us know. For your convenience you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you. The fee until April 1 is \$13 for intact dogs and \$11 if your dog is spayed or neutered. Dog licenses obtained after April 1 are subject to a late fee.

You can read the draft Selectboard minutes from the Thursday, February 10 meeting online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-02-10-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Now accepting stock donations

The Jericho Historical Society would like to express thanks for the continued generosity of its many donors to the Old Red Mill Preservation Fund.

The Old Red Mill is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The JHS is now coordinating with stockdonor.com so that donors can easily gift stocks to us. Donating appreciated stocks can be of up to 20% more valuable than selling and donating the cash. This results in bigger financial gain for the receiver of the gift and saves on the donor’s taxes.

Federal capital gains tax can be avoided by donating stock and most donors can claim an income tax deduction for the stock’s full market value (state and local income tax deductions may be also available in some areas).

If you are interested in donating stock to the JHS you can go to stockdonor.com or contact

Louise Miglionico
68 VT RTE 125 • Jericho, VT 05465 • 802-355-5382
LOUMIG@AOL.COM

The JHS is a 501(c)(3) approved organization.



COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Philanthropy – for whom?

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

My South Dakota prairie mother could be called a philanthropist, although she never thought or acted in terms of that elevated word with its Greek derivations: sharing, loving kindness, giving. To her, it meant a casserole or a “blind” huckleberry pie; she could bake a pie by instinct with her eyes closed. And the sharings went to an ailing neighbor, via an old horse that knew the way through the winter ruts and the fresh snow covering the tracks of a hungry fox. She never stayed long, although both farm wives were hungry for conversation. But time was precious and measured in chores that needed to be done before nightfall. And in dealing with living animals, there were always those chores those that couldn’t wait.

My mother was raised (or, raised herself) on a farm that barely scraped by. Duck eggs were traded for a plump orange that was the best treat in a Christmas stocking. It taught her not to waste... including words; she was a shy farm girl who expressed herself in loyalty translated into hard work. The families were united by their many tasks to many living creatures, and also by the struggles of living on the edge of severe cold that was shared and feared by all, in the houses and cabins that doggedly hung on to the edges of pastures and frozen ponds.

She put herself through college and became a school teacher in her home town. She married and when my Dad was given a fellowship to Yale School of Forestry, she found herself in a life-changing venue. Her neighbors were often from another country, so the commonalities she had known while growing up were no longer there. The common language and work habits of her growing years were gone. So my mother continued her shy ways, now learning how to make and cook a “blind” apple pie.

There were times when I saw the attempts of my mother to make friends, to continue her heritage of loving kindness, sharing in a milieu which was more complex than her isolated upbringing. I promised that I would not allow myself to be as vulnerable.

I have a need to help others. Whether this is natural (born with it) or whether my career choice — nursing — was made for me by my mother’s wish to “always have plentiful choices.” But either way, it was a good fit. When I started teaching nursing, I was giving more than was necessary; rather a rehearsal for learning the important lesson of listening without directing, which, unless carefully handled, turns into a neophytic replay of a classic lecture on infection... without really hearing the needs of the students. Of course there are skills and growth that needs to occur, but if the base is supportive of learning important medical information, this hopefully is built on a base of seeking growth and asking questions.

It has been a long career for me. I have learned a great deal, which, as I approach 90, is beginning to fade. But I think, even with my brain stumbling now and again, I know that my mother would have been proud of me!

Forest management is not deforestation

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

Over the last few centuries, Vermont’s forests have been on a transformative journey. Prior to European colonization, Vermont was about 90-95% forested. Following the massive clearing of the early-mid 1800s, Vermont rebounded from a low of about 20% forested around 1850 to 80% forested by the end of the twentieth century. In the last several decades, however, the amount of forestland in our state has begun to backslide, decreasing to about 75% today.

Deforestation, or forest loss, occurs when forests are converted to non-forest. While both local and global forest loss are driven

by a variety of factors, here in Vermont development is one of the leading contributors. The estimates of annual deforestation in Vermont range from 2000 acres to nearly 13,000 acres per year, depending on how we define the term. Despite uncertainty in the exact amount, it’s clear that we are losing forestland in Vermont.

Forests are foundational to our lives: they make our world work and our lives beautiful. Among the many benefits that forests provide are food and shelter for wildlife, clean water and air, protection of biodiversity, renewable resources (wood), scenic beauty, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Rightfully, those who care about forests increasingly recognize the problem of deforestation and are looking for solutions. However, understanding deforestation is more complex than it may seem.

When you see tree stumps in the woods, you might assume that deforestation has occurred — that the forest has in some way been lost. However, while deforestation involves the cutting of trees, tree mortality (whether natural or human-caused) is not the same as deforestation. Within Vermont’s forests, tree mortality is an important part of forest growth and development that the plants, animals, trees, fungi, and microorganisms that make up the forest community have adapted to over millennia. Forest development is a cycle, a continuous, dynamic process within which the death of trees is a beginning as much as an ending. Every old forest was once a young forest and will be one again.

Deforestation is the only real endpoint for forests, systems that include, and even thrive on, death and disturbances. While the death of trees in a forest may lead to a rich and robust natural response — including the development of unique habitats and robust regeneration — deforestation undermines the natural cycles that perpetuate forests by denying them the opportunity to regenerate. In short, instead of letting forests be forests, deforestation turns them into something else. When deforestation occurs, we lose forests’ countless benefits for the foreseeable future; a forest converted to non-forest will no longer sequester and store carbon, no longer provide habitat for wildlife, no longer clean our air and our water to the degree that forests do — and may not do so again in our lifetimes.

While the goal of deforestation is to turn a forest into something else (often to meet human needs), the goal of responsible forest management is the perpetuation of healthy, vibrant, intact forests and the many values they provide. Done well, forest management can be regenerative, working with natural processes to help forests become more biologically diverse, complex, resilient to climate change, and rich in habitat for an array of plants, animals, and other native species. While cutting trees is different in some ways than natural mortality, it can be done in ways that build on forests’ natural resilience and are ultimately beneficial to the forest community. That said, forest management has tradeoffs: we can recognize that forest management can be very positive while also acknowledging that some critiques of forest management are valid, deserve our close attention, and highlight opportunities for improvement.

As we endeavor to understand how best to build a healthy, functional, beautiful world, understanding how deforestation is fundamentally different from forest management is one of the many nuances we must explore. Developing a common definition for what deforestation is and how it differs from responsible forest management allows us to work towards common solutions — strategies that ensure healthy forests and the benefits they provide exist for this and future generations. Having frank conversations about what constitutes responsible forest management is critical, but limiting deforestation — both in Vermont and across the globe — is the single most important thing we can do to protect our forested ecosystems. We must find a way to keep forests as forests.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews, and read articles he’s written at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.



Lovingkindness (Mettabhavana) is an ancient Buddhist meditation leading to the development of unconditional lovingkindness and friendliness. Metta is something you feel in your heart, a positive emotional state towards others as well as ourselves. As a result of practicing metta we become more empathetic, more considerate, more kind, more forgiving, and in general, more loving, friendly people. Although it is a Buddhist practice, Lovingkindness Meditation is appropriate for anyone of any belief who wishes to bring more harmony, love, kindness, and friendliness into their life. Twice each year, the Vermont Zen Center offers a six-week course in the practice of Lovingkindness Meditation. The course is limited to 20 participants and fills quickly so if you would like to take the course, it’s a good idea to sign up early. The course meets on Wednesday evenings (March 16, 23, 30, April 5, 13, 27) on Zoom, 7:00 – 8:00 PM; the \$100 cost includes all materials. Please note that the first class is longer, ending at 8:30 PM. Each session includes lectures, meditation instruction, practice periods, and discussion. Because the initial class of the six-week series is essential to the course, registration is closed after the first class. Anyone may apply; no experience is needed. The class is suitable for beginners, experienced practitioners, people of any belief — it is not necessary to be a Buddhist to benefit from lovingkindness. Register online at <https://vermontzen.org/lovingkindness.html>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

COLLEGE HONORS

Claire Ammirato of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Ammirato is a member of the class of 2024.

Henry Ammirato of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Ammirato is a member of the class of 2024.

Cortland Doyle of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at the Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions, Athens, GA.

MegAnne Marita Gilmore of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Radford University, Radford, VA. Gilmore is majoring in Health Sciences.

Send your news
to the Mountain Gazette at
mtngazette@gmavt.net



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Must be signed for attribution with writers address
and phone number. Send your news to
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Cambridge Cares is here to help

Do you, or do you know of an individual or family who may have unmet needs, or who may be “falling through the cracks?” Are you looking for someone who cares? Well, Cambridge Cares is here to offer assistance.

Cambridge Cares is a group of “neighbors-helping-neighbors” — community volunteers who support residents in need, and encourage neighbors to aid in the process. We offer information about available resources, and may collaborate with entities that provide support with housing, heat, hunger, and other needs. Our volunteers are also available to intervene personally when needed and appropriate. For more information, or to ask about assistance for yourself or someone you know, please contact us at 802-730-2588 or 802-644-2927.

Cambridge Cares hint for renters: Have your finances been adversely affected by COVID-19? The Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP) helps tenant households with paying rent, past-due rent balances, utility and home energy costs, past-due utility and home energy balances, and other expenses related to housing. Utilities include electricity, gas, water, sewer, trash removal, and energy costs such as fuel oil.

For more information or to apply go online to <https://erap.vsha.org> or call 1-833-488-3727. Assistance filling out the application is provided by Capstone Community Action (802-888-7993) and Downstreet Housing & Community Development (1-802-476-4493).

Happy Birthday
Patrick Boutin

May you celebrate like there was is tomorrow,



When and Why

By Kimberly Madura

On the day she died
she danced
she went to the lake
she took the time to
sit with a friend
and say she loved.

You have
the choice
to do these things
today and still live
so tell me —
what is your excuse?

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HEALTH NEWS

At higher risk for COVID-19? Know about treatment

From the VT Department of Health

If you test positive for COVID-19, and are 65 or older or have one or more medical conditions that could put you at higher risk of becoming very sick, treatment may be available. Treatment must be started within the first few days to be effective, so contact your health care provider as soon as you get your positive result — even if your symptoms are mild right now. Your provider will recommend the best treatment option for you, based on your symptoms and your health history.

Treatments include monoclonal antibodies, which are given with an infusion into a vein (IV); and anti-virals, which are taken as a pill.

Don't delay — treatment can help prevent serious illness and hospitalization.

To learn more about treatment and find videos from the Vermont Language Justice Project in multiple languages, visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-treatment>.

Age Well Grab & Go free senior meal at CCJ March 9

The March Age Well Grab & Go senior meal (free to anyone 60+) will be on Wednesday, March 9, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Community Center in Jericho, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. This month, the meal is BBQ chicken breast, O'Brien red potatoes, spinach, wheat bread, pumpkin bar with raisins, and milk. Please register by Friday, March 4.

To register contact Donna Lewis, 802-434-3155 or bellyacr@gmavt.net.

Age Well is a nonprofit organization that serves Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties and is the largest Meals on Wheels provider in Vermont. Our mission is to provide the support and guidance that inspires our community to embrace aging with confidence. Learn more at <http://agewellvt.org>.

Quit Nicotine free workshops offered, online and in-person

Do you smoke cigarettes? Chew tobacco? Vape nicotine? Are you ready to quit? These free workshops are designed to help you quit and stay quit. Participants meet once a week for four weeks, with free nicotine replacement available.

In-person workshops begin on the first Thursday of every month, 3:00 – 4:00 PM at the North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite #2, Morrisville. For more information about these in-person workshops, as well as monthly support groups and one-on-one counseling, please contact Dawn, 802-851-8120.

An online workshop is also being offered, starting Friday, April 1, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Each workshop will be held weekly via Zoom. Visit <http://www.MyHealthyVT.org> for more information, or contact Savannah, sdroney@lamoillehealthpartners.org.

Sponsored by North Central Vermont Recovery Center, Lamoille Health Partners, and the Vermont Department of Health.

United Way of Northwest VT launches Mental Health Initiative

United Way of Northwest Vermont (UWNWVT), in collaboration with community partners, has launched a new Mental Health Initiative to align existing mental health resources, identify gaps in the system of care, and create a shared agenda as we work together to improve timely access to appropriate mental health services in our communities.

Already one of the hardest areas to address, mental health needs have worsened throughout COVID-19. Two years into the pandemic, many people experiencing mental health challenges and the systems designed to help them are at a breaking point.

“The acute mental health crisis so many Vermonters are experiencing is one of the most harmful aspects of the pandemic. Effective solutions that address the challenges our mental health system faces, and that ensure Vermonters can get the care they need, without stigma, are going to require innovation and sustained collaboration. This is exactly what the Mental Health Initiative aims to generate,” said UWNWVT Board member Mark Levine, MD, who also serves as VT Health Commissioner.

Steven Berbeco, hired by United Way as Director of the Mental Health Initiative, has been meeting with mental health service providers, Vermonters with lived experience, and organizations and alliances focused on mental health who all agree the mental health crisis is a complex problem that no single entity can solve alone.

“Now more than ever, we need to come together to strengthen mental health resources for ourselves and our neighbors,” said Berbeco. “Together, we have identified three initial priorities for the Mental Health Initiative to focus on: addressing Vermont’s critical labor shortage of mental health providers; strengthening and aligning resources for suicide prevention; and responding to the acute rise in youth mental health needs.” Berbeco brings a wealth of leadership experience in state, federal and tribal education and social services agencies. He most recently served as Deputy Commissioner of the Child Development Division in VT’s Department for Children and Families.

Community partners who will help guide the Mental Health Initiative’s work include Howard Center, Northwestern Counseling & Support Services (NCSS), Vermont Care Partners, Spectrum Youth & Family Services, Vermont Suicide Prevention Center, and NAMI Vermont.

The Mental Health Initiative is made possible thanks to funding from the UVM Health Network, IBM and generous individual donors.

For more information about the Mental Health Initiative and how you can get involved, visit <https://unitedwaynwvt.org/mental-health-initiative>.

Putting the question to bed about sleeping with infants

Parents have recently been wide awake with questions about whether or not their infant should share the bed with them; and if so, for how long?

Bed-sharing remains controversial

On the one hand, there are studies that suggest that a baby who sleeps with her mother in the same bed becomes a more secure and confident child and is more likely to sleep through the night, not to mention the convenience of having the baby right there to breastfeed. However, a few years ago, the Consumer Product Safety Commission showed in a study an increased risk of babies being accidentally suffocated while bed-sharing by being wedged between the mattress and wall, caught in the bed frame or rolled onto by the parent who doesn’t realize this has happened. There is now new data to suggest that an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome is associated with bed-sharing, especially in mothers who smoke.

A much safer option

I personally do not recommend bed-sharing at all. A better way to go is having baby co-sleep nearby in a crib, bassinet, or sidecar cradle attached next to the bed while mom sleeps. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics safe sleep guidelines call for room-sharing but not bed-sharing for baby and parent at least for the first six months of life, and optimally for the first year of life — which has been found to decrease the rate of sudden unexpected infant death by as much as 50%. Placing a baby on their back to sleep at night in the basinet, crib, or co-sleeper is a must as well to reduce the risk of sudden unexpected infant death.

If you do bring baby to bed

Parents who still want to bring baby to sleep in their bed should wait until after the first four months of life, when the risk of sudden death is greatest. Parents who still choose to bed-share cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, should use a tight-fitting mattress, and have no loose pillows or soft blankets that can cover the baby’s face. Finally, keep baby’s room smoke-free, since exposure to passive smoke has been found to increase a baby’s risk of experiencing sudden unexpected infant death. It’s important to note that breastfeeding and vaccinations have been shown to reduce that risk.

Hopefully, tips like these will rest well with you and your child when it comes to figuring out the risks and benefits of sharing a family bed.

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.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Legislative update — Chittenden 8-3

By Alyssa Black, State Representative, Chittenden-8-3
February 13

February is a very short month, but always seems to be packed with activity. This is certainly true at the Statehouse, as we continue toward our Town Meeting break. I have a couple updates this week, as well as a request for your input.

Essex Junction Independence — I’m asking for feedback from my constituents in Chittenden 8-3 on this issue; I’m really struggling with this upcoming vote. House Ways & Means is in the final stretch of their work with H.491, the Essex Junction charter change bill. The bill took a stop at House Ways & Means after passing unanimously in House Government Operations. Once passed out of House Ways and Means, H.491 then heads to a vote on the full House floor.

I alone cannot change this progression, but when it comes to the floor, I will have to vote on this. I realize it’s inevitable, but it makes me very sad. I’ve always believed our community is stronger together. I’ve lived here for 26 years, and I think what makes us so special is our ties to one another, and the diversity that each part of Essex brings to the whole. Please reach out to me and tell me what you think I should do? I can vote Yes, because I’ve come to believe that that is what my community wants, or I can follow my conscience and symbolically vote No.

House passes H.510, a first step toward the creation of a VT Child Tax Credit — This week, the House passed H.510, a bill that creates a new Vermont Child Tax Credit and expands our

Social Security deduction. This proposal would give \$1200 per year to parents and guardians for every qualifying child six years of age or younger. The credit would phase out at adjusted gross incomes of \$200,000 for both single and joint filers. It’s fully refundable, which means Vermonters with little or no tax liability would get money back. H.510 passed by a roll-call vote of 102-46. From here, the bill moves to the Senate for consideration.

“The Child Tax Credit has two fundamental and important purposes,” says Rep. Janet Ancel, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. “First, it’s an anti-poverty initiative, focused on young children and their families. Just as significant is the purpose of addressing our demographic challenges: the Child Tax Credit provides encouragement to young families to move to Vermont, to stay in Vermont and to have children in Vermont.”

H.510 also increases the amount of Social Security that middle-income seniors can use to live on. “Taken together, this bill provides clear benefits for low-income families, for young children and for seniors,” says Ancel.

2022 Reapportionment (Redistricting) update — As part of a multi-step process to establish updated House districts based on 2020 Census data, the House Government Operations Committee is developing a proposed state map based on the standard reapportionment guidance and feedback from involved entities. Westford BCA met on February 10 and I look forward to hearing their recommendations. The Board of Civil Authority for Essex met on Monday, February 14 to continue their involvement in the process. Information on the meeting can be found here: <https://www.essexvt.org/.../ViewFile/Agenda/01312022-1285>.

Please keep in mind that this is a process, and nothing has been decided or finalized.

It was wonderful to meet many of you at the Westford Winterfest this week, what a great event. I definitely had my fill of many delicious chilis! Reach out any time: 802-598-1026 or ABlack@leg.state.vt.us.

Nurse staffing crisis Town Hall March 2

By Keshia Ram Hinsdale
State Senator, Chittenden District

February 22

As February comes to a close, I am reminded of how resilient our communities have been in the face of ongoing challenges. I join people of conscience around the world, including those demonstrating in Russia at great personal cost, in standing in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condemning Vladimir Putin for initiating unprovoked violence in violation of international law. Vermonters might not be able to stop aggression thousands of miles away, but I know we will stand ready with open arms to those needing a safe place to rebuild their lives.

Together, we will participate in our time-honored democratic tradition of Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, March 1. It’s our chance to make our voices heard, reaffirming that we all have a role to play in shaping our local government. Getting out to vote,

especially in our local elections, is a privilege and a responsibility for us all, regardless of political belief or alignment. If you have not already voted, make a plan and learn about your polling location and hours, in-person and early voting options, and more at mvp.vermont.gov.

Vermont, once again, leads the way in expanding voting rights. New Americans can now vote in local elections in Winooski and Montpelier, meaning an additional ten percent of the community can now vote in Winooski. If you are a Winooski resident, please visit the City’s website to learn more about registering: <https://www.winooskivt.gov/283/Voting-in-Winooski>. There, you can also find materials and videos in other languages to help with registration and voting. Please share with a friend or neighbor who may be newly able to participate in local elections!

Following Town Meeting Day, on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:00 PM, join me and frontline nurses for a Town Hall discussion on the nurse staffing crisis. A recent study found that Vermont hospitals are experiencing some of the most acute staffing shortages in the nation at 69% of hospitals statewide. We will discuss wage gaps, housing challenges, extended shifts, a lack of nurse educators, a shortage of new nursing graduates, and what you can do to help.

Register here to join the discussion on the nurse staffing crisis: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZpjuorzo0Htx4PFsJG0faS_iJgStojCys.

As always, please feel free to write with your thoughts and feedback: kramhinsdale@leg.state.vt.us. I may see you outside of your polling place on Town Meeting Day, and I do hope to see you at our virtual Town Hall.

Happy voting!

The Green Mountain Byway

By Rockin’ Ron Carter

Hi Friends and Neighbors! The Green Mountain Byway is a state designated scenic route that includes Waterbury, Stowe, Cambridge, Johnson, Hyde Park, and Morristown. The idea is to attract tourists by promoting scenery, recreation, history, and culture. You may have seen the signs on VT Routes 15, 108, and 100.

The monthly *Byway Blog* promotes topics of interest and/or one of the towns. The February blog features local mentions including Wyckoff Family Maple, Vermont Maple Outlet, Smugglers’ Notch Nordic Center, and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. To see the blog and what the website has to offer, visit <https://greenmountainbywayvt.com/>.

Each town has a representative on the Green Mountain Byway Committee. I am proud to represent Cambridge (Cambridge Village and Junction, Jeffersonville, Smugglers’ Notch). Let me know if you have any ideas or photos for the blog or the website in general. And... tell your visiting family and friends about the Green Mountain Byway!

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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is now open with updated hours, no appointment needed: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask. Please try to limit your visit to 30 minutes. Curbside pickup is still available; contact 802-899-4962 or rawsonlibrary@drml.org.

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.

Art returns to DRML! Thank you to the Essex Art League for sharing beautiful pieces of framed art. Most of the pieces are for sale. If interested, please inquire at the Circulation Desk for prices and information on how to contact the artist. Many thanks to the members of the Essex Art League for sharing their talent!

Adult programs

Tech Talk — Thursday, March 3, 12:00 PM, on Zoom. This series of programs is designed to demystify digital technologies. This month will be an informal Q&A about technology that has been acting out for you. Join us to share your tech troubles and to learn from the stories of others. Registration required; please email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) for the link, and if you need assistance in joining the program.

22nd Annual Music Series: Young Tradition Vermont — Sunday, March 6, 2:00 PM, in-person and live streamed. Young Tradition Vermont continues its Youth Commission program. The Youth Commission is a group of high school-aged musicians who play and sing in traditional styles. They begin rehearsals in the fall, and give performances starting in January, continuing into spring and summer, including the annual Young Tradition Festival in Burlington in early May. Each year, a teen is selected to lead the Youth Commission for the year (September through the following spring and summer). The teen is charged with creating a small ensemble (four to five members) and a program of original compositions and/or arrangements with a variety of mentors and master artists. The program is presented at concerts, festivals, celebrations, and other events, both in person when possible and/or online. The commissioned artist for 2021/2022 is Hadley Stockwell from Charlotte, a junior at CVU High School in Hinesburg. She has been playing the fiddle for nine years and the trumpet for six. She has been a member of the YTV Touring Group and Youth Commission for several years, and has done performances tours in Cape Breton, Scotland, and New York City. Hadley and the ensemble represent YTV as ambassadors starting in January and continue into the spring and summer. For more information about the Young Tradition Youth Commission, contact mark.sustic@gmail.com. Information about Young Tradition Vermont is available online at www.youngtraditionvermont.com or on Facebook.

Registration required; to reserve your in-person seat, please call 802-899-4962. To register for the virtual livestream, please email Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers — Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 PM, online. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month's selection is *A Visit From the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan. 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.

Legislative Update — Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 PM, on Zoom. Join your local representatives George Till and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session. Registration required, please email Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Mystery Book Club — Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 PM, in person and on Zoom. We will be discussing *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner. If you need a book, please call the library (802-899-4962) to request a copy. Due to delays with our courier you should request soon so that it has time to arrive. In person, we will be meeting in the program room; masks are required. A Zoom meeting will also be available for those who prefer a virtual option. Please contact Holly, drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com, if you would like to receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

Youth programs — ongoing

Story Time [preschool] Tuesdays, 3:00 PM. We're switching things up and testing out an afternoon story time. We hope you can join us for songs, stories, flannel board games, and more! Everyone over 2 years old must wear a mask.

Spring Scavenger Hunt — We are spring dreaming! Each time you visit the library, you can hunt for the six spring themed cutouts hiding all over the library. When you find them all, visit the front desk to enter a raffle for a spring chick finger puppet. You can play the scavenger hunt and enter as often as you like.

Youth programs — check out these great programs!

All programs meet in person at DRML. Everyone over the age of 2 must wear a mask. If you would like to join via Zoom, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Young Writers' Club — Thursdays, March 3, 17, 31, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [tween/teen]. Stuck writing a chapter, don't know where to go next? Bring yourself and your story to Writers' Club and we'll get you unstuck with games, friendly feedback and more!

Crafternoon: Slime — Friday, March 4, 3:00 – 4:00 PM [ages 8+]. This month we're getting slimy! Wild colors, glitter loaded, with other funky mix-ins. We hope you can come make ooey goeey wonderful slime! This will be popular so make sure you sign up! You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Among Us — Wednesday, March 9, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [ages 10+]. Join a sneaky group of players and try to figure out who's crew and who's the imposter! It's trickier than you think. To sign up, visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Animation Club — Thursdays, March 10, 24, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [tween/teen]. Learn some movie making skills that you can use for the rest of your life! At Animation Club we play drawing games, watch behind-the-scenes videos, and of course, animate our own short movies! To sign up visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Read to Wyatt — Wednesday, March 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [all ages]. The goodest good boy is back! Read to Wyatt the Bernese Mountain Dog, and his handler, Ms. Sue. They would love to help you build your confidence as a reader while they listen with no judgment to whatever stories you want to share. Please pre register for a 15-minute spot. You can sign up when you visit

the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

LEGO Club — Friday, March 25, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [ages 6+]. Build whole worlds together or on your own. There's no wrong way to play with LEGO! This is a really popular program so make sure you sign up! You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

All programs meet in person at DRML. Everyone over the age of 2 years must wear a mask. If you would like to join via Zoom, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Thank you for supporting Jericho Town Library's second virtual Adopt-A-Book Sale! Here's how it works: you visit our Amazon charity list and choose a book to purchase. It ships directly to us, and then you get to be the first person to read it once it's ready for circulation. You can view the list online at https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/2S96EX5QFBM0Q/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl. You are more than welcome to make your purchase from another bookseller, just let us know so we can remove your book from the Amazon list. Feel free to reach out with any questions. Thanks so much for your support as we strive to keep our collection current, comprehensive, and exciting!

We continue to be open 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday. With all this great snow we're getting, come check out some snowshoes for your family! Snowshoes are available to all Jericho Town and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library cardholders aged 18+, and we have a range of sizes that will fit your whole family.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@[jerichotownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/jerichotownlibrary)) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections. 802-899-4686, library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

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

Adult fiction has been moved to the front, and kids, young adults, and adult nonfiction to the back. New releases can be found in the middle.

If you're interested in supporting the Varnum in any way, be sure to check out our Amazon Wish List! Any donations are sincerely appreciated. Our list this year includes fish tank filters, hot chocolate, crafts, and even a fireplace insert! https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2OTE5H21CH0EE?ref=wl_share Please let us know how we can assist you by contacting varnumrequests@gmail.com or 802-644-2117.

The team at the Varnum: April, Carol, Carrie, Courtney, Hope, Jan, Karen, Krista, Laura, Lesley, Liv, Mark, Teelah, and Valerie.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have moved back inside for the colder weather months. We require that all participants wear a mask (regardless of vaccination status). Children under 2 are exempt from this requirement. We will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of takeaways and in-person.

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.

March all-month events

A new Winter Trail Hike: *The Mitten* will be lining the school trails in March. This story has a unique Westford connection! Park in the front school parking lot and follow the signs from the kiosk. Enjoy a walk to and around the Misty Meadows trail. Please do not walk on groomed ski tracks.

The Art of Tasha Tudor Art Show — a personal collection by Peggy Rodgers; the installation will stay up through the end of March. Peggy Rodgers grew up living next door to famed author, illustrator, and eccentric Tasha Tudor. She has many pieces that Tudor created for her and her family. Stop by anytime we are open to check out this display. Original pieces you can only see here!

Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 11:15 AM: Early Literacy Storytime (birth to pre-school). Storytime meets every inside the library; masks are required for all, regardless of vaccination status (children under two exempt). We will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of take-aways and in-person. March 3: The Letter M. March 10: Green. March 17: St. Patrick's Day. March 24: Sugaring. March 31: Crayons.

Crazy 8's Math Club for grades K-2 begins Thursday, March 3, and will meet every Thursday in March after school until 5:00 PM. Signup required; the class is full.

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

March events

Tuesdays, March 8, 15: Learn to Knit, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Taught by Marianne Bassford, a founder of the Westford Fiber Arts Group. Snack provided. Sign up required; limited to five kids; the class is full.

Wednesday, March 9: Trustees Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, on Zoom: March Book Club next meeting, discussing *Faithful Place* by Tana French. Print copies available at the library; audiobook copies are available on Libby. Here's a description of the book from Amazon: Back in 1985, Frank Mackey was a nineteen-year-old kid with a dream of escaping his family's cramped flat on Faithful Place and running away to London with his girl, Rosie Daly. But on the night they were supposed to leave, Rosie didn't show. Frank took it for granted that she'd dumped him — probably



Peggy Rodgers of Westford grew up living next door to famed author, illustrator, and eccentric Tasha Tudor, and she has many pieces that Tudor created for her and her family. Join Peggy at the Westford Library on Tuesday, March 29, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, for tea and scones as Peggy recalls some of her fondest Tasha Tudor memories. This will be a good chance to see the Tasha Tudor art display before it gets taken down at the end of the month.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

because of his alcoholic father, nutcase mother, and generally dysfunctional family. He never went home again. Neither did Rosie. Then, twenty-two years later, Rosie's suitcase showed up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place and Frank, now a detective in the Dublin Undercover squad, is going home whether he likes it or not.

Tuesday, March 29: Tasha Tudor Tea, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Enjoy tea and scones and talk with Peggy Rodgers about her special relationship with Tasha Tudor.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (March 2, April 6), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (March 19), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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 sign up at least one week before the program date; call

Libraries continued on page 6

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Underhill Energy Committee opening

To the Editor,

Calling all energy, environment, climate champions. This is an incredible time to be alive.

The arena of energy and climate action is exploding with activity and opportunities.

In Vermont there are dozens of bills before the Legislature and millions of dollars in real and potential funding to bring to bear on these issues. Bills and funds that deal with electric vehicles, grid modernization and solar power, home heating and insulation, alternative transportation, and how we build our cities and towns are being hammered out as we speak.

Vermont's local energy committees are at ground zero for this revolution, acting as a bridge between the Federal and State initiatives, and our neighbors and friends here in our cities and towns.

Miraculously, a position is opening up on our local Underhill Energy Committee. You can join and be in the thick of it (hurry before he changes his mind).

If you are interested and have one day a month for a meeting and some energy and enthusiasm to give to this critical endeavor, please contact Michael Oman at the address above.

Michael Oman
Chair, Underhill Energy Committee
Underhill

Thank you, Cambridge, for voting for CES!

To the Editor,

As a finalist, the Cambridge Elementary School (CES) received \$2000 from the Frigo's Cheesehead Build A Bright Future Grant to be used toward much-needed new playground equipment. Thank you to our awesome community for supporting CES and voting for the CES Sixth-Grade Tech Ambassadors' amazing video! These talented sixth graders were guided by their fantastic enrichment/technology integration teacher Faith Horton, technology coordinator extraordinaire Jeremy Laclair, and dedicated enrichment teacher Ellen Koier.

Please continue to support the CES PTA's efforts to raise additional funds for new playground equipment in future fundraisers.

Meghan Reese
Jeffersonville

Libraries continued from page 5

802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 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!

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 4:30 PM: Kids Yoga with Jessica Turner. Join Jessica for weekly kids' yoga classes! These classes will be held virtually, so keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. Ages 4+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Saturdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Pin Making. Design your very own pins! No registration required. Kids and adults of all ages encouraged!

Wednesday, March 9, 1:00 PM: Create with Clay. Get creative with some air-dry clay! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Thursday, March 10, 24, 3:15 PM: Read with Henry. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Henry, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Wednesday, March 16, 3:00 PM: Marbled Paper DIY. Make pretty marbled paper using shaving cream! Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 23, 1:00 PM: Finger Knitting. Learn how to knit with your fingers, no knitting needles required! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 30, 3:00 PM: Make Your Own Ice Cream. Learn how to make ice cream with nothing fancier than some plastic bags, ice, and your own two hands! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Thursday, March 3, 3:30 PM: Library Book Club, The Library Book Club will meet to discuss the book *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart. The book club will meet in person and remotely via Zoom. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book or request the Zoom link, please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

Saturday, March 5, 1:00 PM: *What's It Worth?* Appraisal Program. Have you ever wondered what that collectible might be worth? Sign up to be part of a virtual appraisal program with author and appraiser Mike Ivankovich. Participants can attend in person at the St. Albans Free Library and you will be able to bring one item for appraisal. Space is limited, so registration is required! Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register.

Thursday, March 17, 4:00 PM: Financial Literacy Workshop with Cody Fiala on Fraud Awareness. The library will host a program on personal finance topics with a financial literacy expert.

This month's program theme is Fraud Awareness. The sessions will provide participants with information they can act upon to manage, protect their money, and to work towards their financial goals. Handouts will be provided at each session, capturing the major points of the presentation, providing additional resources. Each session will be strengthened by the questions people ask! Join us at the library or attend remotely via Zoom. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register and for the Zoom link!

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.

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. 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://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/collections/book-chats/>.

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.

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 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@openchannelenergy.com.

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

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

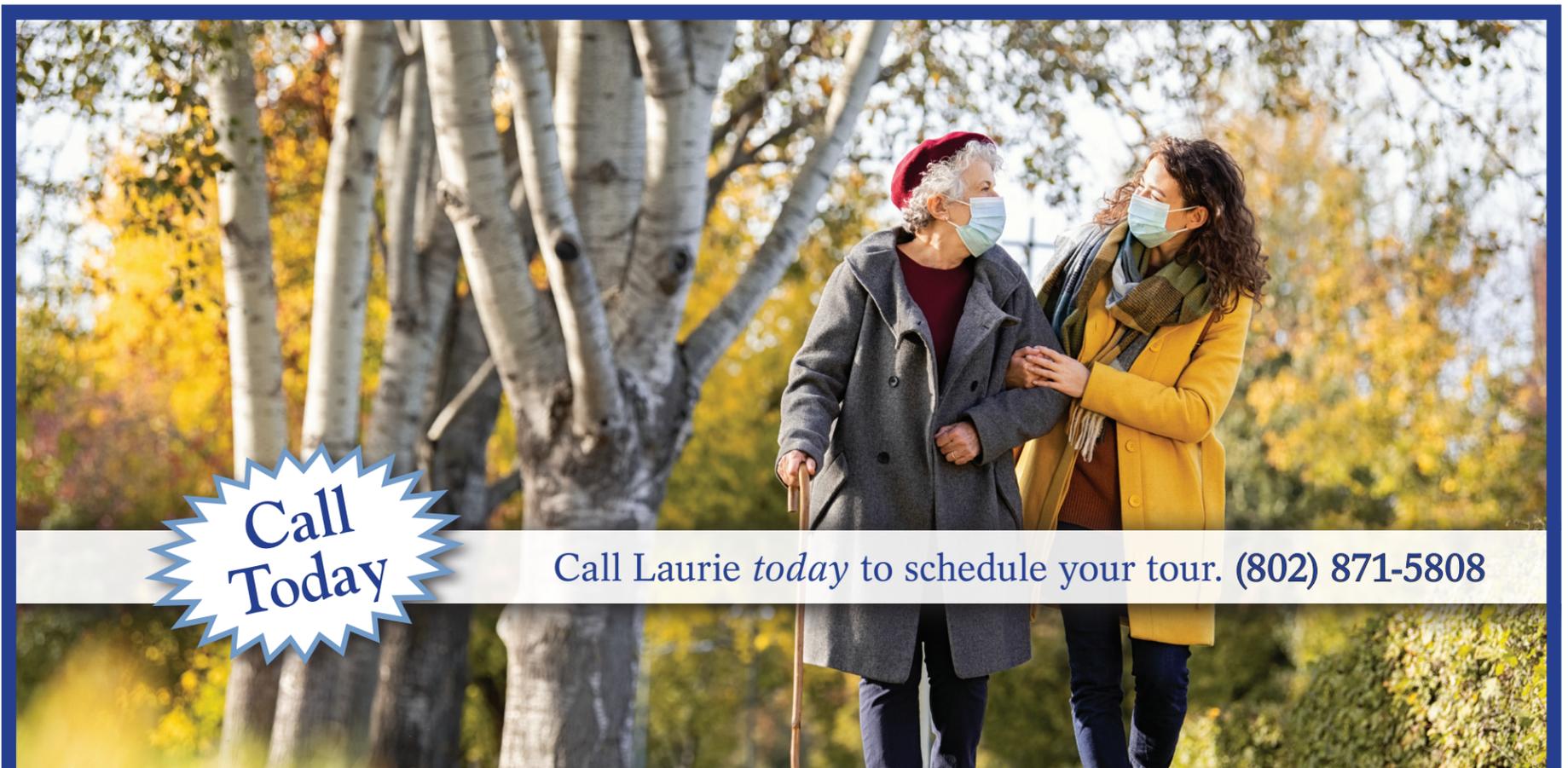
Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 802-878-6955.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main Desk 802-878-6955, Youth Desk 802-878-6956, Reference Desk 802-878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSch6EF1cpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

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



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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Let him know what it's like to be safe — inquire today

From Burlington Family Services,
VT Dept. for Children and Families, Vermont

There are more than 1000 children and youth in foster care in Vermont. The story shared below represents a teen who may be in need of foster care.

We are recruiting for safe and caring homes of all types for children and youth. This story typifies their experience. Might you consider becoming a foster, kin, or respite care provider? As a trained care provider, you will be giving the gift of stability to a child. You will be fully supported, trained, and provided a stipend for any child or youth placed in your care. Find out more. Thank you!

Zane is having a rough time finding where he fits. Being in foster care is just one of the reasons. He's been challenged in so many ways, and at just 14 years old, you would think he's lived four lifetimes already — which explains some of the reasons he has a hard time staying put.

But under all the challenging behaviors, Zane is a kid who wants to fit in — with friends, family, and anyone who will make an effort, with patience, to understand him. He reads people well. Knows when he's being played — or thinks so. What Zane doesn't yet trust is that he deserves to be cared for and have the stability that every teen deserves. He's just not going to be all cuddly and easy about showing you appreciation when you provide it. And, he'll test your every nerve until he feels safe.

That may take some time.

Are you up for the challenge of caring for a kid like Zane? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Foster parenting will be challenging, but it will also be one of the most meaningful decisions you'll ever make.

Can you provide a safe, stable and nurturing home for a child or teen in need? Can you commit 100% to their well-being? Do you promise to not give up even if they push you away? Will you support their connection to family and friends who are still important to them?

To learn more, go to <http://fostercare.vt.gov>. If you want us to contact you, complete the form at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fostercare-inquiry>.

You can also call your local Family Services District Office and ask to speak to the Resource Coordinator. <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>.

Free Tax Preparation with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

The Varnum Memorial Library is sponsoring free tax preparation in partnership with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide to low and moderate income residents of any age — especially if you are 50 or older or can't afford paid tax preparation. Our volunteer counselors are IRS trained and certified to assist you in filing certain tax forms and schedules, as well as the Vermont State Tax return (including Property Tax Adjustment or Renter Rebate).

Appointments will be scheduled for Mondays, March 14, 21, and 28, at 9:30 and 11:30 AM. Our counselors are fully vaccinated and to keep everyone safe we are asking you to wear a mask to your appointment. Each time slot can accommodate two taxpayers.

To schedule an appointment contact the Varnum Library, 802-644-2117 or varnumrequests@gmail.com. Appointments will be first-come, first-served and there are no walk-in appointments. Once your appointment is confirmed we ask that you stop by the library to pick up a packet of information and forms needed for your appointment.

Library hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The Varnum Library is located at 194 Main St., Jeffersonville.

Heating costs too high this winter?

From Efficiency Vermont

If this winter's cold snaps have you thinking of ways to keep heating costs down, a heat pump might be right for you. Heat pumps can lower your heating costs (depending on your fuel source) and are a great choice if you're looking to make your home more energy efficient, or if you want to decrease your reliance on fossil fuels. You can use them as a primary heating system on most days, even in the dead of winter (they work on days as cold as -15 degF). Plus, they work alongside your current system, so you can still keep your furnace or boiler as back up.

Another fun fact! In the summer, this same system works as an air-conditioner (no need for window units or ductwork for central air).

Over 30,000 Vermonters have already made the switch to this efficient, electric heating/cooling system.

Efficiency Vermont partners with utilities statewide to offer \$350-1000 off ductless heat pumps (depending on your electric utility), and also offers 0% interest financing.

Learn more at <http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/heatpump>.

EVs: what models are around?

By Ruth Machell Julianelle,
Energy Committee Member, Underhill

The Underhill Energy Committee is continuing to answer questions 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 web sites with updated information.

This week – What models are available?

In Vermont there are over 50 models available now, from subcompacts to large cars, small station wagons to SUVs. For details on cars available in Vermont, check the following from Drive Electric Vermont: <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/Media/Default/docs/fact-sheet-drive-electric-vermont.pdf#page=2>. This site will include data on rebates, range, battery size, and other helpful information.

The following is a sampling. (This shortened list, made in the

spring of 2021, is not meant to be recommendations for these particular cars, but only to show the range of models in Vermont.)

SUBCOMPACT CARS: All Electric – Mini Cooper SE; Plug-in Hybrid – Mini Countryman PEV; All Electric – BMW i3.

MID-SIZE CARS: All Electric – Nissan Leaf; All Electric – Tesla Model 3 (optional 4WD); Plug-in Hybrid – Toyota Prius Prime; Plug-in Hybrid – Honda Clarity; Plug-in Hybrid – Ford Fusion Energi.

SMALL STATION WAGON: All Electric – Chevy Bolt; Plug-in Hybrid – Kia Niro; All Electric – Ford Mustang Mach-E; All Electric – Hyundai Kona;

SMALL SUV: All Electric – Volvo XC40 (4 WD); Plug-in Hybrid – Toyota RAV 4 PRIME (AWD); Plug-in Hybrid – Subaru Crosstrek (4WD); All Electric – Jaguar I-Pace; All Electric – Tesla Model Y; All Electric – Volkswagen ID.4.

LARGE CAR: All Electric – Tesla Model S.

SUV: All Electric – Audi e-tron (4WD); All Electric – Tesla Model X.

For a more comprehensive list of cars available check this Find Electric Vehicle Models website: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/electricvehicles/find-electric-vehicle-models>.

(Tip: to see All EVs, click NO from the Gasoline Back-Up Available pull-down menu.)

When looking for a suitable car for your needs, ask the same kinds of questions you would ask when looking at gasoline-powered vehicles. For example: What is the reliability? Will you need especially high clearance or all wheel drive? Will you need to tow anything and if so, what is the towing capacity? What do you need for carrying capacity?

A new way to help preserve the Old Red Mill

By Louise Miglionico

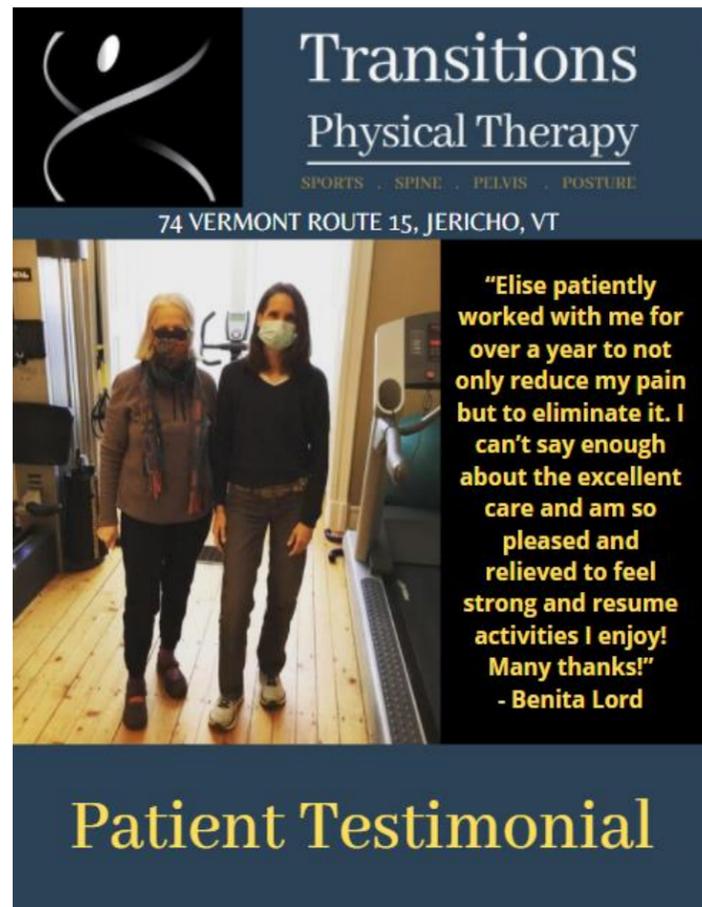
The Jericho Historical Society (a 501(c)(3) approved organization) would like to express thanks for the continued generosity of its many donors to the Old Red Mill Preservation Fund. The Old Red Mill is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The JHS is now coordinating with <http://stockdonor.com> so that donors can easily gift stocks to us. Donating appreciated stocks can be of up to 20% more valuable than selling and donating the cash. This results in bigger financial gain for the receiver of the gift and saves on the donor's taxes.

Federal capital gains tax can be avoided by donating stock and most donors can claim an income tax deduction for the stock's full market value (state and local income tax deductions may be also available in some areas).

If you are interested in donating stock to the JHS, you can go to <http://stockdonor.com> or contact Louise Miglionico, 802-355-5382 or lounig@aol.com.

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"Elise patiently worked with me for over a year to not only reduce my pain but to eliminate it. I can't say enough about the excellent care and am so pleased and relieved to feel strong and resume activities I enjoy! Many thanks!"
- Benita Lord

Patient Testimonial

Stay Safe This Holiday Season and Throughout the Winter

Know How to Detect a Gas Leak

Smell



Natural gas is normally odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.

Sight



You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.

Sound



You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing, or whistling.

If You Suspect a Leak:

Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 1-800-639-8081, or call 911, with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the gas or result in a dangerous condition.

Do not assume someone else will report the condition.

Protect Meters and Vents from Ice and Snow

Don't push or pile deep snow around meters and ensure whoever removes snow from your property knows meter and appliance vent locations. Use extreme care when clearing snow surrounding, or large icicles above, meters and vents. If your meter gets encased in thick ice, please call us.



ART / MUSIC / THEATER



The Westford Music Series returns with a lively performance in store for those celebrating both St. Patrick's Day and Daylight Savings Time, with the energetic and cohesive music of the Dale and Darcy Trio on Sunday, March 13, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. white church). Dale and Darcy Cahill started out playing together with Neil Rossi fifteen years ago as musician friends and built up a wide fan base throughout the eastern U.S. Originally meeting at bluegrass festivals, they have been playing old-timey, Americana roots, bluegrass, and Irish music ever since on multiple instruments including Irish fiddle, guitar, mandolin strings, and tenor banjo, along with strong vocals. This concert is appropriate for all family members to celebrate the season. Free will donation; mask required. For more information call Michael Kirick, 802-363-0930.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Westford Coffee House — first Fridays (by Michael Kirick): It looks like the recent wave of covid has significantly passed and I am cautiously looking to have a coffee house session again starting on Friday, March 4, 7:00 PM at the Red Brick Meeting House. As I stated at the end of last season, I have shifted the coffee house night from last Friday of the month to FIRST Friday. This is being done to avoid the many holiday conflicts that I've found with last Fridays of the month. Dust off those rusty strings just one more time...

Dale and Darcy Trio on Sunday, March 13: The Westford Music Series returns with a lively performance in store for those celebrating both St. Patrick's Day and Daylight Savings Time, with the energetic and cohesive music of the Dale and Darcy Trio on Sunday, March 13, 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall (a.k.a. white church). Dale and Darcy Cahill started out playing together with Neil Rossi fifteen years ago as musician friends and built up a wide fan base throughout the eastern U.S. Originally meeting at bluegrass festivals, they have been playing old-timey, Americana roots, bluegrass, and Irish music ever since on multiple instruments including Irish fiddle, guitar, mandolin strings, and tenor banjo, along with strong vocals. This concert is appropriate for all family members to celebrate the season. Free will donation; mask required. For more information call Michael Kirick, 802-363-0930.

Next up, on Sunday, April 3: Springtime and Jazz! The perfect combination brings Lewis Franco and *The Missing Cats* to the Westford Music Series on Sunday, April 3, 4:00 PM to the Westford Common Hall. Vocalist, songwriter, and guitarist Lewis Franco will be joined by *The Missing Cats* — Will Patton (mandolin) and Dono Schabner (guitar) — to complete the acoustic-jazz combo

band. Known for their harmony instrumentals, they also will delight with strong vocals. Expect originals as well as gypsy and jive swing tunes from the 1930s and 1940s, featuring close three-part harmonies and rhythms. Franco has been a fixture on the Vermont acoustic music scene for years, entertaining audiences of all ages with clever and occasionally profound lyrics, tuneful melodies, and fun-loving presence. His fellow band members add to the strength of the band with their gifted musical sensibilities to wrap around a dynamic performance. Plan on a fun time. Free will donation; mask required. For more information call Michael Kirick, 802-363-0930.

Jericho Town Hall Art: Tracks. The latest exhibit of art within the Jericho Town Hall, *Tracks*, is now hung. It is open to all to view during regular Town Hall hours. The Town Hall does require masks to be worn inside the building. The show will run through April. Stop by to see how various artists viewed the theme. To pique your interest, Angelike Contis of MMCTV has created a short video of the work at <https://archive.org/details/jericho-art-tracks-jan-2022>. The video will also be posted on the Join in Jericho site.

VT Arts Council offers grant: *Creation Grants* support artists in creating new work. Grant funds may be used to compensate the artists for time spent creating new work, to purchase materials, or to rent equipment or space for the process. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Examples of fundable projects include: a multimedia artist creating a new video series; a writer completing the first draft of a novel; a dance ensemble developing choreography for a new piece; a visual artist creating art for exhibition that explores new subjects and techniques; a musician composing music for a new album. The application deadline is Monday, April 4, 11:59 PM. For more information and links to the application process, go online to <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/creation>. (Vermont Arts Council changed its grant management systems in early 2021. If you have applied for a grant using our old system, your login credentials will no longer work. All applicants, new and old, must register in this new system using the "Register" link on the portal landing page. If you have questions or problems with registration or signing in, please contact Meredith Bell, mbell@vermontartscouncil.org, with "Grant Portal Access Help" in the subject line.)

March Art "Marathon" — art and a great cause! Westford EcoArtist Anne Cummings is teaming up with the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network (CVRAN), along with many other VT artists, to create work each day in March and share their process and creations with their donors. You can be one of them!

This CVRAN fundraiser will support the resettlement of Afghan evacuees as new VT residents, share what's special about the place we live with new Vermonters, inspire new work by many well-known Vermont artists, and connect artists to their community!

To participate, go online to <https://cvran.org/my-place-is-your-place-portraits-of-the-mountains-of-vermont/> and make a donation of any amount.

You may donate through my page or choose any one or more of the participating artists (including Westford resident Orah Moore) at <https://cvran.org/march-arts-marathon-2022-participants/>. Starting in March, donors will receive exciting updates showing what artists are creating!

For more information or questions contact EcoArt, annecummingsecoart@gmail.com or visit the CVRAN website, <https://cvran.org/>.

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: individual tickets \$16 (under 12, \$7) available at www.midfilmfest.org, www.townhalltheater.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:

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.

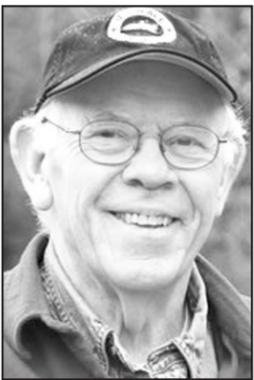
For more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: <http://www.midfilmfest.org>.

Burlington City Arts will offer a summer camp, and registration is now open for their half- or full-day camps and aftercare; full and partial scholarships are available. For more information, see BCA's digital summer camp catalog at <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/adult-youth-and-family-classes>.

BCA's spring exhibitions are open Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM. First floor: *Headwater*, a new series (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/eric-aho-headwater>) of monumental paintings by Eric Aho. Second floor: *What Still Remains* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/sarah-trad-what-still-remains>) is comprised of single- and multi-channel videos by Lebanese-American artist Sarah Trad.

BCA is gearing up for another year of amazing summer programming in City Hall Park, and will present a large number of concerts and events in the park, June-September. With a focus on finding new VT talent and presenting a diverse lineup, we want to hear from you if you're a performer, have a great band, or are a DJ that hasn't worked with us before. Drop a line and a link to Zach Williamson, zwilliamson@burlingtoncityarts.org.

OBITUARY



Thomas Andrew Woodard, Sr. of Milton, VT passed peacefully at home on Saturday, February 12, 2022, with his loving wife Ruth Woodard at his side. His family was with him in spirit and in his heart, having just celebrated his 94th birthday. Tom was born upstairs, above Woodard Bakery, to Wells C. Woodard, Sr. and Blanche Cowan Woodard on February 7, 1928, in what is now the Registered Historic "Woodard Building" in Morrisville, VT. Tom graduated from People's Academy in Morrisville while

also working at his parents' bakery. Tom was famous for his skill and speed at ribboning candy (a customer favorite!). He served from 1946-1949 in the Army Air Force and was awarded the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. Tom enrolled at the University of Vermont while working full-

time and raising a family with his then-wife, Janice. Studying wasn't easy in the Quonset hut housing provided by UVM for married military veteran students. It took seven long years, but Tom graduated with degrees in both Mathematics and Nuclear Physics. Tom worked briefly on a nuclear reactor before taking a job in the Armaments Department of General Electric in Burlington, VT. After 32 years, his position was eliminated. Tom was never one to sit around the house, so he took a job bagging groceries at Hannafords. However, Tom soon found the work he truly loved, working at the State Police Headquarters in Waterbury, VT in the Department of Emergency Management. He stayed there for 20 years, retiring at (only) 83 years old! The course of Tom's life was changed when his son Tom Jr. was in a motorcycle accident, which left him a paraplegic. When he discovered that Tom Jr.'s outcome may have been different had trained medical professionals been there to help at the scene, Tom vowed to learn all he could so he would know what to do in emergency situations. Despite not being a student there, Tom was accepted to St. Michael's College Rescue and slept at Founder's Hall when he was on duty. After 10 years, he joined Essex Rescue. In addition to his regular shifts and training, Tom was a "jumper" — going to help folks in the outlying areas of Underhill, VT and Jericho, VT until an ambulance could arrive. His scanner and beeper were on 24/7 and there is no way to know how many people Tom helped and lives he saved. He also served as Crew Chief and Training Officer over the years. His co-workers remarked how it is easy to start an IV in a hospital but try doing it for someone bouncing down a dirt road in the back of an ambulance! Tom was one of the best. He was so proud to be an honorary member of the Underhill/Jericho Fire Department where he "jumped" their calls, oftentimes avoiding the need for the ambulance to respond. He was always equipped and ready to administer advanced first aid quickly to those involved in any way with the fire or accident. It was through this selfless work that Tom met Ruth Walker (Pfungst), who would become his second wife. They were married on December 12, 1992 and built a wonderful, active life together. In addition to enjoying square dancing and working in his large garden, Tom loved animals and caring for them. Ruth introduced him to the world of show dogs and dog rescue. There were always dogs and cats in their house, and he was surely overwhelmed with them when he reached the Rainbow Bridge! They belonged to several dog clubs over the years, including the Champlain Valley Kennel Club and the Northern Vermont Dog Club, now the Burlington Obedience Training Club. Tom kept one of the puppies they bred, then trained and showed her to her CD, the Companion Dog title in Obedience. Additionally, he had

a special bond with Annie, an abused dog he rescued, gaining her trust and love when no one else could. Together with Ruth, he started the Green Mountain Golden Retriever Club. They opened their home to senior and special needs Golden retrievers who were able to live out their lives with dignity, love, and compassion. At one point Tom and Ruth provided a home to 14 Golden retrievers at once! The annual Labor Day gathering of GoldStock was always blessed with countless friends and fellow dog lovers. Tom was a member of the Mt. Mansfield Lodge #26 F&AM, as well as being a member of the Shriners. He loved sharing his beautiful baritone voice with the church choirs in Underhill and Essex Junction, VT and served on various committees throughout the years. He also took great joy in performing in musicals, proudly playing Enoch Snow in *Carousel* and delighting the Sunday School children as the title character in their show, *The Late Great Potentate*. He loved working with children, and they loved him back. Tom was known for his quick wit and snappy comebacks, but more importantly, his deep caring and compassion for others. He gave freely of his time and money when folks needed it. He set an example for his children to follow — working hard, maintaining discipline, and encouraging them to be independent. Tom is survived by his loving wife Ruth (Walker) Woodard; his son Brian Woodard (Gloria); his daughters Marilyn Woodard Chong, Robin Woodard Hee, and Carolyn Woodard Arnold (Duaine). He also leaves stepsons David Pfingst (Christina) and Jason Pfingst (Renee). He is survived by his grandchildren Stacey Hee Cantu (David); Nicole Hee; Erica Chong Lee (Daniel); Nicholas, Emily, and Jayme Arnold; and Joe Pfingst. He was also blessed with his great-grandchildren Aiden, Evan, and Caleb Cantu, and Brayden Lee, as well as many much-loved nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his siblings Wells Woodard Jr. and his wife Mary; and Ruth Woodard Sykas and her husband Thomas Sykas Sr. He was also predeceased by his son Thomas Andrew Woodard, Jr., and three infant children — Mary Jane, Michael, and Danny. A celebration of Tom's life will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022 (more information to follow). The hope is this allows time for those who knew and loved Tom to make plans to come together and remember this remarkable man. Please visit awrfh.com to share your memories and condolences. Please consider the following suggestions for donations in his memory: Alzheimer's Association: www.alz.org; Golden Retriever Club of America: GRCA — Golden Retriever Foundation, Attn: Zeke; Cancer Research: PO Box 952732, St. Louis, MO 63195-2732; Underhill/Jericho Fire Dept.: PO Box 150, Underhill, VT 05489; and local rescue squads in Milton (Milton, VT) and Essex (Essex Junction, VT), and St. Michaels College (Colchester, VT) Rescue Squad.

MMUHS Project Graduation

Mount Mansfield Union High School's Project Graduation Online Auction will run from Tuesday, March 1 through Sunday, March 12. Go online to <https://mmuprojectgrad22.betterworld.org/> to view all the fantastic items to bid on. Items include gift cards to many local restaurants and stores, ski tickets, art, photography, maple syrup, chocolate, entertainment, massages, car services, skin and hair care, a Vermont Teddy Bear, gourmet cookware, and much more! There is also a link to donate to the event on the website if you are not interested in bidding in the auction, but would like to support MMU's seniors. Project Graduation began in Maine in 1979 after the tragic alcohol related deaths of seven recent graduates during the commencement season. It has spread throughout the country as an alcohol- and drug-free overnight event, typically on graduation night. MMU has participated in this tradition for the past 28 years. The graduates will have a fun night filled with activities, food and entertainment to create a memorable end to their high school careers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Drowsy Chaperone

presented by MMUHS theater department



The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents the hilarious, wild, raucous, and racy musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Phoebe Doyle plays the character known only as "The Man in the Chair," who invites the audience into his apartment to share his unique passion for his favorite musical. Join the fun on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 PM — LIVE ON STAGE at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho. Tickets are \$7 for students and children; \$9 for general admission; available at mmudrowsy.bpt.me. MMU's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a multi-media performance incorporating video projections as part of the show. Check out a trailer for the production at tinyurl.com/mmudrowsy. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SCHOOL NEWS



Renovated memorials to VT Fallen Heroes installed across state

Vermont's Fallen Heroes will receive a renewed salute following completion of a project headed by The Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Department of Buildings & General Services' Vermont Information Centers Division, and Shadows & Light Design. This project was initially established by Floyd Moody some years ago, with individual photos of Vermont fallen veterans at numerous visitor centers. The new displays include a two-panel presentation and have been installed at four visitor center locations — Williston North, Williston South, Fair Haven, and Sharon. Four additional installations this spring will include the visitor centers at Bennington, Guilford, Waterford, and Bradford. This is a most fitting tribute to those that lost their lives in service to our country, and Vermonters should always remember their sacrifices and those of their families. For additional information contact Mr. Robert Burke, robert.burke@vermont.gov or 802-828-3380. Pictured is an installation in Williston. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MMU Theatre presents The Drowsy Chaperone — live, in person

Would you believe it's been three years since many of these students have been able to do a live musical on stage! Our 2020 musical was cancelled two weeks before opening night due to the pandemic, and our 2021 musical was virtual.

The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents the hilarious, wild, raucous, and racy musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Join the fun on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 PM — LIVE ON STAGE at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho. Tickets are \$7 for students and children; \$9 for general admission; available at mmudrowsy.bpt.me. MMU's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a multi-media performance incorporating video projections as part of the show. Check out a trailer for the production at tinyurl.com/mmudrowsy.

The Drowsy Chaperone is a musical journey back to the Roaring Twenties, while keeping one foot firmly planted in the 21st century. As the show begins, the audience is invited into the apartment of a character known only as "the man in the chair," who turns on his record player to share his favorite old musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. (In the 1920s, "drowsy" meant tipsy.) The story unfolds inside the man's apartment, which transforms into a ditsy old dowager's estate for the destination wedding of a Broadway starlet to a young oil tycoon. The man in the chair, a theatre aficionado, shares his insights into the story as well as gossip and trivia tidbits about the famous actors who portray the characters. Once you step into the exciting world that exists inside the man's apartment and see the play through his eyes, you may never want to leave.

Free (online) college and career planning event

High school students and parents, what's next? Whether you're college-bound, thinking of training or apprenticeships, or not sure, VSAC's free one-day Saturday event is for you.

This year's event will take place virtually on Saturday, March 5, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Join us online to attend live virtual workshops, discover free resources, get expert advice, and meet with local representatives from colleges and training programs across the state.

Event schedule: 9:30 – 10:00 AM: Virtual Resource Fair; 10:00 – 10:15 AM: Welcome; 10:15 – 11:15 AM: Workshop 1; 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Workshop 2.

For Workshop 1, choose among these sessions:

- College Options for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism;
- Financial Aid and Managing College Costs;
- Money After High School;
- Navigating the Admissions Process;
- Non-Degree Pathways to a Great Career: Short-Term Training and Apprenticeships;
- Strategies for the SAT and ACT;
- The College Search: Finding the Right Fit.

For Workshop 2, choose among these sessions:

- Exploring Career and Education Pathways with MyFutureVT;

- I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate;
- Navigating the College Search for Students Who Learn Differently;
- Scholarships: Free Money!
- Supporting Your Teen's Career Search;
- Writing the Admissions Essay.

If you are interested in more than two of the sessions: all workshops will be recorded and available to view following the event.

For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.vsac.org/plan/college-career-pathways>.

Smilie Memorial School's 2nd annual Paint with a Purpose

Join local artist Natasha Bogar and the Smilie Memorial Elementary School in Bolton in our second annual Paint with a Purpose — a family-friendly virtual paint event to benefit the Smilie Community Association.

This guided virtual event is perfect for all ages and abilities, and is fun for families or friends to do together! All supplies are provided, if you need them, free local pickup, and you simply log on to participate.

More information can be found at the Facebook event found online at <https://fb.me/e/etytomgPG>. Alternately, you can also register online at <https://forms.gle/5ujJuBps9n5LeG4B6>.

Payment can be made via Venmo @smiliecommunity or see the online registration for other options.

Explore NVU graduate programs, virtually

Virtual information sessions for Northern Vermont University graduate programs in counseling and education are coming right up:

- M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling — Wednesday, March 2, 5:30 – 6:30 PM;
- M.A. in Counseling — Thursday, March 3, 5:30 – 6:30 PM;
- M.A. or M.Ed. in Education — Monday, March 7, 5:30 – 6:30 PM and Tuesday, March 15, 12:00 – 1:00 PM.

Register for each Graduate Program Virtual Information Session at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/GraduateInfoSessions>, or schedule your own in-person or virtual information session at <https://NorthernVermont.edu/GraduateAdmissions>.

Questions? Reach out to Admissions@NorthernVermont.edu.

New at Audubon Vermont: Early Release Wednesdays

Following the MMUUSD calendar, one Wednesday each month will provide an opportunity for children in grades K-4 to get outside at Audubon, to explore and ramble with nature as our guide. Brewster Pierce Memorial School students can ride the bus to Audubon (arrives approx at 1:15 PM), but we welcome others to join us from 1:00 – 5:00 PM! Come to one or all. Cost: \$20/day for Audubon Members, \$24/day for the general public.

For more information, go online to <https://vt.audubon.org/programs/afterschool-audubon-vermont>.

Lamoille Natural Resource Conservation Summer Camp

It may be cold and snowy, but it's not long until kids will be out of school for summer. Registration is now open for Lamoille Nature Center Summer camps!

At the camp, located on Cole Hill Road in Morrisville, kids will spend the days learning through hands-on exploration at our 40 acres forest reserve. Camp groups are capped at 10-12 kids and run from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The cost per camper \$225 for LCCD members and \$275 for non-members; scholarships are available. This year we are offering:

- Layers of Life (5-8 year olds, July 11-14);
- Guardians of the Watershed (8-12 year olds, July 18-22); and
- Wild Art, a collaborative camp with River Arts (8-12 year olds, July 25-29).

For more information and to register, go online to <https://lenrcd.com/summer-camps/>.

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities now open

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed, of civic participation and community service.

Four \$1500 scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher. Scholarship details can be found at <https://bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails>.

Applications, due on Sunday, May 1, can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/lwvScholarship>. Students need to submit two essays (500 words), one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required, <https://bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec>.

The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on Wednesday, June 1.

Last year, LWV scholarships were awarded to students from Winooski, Burr and Burton Academy, Otter Valley and Missisquoi Valley Union High Schools.

Questions can be directed to Becky Miller, lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com.

Growing Works of Art contest calls for tree stories

Grade K-8 students, including homeschooled, are invited to share their appreciation for forests and trees by creating an original story and artwork for the *Growing Works of Art* contest. The deadline to enter is Friday, March 11.

The theme of this year's contest is *Sharing your TREE-mendous story*. Students are asked to write a short story (one to three paragraphs) about a meaningful experience or memory about trees, and then create a work of art to illustrate their story. Entries will be judged on creativity and originality (50%) and how well the story is told through writing and art (50%).

All art must be original and no larger than 11"x17". Any medium may be used, including pen, pencil, crayon, pastels, paint, cloth, collage, photography, or computer-generated art.

Entries may be submitted by mail or email but must include the official entry form, which can be found at <http://go.uvm.edu/growingart> along with contest rules and submission guidelines. Past winning entries also are available to view on this website.

The winner in each age group will receive a Vermont State Park punch pass and will appear on *Across the Fence*, UVM Extension's weekday program on WCAX-TV (if possible, in 2022). Winning entries will be announced on Vermont's Arbor Day, which is Friday, May 6 this year, and will be featured on the contest website.

The contest is sponsored annually by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, a partnership between University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, as part of its Arbor Day activities.

For more information contact Gwen Kozlowski, gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu or 802-651-8343, ext. 506.

VFN Conference on Wrightslaw Spec. Ed. Law and Advocacy

Registration has opened for Vermont Family Network's annual in-person conference on Thursday, April 14, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM (exhibits open at 8:00 AM) at Delta Hotel by Marriott Burlington.

VFN's goal is to bring inspiring speakers and practical information to families of children and youth with disabilities or special health needs and the professionals who serve them. Pete Wright, Esq. from *Wrightslaw* will focus on Special Education Law and Advocacy. This program should meet the needs of parents, educators, health care providers, advocates, and attorneys. It will focus on Special Education Law; Rights and Responsibilities; Tests and Measurements to Measure Progress and Regression; SMART Individual Education Plans (IEPs); and Introduction to Tactics and Strategies for Effective Advocacy.

If you have questions, contact Rachel Boyers, 802-876-5315 or rachel.boyers@vfn.org. For an agenda, CEUs, scholarships, and to register, please visit <https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/annual-conference/>.

Parent/Guardian registration fee \$80; Professional registration fee \$150. The fee includes breakfast, lunch, and three hardcopy books needed for the training. There will be the opportunity for parents to chat during lunch.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your classified ad in the *Mountain Gazette* for a nominal charge.

The first 25 words for \$6.50 and ten cents for each additional word.

Contact Brenda Boutin at mtngazette@gmavt.net to reach readers in our regular coverage area of Bolton, Jericho, Underhill, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Westford, plus Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Essex and Essex Junction.

SPORTS NEWS

Not Flat 5K run/walk to benefit child cancer patients

By Nick Tanner, Underhill

Please join the *Not Flat 5K* on Saturday, March 5 to run or walk and raise funds for pediatric cancer patients and their families!

Locally, the *Not Flat 5K* will be held at Moore Park, 15 Pleasant Valley Rd. (across from the Underhill Town Hall) in Underhill Center. This is a community-centered event — all ages and abilities welcome. Kids 10 and under free. Racers will start first, with walkers following. And at the finish line, hot beverages await!

The route is a beautiful paved and dirt road loop through Underhill Center.

Sign up here: <https://because.massgeneral.org/event/not-flat-5k/e387925>. The race for runners begins at 10:00 AM, with walkers following. The 5K will be finished by 12:00 PM.

I'm running Boston this April in memory of a family member who lost the fight to leukemia many years ago, who was treated at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). 100% of proceeds from this event go directly to the pediatric oncology department at MGH.

Hope to see you there!



Ice fishing is a great way to get outdoors with friends and family — but remember that VT state law requires that ice fishing shanties be removed from the ice before the ice becomes unsafe or loses its ability to support the shanty out of the water, according to the VT Fish and Wildlife Department, or before the last Sunday in March (this year, March 27), whichever comes first. All contents, debris, wood, and supports must also be removed so they do not become a hazard to navigation in the spring. The fine for leaving your ice fishing shanty on the ice can be \$1000, and shanties may not be left at state fishing access areas.

PHOTO: VTFISHANDWILDLIFE.COM

Mt. Mansfield Lacrosse Tiny Sticks, boys registration online

The Popular Tiny Sticks program is back for 2022, with sign-ups online, open to girls in grades K-3 and boys in grades K-2. Practice begins the first weekend of May and ends first weekend of June.

Boys Lacrosse is open to boys in grades 3-8, with the season running from the beginning of April (weather dependent) to the second week of June.

For more information about these youth lacrosse programs, contact Craig Benson, mmboyslacrosse@gmail.com.

Westford Women's Futsal registration now open

Women's Futsal, Session 2, sponsored by the Westford Recreation Department, will run on Thursdays through April 21, 7:30 – 9:00 PM. The cost is \$45 per ten-week session (no play during school breaks).

The play will be held at the Westford School gym. Masks are required.

To register online: <https://forms.gle/1nPDEvP6FeoCxKGD6>. The link is also available on the town website, at <https://westfordvt.us/recreation/>.

BRLI registration open; girls' softball returns

Registration is now open for the 2022 Browns River Little League season for boys and girls in Jericho and Underhill, aged 4-12! Register online (only) at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com. Registration is open through Tuesday, March 15 for 4-8 year olds. Early registration is important for league planning so don't delay.

Mount Mansfield Girls' Lacrosse Club registration opens

Welcome to the 2022 season of middle school girls' lacrosse — Mount Mansfield Girls' Lacrosse Club.

This program is for girls in grades 4-8. The season starts at the end of March (depending on snow) and runs through the first week of June.

Practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. Games are Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June.

Please email melissamutolo@live.com for registration.

Cambridge Youth Soccer spring soccer registration

Cambridge Youth Soccer is excited to announce that registration is now open for our Spring season. Teams for girls and boys are offered from pre-K through U16, depending on enrollment. For more information please go online to https://system.gotsport.com/programs/842N25686?reg_role=player.

Also, we are eagerly seeking individuals with time and energy to serve who may be interested in joining our board, as well as volunteers interested in working with us in other capacities, such as fields and equipment and program boosterism. Thanks!

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Audubon Photography Awards - Bluebirds

Male and female Eastern Bluebirds share a cluster of seeds from a staghorn sumac, a plant native to the eastern United States. Staghorn sumac is a member of the sumac, or cashew, family, which includes cashew, poison ivy, pistachio, and mango. Resembling the velvet on a male deer's antlers — how the tree gets its name — velvet reddish-brown hairs cover newer branches of staghorn sumac. Often seen on roadsides, staghorn sumacs have medium-size leaves that turn brilliant red hues in the fall. This sumac species has male and female individuals; only female plants produce the yellow-green flowers and the clusters of bright, red berries. As shown in this image, the berries and their seeds persist throughout winter, providing an important food source for Eastern Bluebirds and other birds.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM MASSARO/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS



Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

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.

CAMP OUTRIGHT volunteers hold a special place in our hearts! You could plan and run a workshop for campers, help prepare meals, or donate your time as a camp counselor, floater,

or support person. For more information on what it takes to be a Camp Outright volunteer, contact camp@outrightvt.org.

MENTOR! MENTOR! MENTOR Vermont asks: Have you an hour a week to share with a wonderful young person? If the answer is yes, you are already on your way to being a mentor. Volunteer mentors share fun activities, offer new experiences, promote high self-esteem, and encourage positive choices. Search online for a mentoring program near you, and help a youngster look to the future with hope! Contact

Emily Listowich, emily@mentorvt.org.

STUDENT SPECIAL: GREEN MOUNTAIN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY invites student volunteers to serve in their Williston and Milton stores. Tasks include sorting clothing, unloading incoming donations, pricing goods, stocking shelves, testing electronics and small appliances, and keeping the store tidy and organized. Flexible shifts weekdays and weekends. No experience needed. Contact volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

Advertisement for Nancy Jenkins Real Estate featuring property listings in Bolton, Burlington, Essex, and Fletcher with prices. Includes the slogan 'WHO YOU HIRE MATTERS...' and 'CALL OUR TEAM TODAY!'.

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Maplehurst Florist advertisement for St. Patrick's Day featuring a floral bouquet and the text 'Celebrate with a Floral Bouquet Thursday March 17'.

UnionBank advertisement with the slogan 'STAY LOCAL. GO FAR.' and 'MORTGAGES'.