

Jericho Town Meeting Tuesday March 2, 2021

By Jessica Alexander, Jericho Town Clerk

Jericho Town Meeting is still going to be the first Tuesday in March but everything is going to be voted on by ballot this year, including the Town budget.

Town and School Officers will continue to be elected by ballot. The only change is that nominating petitions are not required. If you are thinking of running for office, you need to complete a consent of candidate form and return the paper copy either by mail (P.O. Box 67, Jericho, VT 05465) or in the outside drop box to the left of the Town Hall steps. This form needs to be received at the Town Clerk Office by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 25.

Here is a list of Town and School Offices that will be on the ballot (All are VOTE for NOT MORE THAN ONE except JU Park District Trustee, 3-year term):

- MODERATOR – for one year
- TOWN CLERK – for one year
- SELECT BOARD – for three years
- CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – for three years
- JERICHO – UNDERHILL LIBRARY DISTRICT TRUSTEE – for four years
- JERICHO – UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT TRUSTEE – for three years – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO
- MT MANSFIELD UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS – for three years

(This list is available online at

https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/19638eb7a402ec67865d361ef4e7e565dd15a961/original/1606325249/Ballot_items_2021.pdf_e5ba9718e16d0dc450ab3743511490da?1606325249)

Here is a link to the consent of candidate form: https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/a6cdea7bb28cb010cf16860f9d50731297886097/documents/attachments/000/003/228/original/Consent_form_11-26-18.pdf?1544039658

We anticipate getting the ballots by Wednesday, February 10. You can sign up ahead of time to have a Town Meeting Ballot mailed to you as soon as they are available. Either go to <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> to request an early ballot, fill out and mail the form on our website (<https://jerichovt.org/town-documents/documents/8525/download>), or call the Jericho Town Clerk Office election extension, 802-899-4936 x100.

(Links to all information and documents mentioned in this article may be found on the Town of Jericho website at <https://jerichovt.org/town-documents/widgets/17190/documents> Editor.)

2021 Cambridge Town Meeting

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk and Treasurer

In response to the concerns posed by COVID-19 the VT Legislature passed ACT162, which allows a legislative body to vote to use Australian ballot for any Town Meeting (Annual or Special) in 2021. All voting in the Town of Cambridge for Town Meeting Day 2021 will be held via Australian Ballot. No floor meetings will be held in 2021 (as voted by the Selectboard on December 22, 2020).

Polls will be open on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the Cambridge School Gymnasium. Absentee ballots can be requested by contacting the Town Clerk's Office (802-644-2251, clerk@CambridgeVT.org), or by visiting My Voter Page at <http://www.mvp.vermont.gov/>.

Ballots can be returned to our new drop box at the top of the stairs at the Town Office building, by mail, or at the polling place on Election Day.

To file a petition for articles to be included on the Town Meeting Warning, please submit by January 14, 2021 by 5:00 PM, with 5% registered voter signatures.

To run for a Town Office on the ballot, please return the Consent of Candidate form by Monday, January 25, 2021 by 5:00 PM (for a list of offices, see the town website). ACT162 waives the signature requirement for nominating petitions.

An informational meeting on all Town Meeting Day articles will be held Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom or call-in. This recording will also be available on our website to view after the meeting at your convenience.

Town Reports will be available for pickup in mid-February at various locations around town, and one copy will be mailed to all registered voters' homes.

For more information on Town Meeting Day 2021, please visit http://cms7.revize.com/revize/cambridgevt/town_meeting/TownMeeting2021.php.

J-U Lions blood drive Wednesday, February 3

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting the a Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 3, from 12:00 – 5:00 PM at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction.

There is a critical need so please consider making a donation. You can schedule an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org entering COVENANT. Thank you and Happy New Year!

MMUSD announces two new principals



The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) is pleased to welcome Gretchen Muller (above, left) as the principal for Camel's Hump Middle School, and Darik Williams as the principal for Jericho Elementary School, both beginning on July 1, 2021. Muller has an MS-Education from Mount St. Mary College and a BS from Plymouth State College, as well as having done advanced post-graduate work in School Leadership from St. Michael's College, Colchester. She is currently principal at Stowe HS, where she has worked for the last year and a half. Before that, she was a Rowland Fellow, co-coordinator of the YES program, and Teacher-leader and Science Educator in the Burlington (VT) school district. Darik Williams (right) has a Doctor of Education from Northwest Nazarene University, a Master of Education from University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign, and a BS-Elementary Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He is currently the Lower School Principal at the American School of Brasilia, where he has worked for the past two and a half years. Before that, he was principal at Greenwood Elementary School in Greenwood Village, CO, and assistant principal at Laredo Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

NEWS BRIEFS

COVID-19 testing: free, and now more options for Vermonters!

You can now get tested for COVID-19 at more than 15 regular locations throughout Vermont, with more of them now open daily.

You can still spread the virus even when you don't have symptoms. If you've been in a higher risk situation, like a social gathering, or learned that someone you live or work with tested positive for COVID-19, you should get tested. This way, you can take steps to protect others and prevent further spread of the virus.

Many sites now allow you to take a sample yourself, using a short swab in your nose. The test is quick, easy, and free!

Register for testing at a location near you by visiting: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19testing>. (You'll need to create an account, then log in to make an appointment.)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, do not go to a testing site. Please contact your health care provider so they can refer you for testing. If you don't have a health care provider, call 2-1-1.

Remember, a test only tells you if you have COVID-19 at the time you were tested. We all need to continue our basic prevention steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including wearing a mask, keeping at least a 6-foot distance from others, washing hands, and saying home when sick.

For more information visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov>.

Cambridge seeking town trustees for Varnum Library

The town of Cambridge is seeking interested individuals to serve as town trustees for the Varnum Memorial Library. The town trustees serve on the board of the library and support the operations of the library by determining and promoting the mission of the library, setting the policy that governs the library, overseeing the director, helping to develop and present the budget, and fundraising. Trustees should be strong team players with vision who are enthusiastic about advocating for our public library.

If interested please contact Courtney Leitz, courtneyleitz@gmail.com.

Bolton virtual public hearing January 18

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Bolton Select Board will hold a virtual public hearing on Monday, January 18, 6:00 – 8:30 PM, to obtain public feedback regarding proposed amendments to the 2017 Municipal Plan, and proposed amendments to the Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/861087557>. You can also call 646-749-3112. Access code: 861-087-557.

The two proposed Municipal Plan amendments are a revision and expansion of the Energy Use and related sections of the Town Plan, and a change in Bolton's current zoning map boundaries.

Proposed Town Plan amendments would strengthen the town's commitments to reduce energy consumption overall, and take on a more ambitious agenda in meeting state renewable energy plan goals by enabling expansion of the town's renewable energy generation capacity; and adjust and expand the boundaries of the town's Forest District and Conservation District to improve protections for existing contiguous forest blocks, and provide increased connectivity for wildlife habitat. It would also expand the Village District to encompass several existing small, non-conforming lots along the south end of the Bolton Valley Access Road, to provide regulatory relief to property owners in that area who want to expand homes or accessory structures.

Proposed amendments to the Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations would improve the protection and review of natural resources identified in the 2017 Bolton Town Plan; lessen the need for DRB review of certain projects by allowing administrative approval of boundary line adjustments, allowing administrative approval of low impact recreation paths and tree removal within stream buffers, and rezoning pre-existing nonconforming parcels along Bolton Valley Road to decrease their required minimum lot sizes; disallow motor vehicle salvage yards as a conditional use in town; encourage energy efficiency in building design; allow for larger accessory dwelling units as associated with primary dwelling units of 1400 sq. ft. or less and clarify the treatment of accessory dwelling units on wheels ("tiny houses").

Copies of the proposed amendments are available by contacting the Town Office, 802-434-5075 or clerkbolton@gmavt.net, and

are available on the Select Board page of the Town's website at <http://boltonvt.com/>.

The hearings are open to the public. If you cannot attend the hearing, comments may be made in writing prior to the hearing and mailed to Town Clerk, 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Bolton, VT 05676, or emailed to clerkbolton@gmavt.net.

January 7 Westford Selectboard meeting agenda

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

The Westford Selectboard will conduct a special meeting by Zoom on Thursday, January 7, 7:00 – 7:40 PM.

When accessing the meeting, please identify yourself by typing in your name NOT an email address or phone number. This information is needed for the meeting minutes. To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349620893?pwd=YlJkO0RCdG5OR0pNd0kzVnF0MWR4dz09>

Meeting ID: 823 4962 0893; passcode: VEX79N.

Alternately, by phone, dial 1-646-558-8656 – Meeting ID: 823 4962 0893 – Passcode: 412530

AGENDA:

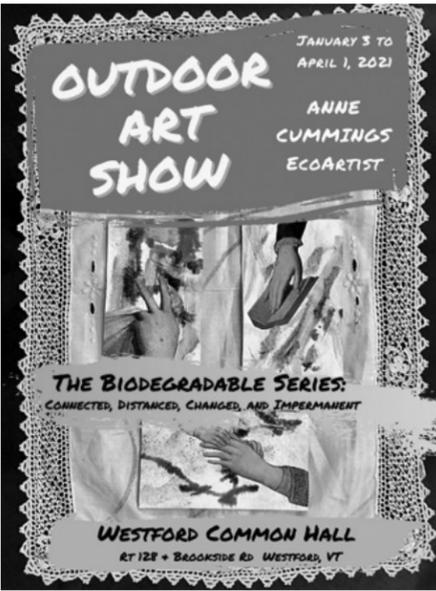
- 7:00 Roll call
- 7:03 Changes to the agenda
- 7:05 Public comment (items not on the agenda)
- 7:10 FY'22 Budget workshop
- 7:40 Adjourn

Please note the times listed above are approximate.

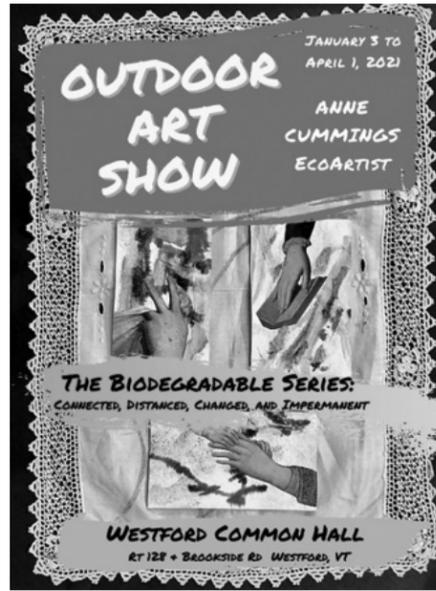
The next regular Selectboard Meeting will be held on January 14, 2021.

Any individual who believes that they need a reasonable accommodation may submit a request to the Town Clerk. The Town will assess whether the request for reasonable accommodation is necessary to make the Town service, program, or activity available to an individual with a disability; whether there is an alternative accommodation which may provide an equivalent level of access and/or benefit; whether the requested reasonable accommodation would impose an undue financial or administrative burden; or whether the requested reasonable accommodation would require a fundamental alteration in the nature of the Town service, program or activity.

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An art exhibition by ecoartist Anne Cummings will be installed outdoors in front of the Westford Common Hall in Westford from January 3-April 1, allowing visitors to view art without entering an indoor space, thereby being able to physically distance, and allowing the art to show the effects of the Vermont winter environment by slowly going through a decomposing process throughout the duration of the exhibition. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



4-H

Chittenden County 4-H honors outstanding club members

Several Chittenden County 4-H club members recently were recognized for their achievements in 4-H project work, community service, and leadership.

Although face-to-face 4-H activities were halted half way through the 4-H year, many members continued to work on their projects and record books and attend virtual club meetings and educational programs. For their hard work and accomplishments, many received special awards from the University of Vermont Extension 4-H program. A number of adult volunteers also were recognized for their years of service as club leaders.

Certificates of Participation were awarded to 4-H'ers for a minimum of six to eight hours of work in a specific project this year. Individuals who completed eight or more hours of project work, including presentations beyond the club level, received Certificates of Excellence.

To earn a medal, the 4-H'ers must have previously been awarded a Certificate of Excellence in that project, be enrolled in the project for more than two years, and have participated in related activities beyond the club level. Certificates of Continued Achievement are presented for continued medal-level achievements after receiving a medal.

Individuals who have earned two Certificates of Continued Achievement in a project area and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, involvement and advanced learning in a particular project area are eligible for the Lamp of Knowledge award. This year Essex Junction 4-H'er Grace Parks received this high honor for her work in the horse project.

Medal and certificate recipients were:

CERTIFICATE OF CONTINUED ACHIEVEMENT:
 Communications: Adaline and Faith Ploof, Westford
 Community service: Adaline and Faith Ploof, Westford
 Food and Nutrition: Adaline Ploof, Westford
 Horse: Chloe Barewicz, Jericho; Grace Parks, Essex Junction;
 Adaline and Faith Ploof, Westford; Kelsey Paradee, Swanton
 Poultry: Adaline Ploof, Westford
 STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics):
 Adaline Ploof, Westford
MEDAL:
 Community service: Chloe Barewicz, Jericho
 Horse: Samantha Blackmore, Charlotte; Addie Boutin, Essex
 Junction; Greta Friesen, Hinesburg

Poultry: Miriam and William Lawson, Cambridge
 STEM: Samantha Blackmore, Charlotte
 Visual Arts: Samantha Blackmore, Charlotte
CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE:
 Communications: Patrick Jordan, Essex Junction
 Computer Technology: Liam Gallagher, Fairfax
 Food and nutrition: Liam Gallagher, Fairfax; Miriam Lawson,
 Cambridge

Leisure Arts: Sadie Haupt, Jericho; Liam Palmer, Williston
 Horse: Paityn Paradee, Swanton; Madeline Tylenda, Essex
 Junction

Poultry: Liam Gallagher and Nora Raley, both from Fairfax;
 Luke Lawson, Cambridge; Morgan and Ryker O'Brien, Milton
 Sheep: Chelsea Ferland, Fairfax

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION:
 Community service: Patrick Jordan and Grace Parks, both
 from Essex Junction; Lily and Sam Provost, Milton
 Food and nutrition: Patrick Jordan, Essex Junction; Luke and
 William Lawson, Cambridge; Nora Raley, Fairfax
 Horse: Haileigh Demers and Allie Hoffman, both from Milton;
 Patrick Jordan, Essex Junction; Lily and Sam Provost, Milton;
 Emma Sibley, Georgia

Livestock: Chelsea Ferland and Nora Raley, both from Fairfax;
 Luke and William Lawson, Cambridge

Several 4-H teens also were recognized for additional
 achievements. They were Lena Ashooh, Shelburne, and Ellie
 Ramirez-Richer, both from Shelburne, and Samantha Blackmore,
 Charlotte, for their work on the Teen Science Café Leadership
 Team; Chloe Barewicz, Jericho, and Grace Parks, Essex Junction,
 as Vermont 4-H Horse Council teen representatives; and Faith
 Ploof, Westford, as the Chittenden County 4-H Foundation teen
 representative.

Volunteer leaders who received pins for years of service
 were: 5 years: Gabrielle Clow, Hinesburg; Genevieve Gallagher,
 Fairfax; 10 years: Paula Rupp, South Burlington; Stacey Walker,
 Westford; 15 years: Renee Lacoss, Shelburne; 30 years: Judy
 Roy, Williston; 50 years: Mary Fay, Westford

To learn more about Vermont 4-H programs, check out www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home. For information about
 Chittenden County 4-H, contact Rose Garritano at rosemarie.garritano@uvm.edu.

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Westford dog ordinance reminder

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

It seems there have been some dog problems recently; therefore the Town thought it would be good to remind residents of the Westford Dog Ordinance. The Ordinance is in place to "protect the public health and safety of the Town and the quiet enjoyment of its residents' homes and properties."

If you are the owner of a dog, please do not let your dog run at large. Running at large means the dog is not on a leash, not in a vehicle, not on the owner's premises, is on the premises of another person without that person's permission, not under verbal or non-verbal control of the owner, and is not hunting with the owner.

The Dog Ordinance in its entirety can be found at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Dog-Ordinance1.pdf>.

Westford Common Hall Revitalization Project Campaign

Capital Campaign Committee/Westford Common Hall

The Holding Hands Around Westford Mitten Sale has been a grand success!

The creativity of the mittens around the Common Hall and around town is simply spectacular. All mitten sale proceeds support the Revitalization Project of the Westford Common Hall.

Please check out the video and campaign link below that details our project: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/westford-common-hall-fund>.

Westford Selectboard meeting draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Read the minutes from the Thursday, December 10 Special Selectboard Meeting online at: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-10-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Westford DRB meeting, January 11 agenda

The Westford Development Review Board will meet Monday,

January 11, 7:15 PM, on Zoom. To join the meeting, go online to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83056914601?pwd=Y1k2RElteDI0ZHNTQm0wTEhsa3B0QT09>, or to phone in, dial +1 646 558 8656 US (New York); meeting ID: 830 5691 4601, passcode: 0111.

The meeting will cover: Final Plat Public Hearing for 3 Lot, 2 Unit Subdivision – Reynolds Family Trust Property, applicant: Larry & Julie Reynolds (approx. 85 acres) located on Woods Hollow Road in the Rural 10 & Water Resource Overlay Zoning Districts. The applicant proposes two building lots and one deferred development lot.

Westford Planning Commission public hearing January 18

The Westford Planning Commission will hold a hearing Monday, January 18, at 6:30 PM on Zoom to receive public comment on the Westford, Vermont 2021 Town Plan.

The Westford, VT 2021 Town Plan can be viewed online at <https://westfordvt.us/town-plan/>, or by contacting the Town Clerk, townclerk@westfordvt.us or 802-878-4587.

Thompson Road in Cambridge closed for winter

By Marguerite Ladd, Cambridge Town Administrator

Thompson Road is closed to thru traffic for the winter season. Please contact me (townadmin@cambridgevt.org or 644-8290) or the Highway Manager Bill Morey (644-8843) directly with any questions or concerns.

Old Red Mill Craft Shop winter hours

Its that time of year when The Old Mill Craft Shop takes a pause! The shop is closed and will re-open on Friday, January 8. The Shop will be open Fridays and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, January through March, 2021.

Questions? Go to our Facebook page, *The Old Red Mill Craft Shop*.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

JES Outdoor Learning Space project

The Jericho Elementary School (JES) community, together with PIE (Partners in Education), are hard at work creating a dedicated Outdoor Learning Space for our children and educators. We need your help.

JES has long had a vision of providing our children with quality time outdoors. Now more than ever (during the pandemic) we appreciate the value of fresh air and the opportunity to learn outside of the walls of our traditional classrooms. Our dream is that the new Outdoor Learning Space will be a multipurpose space that will not only allow teachers to easily hold classroom lessons outside, but it will also provide a space for community to gather, children to play, and friendships and creativity to grow for years and years to come.

For more information and updates on this project, please go online to: <https://sites.google.com/view/jespie/projects/outdoor-learning-space?authuser=0>.

It takes a village! And we need your help. If you would like to support the creation of the new JES Outdoor Learning Space, you can make a direct donation through our GoFundMe campaign: https://www.gofundme.com/f/jes-outdoor-learning-space?member=6989716&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2Binvitesupporters

We are also in need of building materials for Phase 1 of the project. Perhaps you have some items that are not being used, or a pile of lumber taking up precious space. If you would like to contribute with a material donation, please contact Dave Bouchard, david.bouchard@mmuusd.org. This link describes materials needed: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T6LTIpKVcAfvj_NH70_nS5KMrCTmW7Jt_MxJ1hepaXg/edit?usp=sharing.

We appreciate your generosity and support. Every little bit helps! And together we will all be stronger and healthier.

Free college classes for high school students

The Community College of Vermont understands that many families are feeling uncertain about planning and preparing for college. We're local, we're supportive, and we have *free* college classes to help Vermont high school students get a jump start.

For more information, go online to <http://gotocollegevt.org>.

COMING EVENTS

IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL and SOCIALLY DISTANCED Wednesday, January 13

Grab'n'Go Meal for Seniors 60+, 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, 64 West Main St., Richmond. Contactless pickup! The menu for this free fresh meal is: stuffed pork chop with apple stuffing/sauce, mashed potatoes, winter mixed vegetables, dinner roll with margarine, chocolate cake, and milk. Registration is required (by Friday, January 8); please call Nutrition Coordinator Pat Long, 802-557-5484.

Hunting and Land Stewardship in Vermont, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online. Want to learn more about the influence of hunting on the ecology of our forests? Join this presentation about hunting in Vermont (special focus on the Champlain Islands). Free. For information and to register, <https://vlt.org/event/hunting-event>. For questions and accommodation requests contact Katherine, Katherine@vlt.org or 802-745-63034.

Wednesday, January 20

Getting New Farmers on the Land: How VLT approaches the challenge of affordability, 12:00 PM, online. How can a land trust make farmland affordable for up-and-coming farmers? Join this discussion about farm affordability, changes in the farming industry and land ownership in VT, and how Vermont Land Trust is responding. Free. For information and to register, <https://vlt.org/event/affordable-farmland-event>. For questions and accommodation requests contact Katherine, Katherine@vlt.org or 802-745-63034.

Wednesday, February 3

J-U Lions Blood Drive, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. There is a critical need so please consider making a donation. You can schedule an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org entering COVENANT. Sponsored by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club.

Tuesday, February 9

Over and Under the Snow: virtual story ski and tour of Northeast Kingdom recreation spots, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, online. A winter story event for the whole family! Explore five VLT-conserved winter recreation spots in the Northeast Kingdom, and read *Over and Under the Snow* by Vermont author Kate Messner along the way. In this family-friendly event, we'll travel to a farm, some forests, and even up a mountain! Free. For information and to register, <https://vlt.org/event/story-ski>. For questions and accommodation requests contact Katherine, Katherine@vlt.org or 802-745-63034.

Thursday, February 18

Bark, Buds, and Branches: Learn to identify trees in winter, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, online. Many of us can identify trees like maple and oaks by their leaf shape, but once those leaves are on the ground tree identification can be a little tricky. Join VLT foresters to learn what trees they love the most and tips and tricks to identify trees this time of year. Free. For information and to register, <https://vlt.org/event/winter-tree-id>. For questions and accommodation requests contact Katherine, Katherine@vlt.org or 802-745-63034.

Thursday, March 11

What Animal Is It? Virtual wildlife tracking tour through the winter woods, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, online. Winter is a busy time in the woods for our animal neighbors and trying to identify all those animal tracks in the snow is hard. Join us for a virtual wildlife tracking tour through Vermont's woods. Free. For information and to register, <https://vlt.org/event/winter-tree-id>. For questions and accommodation requests contact Katherine, Katherine@vlt.org or 802-745-63034.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

55 WORDS

55 Fiction: short stories
in 55 words or less

By Bernie Paquette

After reading *The World's Shortest Stories*, a collection of 55-word stories, I decided to give it a try. Here is how James Harris describes the concept.

"The idea is simple: write a short story in 55 words or less. A complete short story. With beginning, conflict, and end. Not a poem. Not a journal entry. A short story. A very short story.

"The 55 Fiction contest was created in 1987 by *New Times*, an alternative weekly in California. It quickly caught on, and created a new genre: 'flash fiction.' *New Times* (and its sister publication, the *Santa Maria Sun*) now receive a thousand or more entries annually, from around the world. Winners have been collected in two highly praised books."

Read more about the yearly ongoing contest for 55-word stories at <https://www.newtimeslo.com/sanluisobispo/55-fiction/Category?oid=2872608>, or Google "New Times 55 fiction."

A special New Year

By Peter Ingvoldstad, Jeffersonville

Gratitude

This morning I received an email from my music provider Spotify that for free anyone could hear from Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex and Meghan the Duchess of Sussex and their guests

as they spoke of this past year and the year to come
I very much recommend that you listen to this for free on Spotify as part of our celebration of the year that is passing and the year to come

I will share one quote

We are our best selves or our worst selves when we are in fear never forget it is a choice

The words I have heard the most this year is BE SAFE and I wish you all a new year in which you are all SAFE

For our friend, Paul Switzer

By Peter Ingvoldstad, Jeffersonville

This fall we lost a good friend and long time employee at Smugglers' Notch, Paul Switzer. This is for Switz (December 2020).

There have been many folks who worked and played and gave of themselves in our attempt to find Camelot here at Smugglers' Notch

Our round table was the mountain our trusty steed our skis and boards our quest to share with others our love of thrill and fun

One of our knights exemplar was a great and honored man who could ski like he was floating down a cloud of frozen snow

The man the knight we called Switz he was a friend to all and his passion was for sharing this love of Smugglers' Notch

Our guests they all loved him as he could always make them smile at the same time as he was asking them to take a little risk

Before Switz went on to slide in a place that is more like Camelot than our mountain at Smugglers' Notch he gave me a video his wife had made that showed his love of life and skiing and it ended with a joke he told to almost everyone

Switz said
I once talked with an old Austrian ski instructor
He said *skiing es eecee you go left you go right you go left twice it may be a mistake it depends*

That was Switz's way of living skiing in harmony with the mountain living life in the same way
We will miss the man

Rubus: a profile

By Ethan Tapper

Whether you know them for their delicious berries or as a painful obstacle in the woods, everyone probably has some relationship to raspberries and blackberries. These incredible plants are often referred to by foresters and ecologists collectively as *Rubus*, which is the genus they belong to.

While there are many species of *Rubus* in Vermont, I separate them into raspberries, blackberries, and purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*). This last one is the oddball of the group; it lacks thorns, and has golden, shreddy bark, maple-like leaves, and large, pink flowers. Also called "thimbleberry," it produces raspberry-esque fruit which (ironically) is much flatter and less thimble-shaped than raspberry or blackberry. The berries are edible, with a "felty" texture.

Both raspberries and blackberries can be identified by their distinctive berries and thorny canes. You can tell them apart by the color of their berries (although there are black raspberries), their leaves, or their canes. While both species have thorns, blackberry canes are ridged – a cross-section would reveal that it is angular, not round. Raspberry canes are round in cross-section and smooth (in between the thorns), often with "glaucous bloom" – a bluish waxy coating.

The leaves of both raspberries and blackberries are "compound," meaning that the "leaf" is made up of several "leaflets," each of which looks like a separate leaf. Blackberry leaves are "palmately-compound," meaning that the base of each leaflet attaches at a common point (like a fan), whereas raspberry leaves are "pinnately-compound" – pairs of leaflets attach opposite one another at different points (like a fern).

Rubus are everywhere, but especially common in "disturbed" areas where trees have been cut or otherwise died. They have two main strategies for reproduction. The first is "layering" – creating new plants by sprouting from their root system, sprouting from the base of an existing plant, or by establishing "adventitious" roots where the tip of a cane touches the ground. If you've ever battled *Rubus* in your yard, you know that their knack for layering makes them very resilient.

The second and more incredible method that *Rubus* uses to reproduce is their seeds. It seems like every animal in the woods, from birds to bears, gorges themselves on raspberries and blackberries. The seeds pass through their digestive systems and (some time later) are deposited throughout the woods, wherever that critter happens to be. It's a great seed dispersal strategy – essentially hitching a ride on a bird or other animal.

If *Rubus* seeds end up in a suitable place – maybe somewhere with "scuffed-up" soils and plenty of light – they can germinate right away. However, most *Rubus* seeds get dropped in places that aren't ideal spots. When this happens, they become part of the "seed bank" – the seeds that wait in the soil, remaining viable but ungerminated. *Rubus* seeds can remain in the seed bank for 20-40 years, and in some cases up to 100 years. When opportunity knocks – in the form of a windstorm, logging, a forest fire – they sprout.

What this means is that, for the most part, *Rubus* that appear after forest management or a natural disturbance aren't arriving at that site. They've been in the soil under your feet, maybe for decades, waiting for their opportunity to grow.

Rubus was once disliked by the forestry community, mostly because of how it springs up following forest management. Foresters wanted to grow trees, not bushes, and so they considered *Rubus* to be "interfering vegetation," taking up growing space that could be growing trees; *Rubus* was sometimes cut and sprayed with herbicide just to get it out of the way. However, science has revealed that *Rubus* doesn't interfere with the ability of trees to grow. On the contrary, it is an integral part of an ephemeral stage in forest development. *Rubus* provides valuable nutrient-cycling and some seedling protection – shielding young trees from herbivory with their thorny canes. They are also an incredibly important food source for all manner of wildlife, from neo-tropical songbirds stocking up for migration to black bears building up fat reserves for hibernation.

Like many things in forests and forestry, understanding the role of *Rubus* requires us to be patient and to "zoom out." The briars, brambles, and pricklers that scrape your legs will give way to young forests, and someday to old forests. Instead of cursing these prickly plants, enjoy this "moment in time" and marvel at their patience and persistence.

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

Not so fast! Snowmobile safety and your children

Parents have been sliding up to me with lots of questions regarding snowmobile safety for their children who want to ride on these machines. Fasten your seat belts as I provide some information about what you have to snow, I mean know.

Too many injuries to ignore

More than 10,000 snowmobile injuries occur yearly in the U.S., with 10% occurring in children younger than 15 and another 25% in older teens and young adults. Head injuries are the leading cause of injury and death, usually from the snowmobile striking a fixed object such as a tree, cable, wire, or another vehicle.

Follow these age guidelines

Do not let children under 16 years of age operate snowmobiles. Children younger than 6 should not ride on these vehicles because they do not have the strength or stamina to be transported safely as passengers.

If a teen is over 16 and able to operate a snowmobile, newly licensed operators should only use them initially during the day on groomed trails. Parents, you should set a good example and not use alcohol or other drugs that can impair your level of alertness when riding, with or without children.

Be aware of the weather

Check the weather before you go out on a snowmobile, as well as the condition of trails. Never snowmobile on ice if uncertain about its thickness. Well-insulated protective clothing is a must – including goggles, and waterproof suits, gloves, and rubber-bottomed boots. Helmets are a mainstay and must be made specific for use of snowmobiles; bicycle helmets are not a substitute.

Caution is key

Safe speeds must be maintained at all times on well-marked

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Plumbing and heating customers – fringe benefits

By Douglas Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

I have been told, many times in the past, that I must like my job since I have been in plumbing and heating so many years. To set the record straight, there is very little to like about plumbing and heating. There is a certain amount of satisfaction in doing a good job and getting credit for it. Four and five-year-old kids, dogs (especially labs), and some kittens are favorites of mine! Christmas without little ones around is just another boring day. Little kids tell the truth – they haven't been contaminated by the real world yet, and haven't learned about lying, cheating, stealing, scheming, etc. I love getting a call from a customer who has a friendly dog or a lab retriever. After I fix their problem I can play with the dog and the kids.

I was plumbing at a house and didn't realize I would be the only one there except for two golden retrievers, who laid down in the bathroom doorway and watched me every moment. I always have a lot of tools and mislay them a lot, so I didn't realize that my tools were being relocated one by one. Out of the corner of my eye I saw one of the golden retrievers had a wrench in his mouth and was slinking down the hallway into another room. I went into that room and found five tools he had stashed there. I told the lady of the house when she came home, and she said she was sorry that she didn't tell me that one dog was a "klepto" and regularly stole stuff every chance he got. That dog was a pro. He was able to sneak four tools away before I caught him. He didn't make a sound and when I had my back to the door, he snatched the tools.

I was on another job and fixing a tub drain. I had the tub filled with water to make sure it wasn't leaking after adjusting the trip lever drain. I had the door slightly open so I could hear if anybody knocked on the door. I was told that no pets would be around, but they forgot to tell me that had two kittens, so when I had the tub full of water and had both hands on the drain, all of sudden the two kittens jumped on my back. It scared the crap out of me and I ended up with my head under water.

I have written in my column about how amazing pre-school kids are, such as the little girl who flushed her teddy bear down the toilet. I had to take the toilet out and pull the teddy bear out of the bottom of the toilet. Her mother went into the house to dry out the teddy bear and I sat down with the little girl (who was 4) and asked her why she flushed her teddy bear down the toilet. She was very teary-eyed and said she was mad at her mother. I told her she could have lost her bear forever if he had gone farther down the pipe and we couldn't reach it and it plugged the pipe. I showed her approximately where it would have ended up. She said, "I am sorry, and I won't do it again, Mr. Plumber." I hugged her and said we are not mad at her, and that she was lucky that we could rescue her teddy bear.

Another 4-year-old told me, "Mr. Plumber, you smell so good!" I was flattered, to say the least. When I opened the basement door, an awful odor came out. I figured I did smell a lot better than that. One 4-year-old boy asked me if he could play with my adjustable flashlight and I told him not to break it since I might need to use it later. When I went to leave, he asked his mother if I could have a sleep-over with him in his tent in the backyard – and be sure to bring my flashlight.

Next column: Customers, kids, dogs – flames and games

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Free Winter Film Club for teens
By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) recommends this free program provided by the Media Factory, our Burlington counterpart.

The Burlington Tech Center Digital Media Lab and the Media Factory invite high school-aged Vermont students to create your own films inspired by winter. This seven-week online program guides you through the filmmaking process with weekly sessions on storyboarding, camera technique, editing, and more, in a supportive community with your fellow filmmakers.

Sessions will be held on Wednesdays, January 20-March 10, (no session on February 24), 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Meetings will be held on Zoom.

Students can use cell phones and personal media tools, or borrow gear from the Media Factory (or MMCTV, in Richmond). The deadline to register is Sunday, January 10. Filmmakers sign up now: <http://mediafactory.org/filmclub>.

Fletcher Elementary collecting used holiday cards

Please consider donating your used holiday greeting cards to Fletcher Elementary School!

A group of students at Fletcher Elementary School is collecting the unmarked front covers of holiday cards in an effort to save lives. The cards will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, where they will be recycled into new cards and sold to benefit children's care at the hospital. The Fletcher students have dubbed the project *Cards for Kids*.

At St. Jude's Children's Hospital, families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food. Innovations in treatment for childhood cancer pioneered at St. Jude's have helped push the childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent. Profits from these recycled cards will support continued cost-free care and cancer research.

Cards donated to the school need not be separated or prepared in any way. Students will remove the unmarked covers and discard any portions with writing. They will also use the cards as part of math and writing lessons as they prepare them for shipment. Or, donors may remove the covers themselves. Cards may be

Community columns continued from page 3

trails. And never take more than one passenger or pull someone on a saucer, tube sled, or skis with your snowmobile. Vehicles should have a first aid kit and a repair kit and flares. Make sure your headlights and taillights are working, and keep them on so you can see and be seen. Keep the vehicle well-maintained.

Hopefully, by following tips like these, your family will glide safely through this year's snowmobile season.

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

Christmas wish list or New Year's resolutions?
By Bill Schubert

It's the end of what has been for many a devastating year. 2020 has magnified and amplified the damaging toll that our persistent socio-economic and environmental inequities have exacted on Vermonters.

As the nation's bluest state, Vermont is still near the bottom for food security and affordable housing. Vermont performs better in comparative unemployment figures, although "unemployment" data are subject to political manipulation in how they are defined. In a recent *VT Digger* article, economist Art Woolf notes that "Vermont currently is experiencing the second worst labor force decline in the nation over the past 12 months." Compared to other states, we're slightly better in access to healthcare, but only as measured against 49 other states that collectively have no national healthcare plan for universal coverage. Measure Vermont against any European country for healthcare access and we fail here as well.

The New Year perennially affords hope, and there's good reason to be hopeful as it relates to the pandemic, but will we muster the leadership, legislative, and policy change needed to confront our preexisting conditions or will we just settle into the "old normal?"

I'll be blunt. I want new leadership in all branches of government – Vermonters who focus on the well-being of Vermonters. As in any period of intense hardship, we can emerge stronger and wiser, or we can settle back into the "old normal" where Vermonters continue to struggle to find employment that pays enough to afford housing, food, healthcare, and education.

Several initiatives are looking through various lenses at "the future of Vermont." We're a studious lot, but less adept at making change than studying it. We spend time and ink recording what needs change but then lack the political courage to drive those changes through the headwinds of opposition rallied by those whose privilege is threatened.

Time to embalm the Friedman/Reagan/Thatcher/ "trickle down" orthodoxy... now in tatters. This durable myth has vastly enriched the ten percent and left tens of millions of Americans (and Brits) in penury. Even the venerable National Business Roundtable is white-washing its former commitment to Milton Friedman's definition of profit and share value as the sole appropriate goal of business and the driver of citizen well-being.

In my 70+ years in Vermont, I've had little reason to doubt that most Vermonters still believe in the capacity of their small, accessible government to initiate change that betters their lives. Yet little substantive change has occurred in the last few gubernatorial terms or legislative sessions.

Here are some ideas.

In order to afford and initiate change, we will need to revise Vermont's tax law for even more progressivity than detractors claim we already have. We'll need to expand sales and use tax to include consumer services, i.e. most Vermonters buy and pay sales tax on a lawn mower and snow shovel, mow their own lawn and shovel their own snow. Well-heeled Vermonters hire someone else to do it and pay no tax. Including services would increase revenue that could be used to buy down the sales tax, which is, in itself, regressive.

dropped off at the school or mailed to: Chris Dodge, Principal, Fletcher Elementary School, 340 School Rd., Cambridge, VT 05444. The deadline to submit cards is Friday, February 5, 2021.

Students are working to collect more than the 5500 cards they collected last year! Please help!

Old Fashioned Harvest Market / Clutter Barn Market response to COVID-19

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic may have interrupted the way the United Church of Underhill approached the usual seasonal activities, but it didn't discourage the spirit and enthusiasm of its members and friends to offer a virtual look into what it might have been! Read on for an Old Fashioned Harvest Market / Clutter Barn experience.

New for your online shopping pleasure, the Clutter Barn Market has been created this year in lieu of the popular Silent Auction that usually takes place at the end of September at the Old Fashioned Harvest Market. Due to the pandemic, and in consideration of the health and safety of the loyal supporters of this yearly event, the 2020 Old Fashioned Harvest Market was voted by the Steering Committee to be too risky and was cancelled. However, the faithful Silent Auction crew, together with the Clutter Barn volunteers, took advantage of this opportunity to sell items that had been donated and deemed to be of special quality and value; and these items are now available for sale online at the Clutter Barn Market at <https://clutterbarn.unitedchurchofunderhill.com/shop>.

Available at the Clutter Barn Market are items such as decorative holiday accessories, Willow Tree sculptures, stoneware, quilts, pewter and silver pieces, wall hangings, pottery, and much more. Articles are added weekly, so it is necessary to check the site often. Purchase and payment instructions are noted on the site. The Clutter Barn Market was formed to raise funds for the missions and ministry of the United Church of Underhill in Underhill, Vermont, including the Old Fashioned Harvest Market that we pray will be back with its anticipated excitement in September 2021.

We will need to fund public education, not solely on property tax, but also on income, and possibly even an asset tax on intangibles such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. We live in a nation where the CEO/founder of one company, Amazon, has a net worth 26 times Vermont's annual budget. A .0025% asset tax would cost a Vermont millionaire \$2500 a year.

We need to peg the minimum wage to a fundamental like cost of living, and remove it from political debate.

We'll need to reimagine the public school system. Schools need to be open year-round, extending from soon after birth to career. Public education will subsume "childcare," adding to it the richness of early education, and not least, integrating, healthcare and trauma-informed counseling. Teachers must be rewarded for working eleven months instead of nine, and a program to deploy universal broadband access will be critical.

We must reprioritize competing interests and bureaucracies such as affordable housing, zoning, and historic preservation, forcing compromise rather than allowing stasis. One's interest in each often depends on one's privilege.

In healthcare, we will need to move our considerable investments upstream to achieve long-term savings – that means focusing on prevention, primary care, and chronic disease management rather than emergency room and invasive care. The very ethics of healthcare demand this. We must understand that unemployment, homelessness, hunger, pollution, emotional trauma are essentially pre-existing medical conditions that invariably lead to the emergency room and the most expensive healthcare. In time, spending money upstream will lower our astronomical downstream medical costs.

We'll need to focus on the development of a less-industrialized and more regional food supply chain, one that encourages regenerative agriculture in a local economy. We must stop funding the chemically-dependent monocropping food industry that has monopolized and poisons our food chain.

We may need to underwrite our regional food producers until we achieve price equity. Perhaps Agriculture Secretary-elect Tom Vilsack will consider moving some of the \$22B annual farm subsidy – much of which is used to subsidize lethal junk food components such as corn, corn syrup, corn starch, and soy oils, and price-supporting a massive dairy oversupply – into supporting lower-impact, regional farming such as we see blooming in New England.

We'll need to be relentless in our pursuit of environmental quality. Air, water and soil are the elements of our survival. The comfy consumer trade-offs we've made are coming back to haunt us in weather events, immune system compromise, chronic disease blooms, and lowered human longevity. We must impose a modest carbon tax to further induce change.

Finally, we will all need to rebalance our personal interests against those of our community and be open to change.

And we all need to understand that the human race is one species regardless of religion, gender, age, or racial origin. Whatever "higher power" we believe in sees us as one. Perhaps the greatest sin we can commit is to use our various religious orthodoxies to imagine that some of us are more deserving of being loved and respected than others.

A dear Moroccan friend, an observant Muslim, was guiding us through the courtyard of a large mosque in Fez some years back. We rested in the exterior garden and courtyard on the edge of a bubbling white fountain next to a huge parking lot of shoes, and just sat quietly.

Finally, I broke the silence, asking Saida about religious tolerance in Morocco. After a few moments of thought, she smiled and said, "Like everywhere, it's mixed. But I believe that all those in Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism who advocate for the slaughter of infidels will all burn equitably in the same hell."

We let her wise words sink in as we followed her through the labyrinthine Souk Bab Jiaf. We'd still be there today, were it not for Saida's guidance.

The United Church of Underhill also takes this opportunity to extend prayerful thanks to all of its friends and neighbors who continued to support and encourage the endeavors of the Clutter Barn during the 2020 season. These are the folks we strive to serve, not only by providing a convenient place to deposit outgrown and/or no longer used household goods, but also through the many in-house and outreach programs offered by the church. Heartfelt thanks also are shared with the many volunteers who helped organize the generously donated items and host two successful Tag Sales, following the COVID-19 guidelines for safety in all areas.

While the computer's warmed up checking out the Clutter Barn Market, take a few minutes and go to <https://underhillharvestmarket.com> and view the virtual 2020 Old Fashioned Harvest Market, including the opening parade, the lawnmower brigade, flea market, indoor artists' emporium, pet show, zucchini patch contest, Fun Run results, and Harvest Market trivia. These videos were created by church volunteers in order to keep alive the spirit of the Market in a year when everything is different! These programs, along with the Clutter Barn Market, will be available online through the spring of 2021.

For more information about the Clutter Barn Market, please contact the host committee by email at CBMarket@ucu.church.

Help managing ash trees in your woods
By Amy Ludwin, Bolton Conservation Commissioner

Check out the new publication on Ash Tree Recommendations: https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ash-Recommendations_4.pdf. There are ten recommendations to help you manage ash in your woods in the face of Emerald Ash Borer and climate change. From the introduction:

"Ash is an important part of the forests in the Northeast. If you are lucky to have ash trees in your woods, they bring unique assets. Sadly, ash species are facing attack by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive wood-boring insect that feeds on ash trees. EAB has been present in the U.S. since 2002, but in the last few years it has spread to the Northeast, posing a grave threat to the survival of our ash. All three ash species in the Northeast — white, black, and green ash — are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) because of the threat from EAB. Added to this, we are also facing impacts from climate change. But with thoughtful management we can give ash a fighting chance. Often when there is a threat to the forest, the first reaction is to act quickly, but if we learn from past forest outbreaks (like the spread of chestnut blight in the early 1900s) it pays to be careful about what we do so that we don't lose ash completely. If your woodlot contains ash trees, you will have to weigh the important benefits of ash along with the threats of both EAB and climate change." Take a look to see their ten recommendations.

And: "Your state's forest agency or forest extension office can help you find local information and connect with a professional forester for advice on managing the ash on your property. They can help you understand the risk of EAB arriving in your woods based on other known infestations and can help you assess if EAB has already arrived. Be mindful that there are other reasons why ash trees may decline and die that are not related to EAB."

Other resources include VT Invasives, <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>; and VT Forests, Parks and Recreation / County Foresters, <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/list-vermont-county-foresters>.

Dog owners reminded to keep dogs under control
(January 2019, but still in effect.)

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reminds dog owners that they must keep their dogs under control to prevent them from chasing deer or moose.

Vermont law prohibits letting your dog run deer or moose and provides that a State Game Warden or other law enforcement officers may shoot a dog that is running deer. In addition, a dog owner may be fined up to \$200 for allowing his or her dog to run deer.

"Dogs will instinctively chase and kill deer and usually once they start, they will continue doing so, especially in winters with much snow," said Chief Game Warden Col. Jason Batchelder. "In almost all cases, these are wonderful family pets and their

Miscellaneous news continued on page 5

HEALTH NEWS

Healthy Lamoille Valley Coalition meeting: youth vaping

Healthy Lamoille Valley is hosting regular coalition meetings the first Tuesday of each month on Zoom. These meetings are open to all youth and community members interested in preventing and reducing youth substance misuse. We are excited to be providing monthly opportunities for coalition members and anyone who'd like to be involved to connect with our work in a tangible way.

Join us for our meeting on January 5, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, "Youth Vaping: what our coalition needs to know and what we can do about it," featuring guest presenter Marcella Bianco, the Program Director for the *CATCH My Breath* youth e-cigarette prevention program. We'll cover what e-cigarettes are and why they're a concern for Vermont youth, how the vaping epidemic got out of hand so quickly, laws and policies around youth vaping, and the relationship between vaping and infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

We will also launch the Tobacco Prevention Taskforce on Youth and Young Adult Vaping Prevention, look at the initiatives and campaigns we want to take on, and hear from local youth. For those who are interested in continuing to learn more, there will be two follow-up sessions to this meeting.

Please register in advance for this meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sfuygpzmqGdGtHxSKsXqcYiGpsUubqZau>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 2.

Miscellaneous continued from page 4

owners cannot comprehend that their dog would kill a deer.” Deer survive during the winter by browsing on low-growing hardwood and softwood vegetation, which has little nutrition compared to the lush vegetation they can eat during the rest of the year. Their energy reserves are at their lowest, leaving them vulnerable to starvation, especially if they are chased by dogs. “We are issuing this reminder to make dog owners aware of the law and to urge them to keep their dogs under control so they won’t chase deer,” added Batchelder. “We responded to about 60 incidents of dogs chasing deer during each of the last five years.”

Volunteer Opportunities with United Way

United Way of Northwest Vermont’s mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact us at megan@unitedwaynwvt.org.

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED – The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood and if you are healthy and eligible to donate, please visit www.redcross.org for more information and to schedule an appointment at a drive near you!

DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS – Age Well Meals on Wheels program needs your help now more than ever. Deliver nutritious meals to homebound elders in Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Addison counties. Drivers pick up food at a central location and deliver to residential locations on their route. Time commitment varies from one day per week to one day per month, from approximately 10:30 – 11:45 AM. Background, license, and insurance checks. Contact our Volunteer Department at 662-5249 or volunteerservices@agewellvt.org to learn more.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION – Samaritan House, St. Alban’s homeless shelter, is seeking a volunteer to maintain, improve, and protect agency-wide data systems. The volunteer would coordinate methods and procedures for data acquisition, input, management, and quality control. Volunteer needed one day a week and is welcome to choose the day which best suits their schedule. To learn more contact Ben Kaufman, 802-527-0847 or ben.kaufman@samaritan-house.com.

LRSWMD announcements

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District & Lamoille Soil facilities note: Please be prepared for last minute facility closures as we enter into cold and flu season amid the COVID pandemic. We encourage caution among our employees when they may be feeling ill to protect both you and our staff; therefore, we may have to close facilities at the last minute when staff members are unable to report to work. We will do our best to communicate these closures far and wide if this happens, and ask for your kindness and understanding in the event of unexpected closures.

Recycling at home: Stayed tuned for details on how to have your questions about how to recycle at home answered. We will be hosting virtual sessions the week of January 25 to help you understand the *whys* and *hows* of the recycling world, and allow time for “show and tell” so you can find out exactly what to do with that collection of garbage you’ve been meaning to ask about!

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District & Lamoille Soil, 29 Sunset Dr., Morrisville; 802-888-7317, www.lrswmd.org.

MMCTV: 2020 in review

The numbers say it all. In 2019, Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) uploaded 268 videos to Internet Archive. In 2020, it was 349 videos. That’s over 511 hours of local content! MMCTV Production Manager Ruth Miller edited almost every one of those hours, while holding down the fort since we closed our studio and editing facilities to the public in March.

As Zoom took over the world, we streamed most meetings live on MMCTV and YouTube, while adding new series such as Underhill DRB and Richmond Recreation Committee meetings.

This past year, we worked more closely with our towns than ever. A *Voting Q&A*, with Richmond and Jericho Town Clerks Linda Parent and Jessica Alexander, was our most viewed video online in 2020. (Thanks to our own Erin Waggoner for the idea and Questions!) We captured what voting was like November 3, 2020 (see <https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/45d47a9e34>).

In 2020, we highlighted local adaptation to the pandemic in our *Virtually Yours* series (<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/0342c34167>) and helped local organizations and non-profits get the word out in over 600 community bulletin board listings, while offering tech support and editing for over a dozen groups’ events. We partnered with the Richmond Free and Deborah Rawson Memorial libraries for updates and virtual storyline videos. Jim Wilkinson-Ray filmed some great socially-distanced *Richmond Farmers Market concerts* (<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/95b68ac4d7?query=creator%3A%22MMCTV%22&year%3A%222020%22>).

We’ve shifted into the virtual realm as a media sponsor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Vermont Racial Justice Alliance’s *Racism in America* (<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/95b68ac4d7?query=creator%3A%22MMCTV%22&year%3A%222020%22>) series, which travels far and wide. Please tune in on Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM for a special event featuring a play by Harlem’s *Shades of Truth Theater!* With the change in school routines due to the pandemic, Channel Manager Jim Hering introduced a Kids’ Block in our schedule featuring educational content several days a week. And local agricultural video guru Gregg Stevens made some terrific station promo videos like the one at <https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/504c6919c4> for us.

In 2020 too, we made the most unusual MMU Graduation video (<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/504c6919c4>), supported local middle schoolers taking part in a virtual statewide Crowdsourced

Cinema VT project this summer (<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/a0ff328584>), and assisted dance studio neighbor Arabesque with gear for outdoor performances.

Through all this, we were fortunate to work with colleagues at Vermont’s 24 other media centers for added technical and legislative support! We’ve also launched the Vermont Community TV channel (<https://cts.vresp.com/c/?MountMansfieldCommun/8055da88b1/cfa8146f29/36d114bec5>) together just this month.

Finally, as we head into 2021, we are hoping to finalize a move to a new, more central location (stay tuned!) and have invested in a pilot, remotely-controlled cameras set up for our three towns, to be ready for hybrid (part in-person, part remote) meetings in the future.

Thanks for your support in a year that put everyone to the test. Happy New Year!

2021 VT hunting, fishing, trapping licenses available online

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for 2021 and license gift certificates are available on the Fish and Wildlife Department’s website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

“Our licenses for the New Year will be popular based on the increased interest we are seeing from people who want to enjoy more outside activities like hunting and fishing,” said VT Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. “Ice fishing is a lot of fun, and it will soon be possible with colder weather.”

“A license gift certificate is the perfect gift for a friend or family member who hunts or fishes,” he added. “You can go to our website, fill out the certificate and pay for it online, and then you can print it to present to your recipient.”

A gift certificate link is on the top of Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website home page and in the license section. The person who receives the certificate must go to the website to redeem it and purchase their licenses.

Porter noted that proceeds from license sales have helped pay for some of Vermont’s greatest wildlife conservation success stories, including restoring game species, as well as helping nongame species such as peregrine falcons, bald eagles, loons, and ospreys. These funds also go to managing Wildlife Management Areas that provide critical habitat for many species as well as recreational opportunities for Vermonters.

Printed copies of the *2021 Hunting & Trapping Guide* and *2021 Fishing Guide* are available from license agents. The department’s website will soon have a link to online versions as well.

Family Services Division special COVID-19 message

The Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division extends our sincere and deepest gratitude to everyone serving children, families, friends, and communities. We especially want to wish you a safe and happy holiday and to acknowledge the role of foster care providers who have been identified as “essential persons” by Governor Scott during this demanding time. Foster, kin, and respite care givers have stepped up in ways that no one could have predicted would be requested. Thank you!

With schools out and children at home, some families find themselves at a tipping point. It is our hope that families may continue fostering and providing respite care and that no child has to be moved. If you are worried about child safety, as always, please call the Child Protection Hotline at 800-649-5285.

The Family Services Division and everyone who is a member of our family of caregivers are working together to ensure the safety of Vermont’s children and youth. If you are interested and able to provide foster or respite care, we would love to include you in our family of caregivers. Thank you!

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>.

Seeking BIPOC Vermonters for Oral History Collection

As part of a larger arts initiative sponsored by River Arts and Helen Day Art Center, we are looking for residents within Lamoille County who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to share their narrative. All ages are invited and audio recording will be conducted in a safe, socially-distanced environment in the new year.

If you’d like to know more and/or are interested in participating, please email Kiara.T.Cole@gmail.com.

Cambridge’s Krusch Nature Preserve

Vermont Business Magazine recently published an article about the Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve, located off North Cambridge Road: <https://vermontbiz.com/news/2020/december/17/new-nature-preserve-established-cambridge>.

Congratulations to Sally Laughlin, the Cambridge Conservation Commission and the Vermont Land Trust on this successful project. As the article states, the next phase is construction of a parking lot off North Cambridge Road and completion of the one-mile long nature trail, which involves installing bridges over two streams on the property.

Share your ideas for walking and biking in Richmond

Help create safe and family-friendly spaces for walking and biking – on streets and trails.

Please help the Town of Richmond and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission identify areas you want to walk and bike from your community to theirs, as well



Ali McGuirk kicks off the Spruce Peak Arts Winter Concert 2021 series Saturday, January 23, 7:00 PM, with her dynamic voice and heartfelt songwriting. The series provides live performances, including options for limited, safe, in-person attendance, as well as for live-streaming. Protocols for in-person attendance include mask-wearing, social distancing standards, reduced seating capacity, hand sanitizing, health checks, and extensive cleaning protocols. To learn more, please visit our Health and Safety Policy page, <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/safety-and-health-policies/>. Tickets: \$25 in-person attendance, \$15 live-stream. If Vermont guidance shifts to restrict in-person attendance, existing in-person tickets will be changed to live-stream. In-person ticketholders will have the option of a credit, refund, or making a donation with the remainder.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

as popular destinations and barriers to getting there. Provide your recommendations on our interactive map for the Richmond Walk, Bike, and Trails Plan: <https://wikimapping.com/Richmond-BikePed.html>.

Visit the project website for more information: <https://bit.ly/Richmond-bike-walk-trails>.

Thinking about how to reduce your carbon footprint?

Are you ready for a simple but meaningful New Year’s resolution? There are things you can do around the house that can make a difference. You can reduce your carbon footprint (and save money on energy in the process) with our list of tried-and-true methods.

For more information, visit <https://www.encyclopedia.com/blog/how-to/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint-at-home>.

Be prepared for storms, all year long

Storms with winds strong enough to take down trees and power lines can happen during any time of year. So, it is always useful to be aware of the forecast for your area and to also have some basics on hand to be ready and safe. They include:

- a fully charged cell phone;
- flashlights;
- bottled water;
- a plan of where to go if you need to leave home.

Trees toppling and taking down power lines are the number one cause of outages in Vermont. If you ever happen to come across a downed line, assume it is energized and stay far away from it (50 feet!). Call GMP at 888-835-4672 and we can help.

You’ll find more helpful safety tips on GMP’s website: <https://greenmountainpower.com/safety/>.

Mountain Gazette

Publication & Deadline Dates 2021

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

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

Publisher of the Mountain Gazette
6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487
Phone: 453-6354 • mtngazette@gmavt.net
On the web at www.mtngazettevt.com
PUBLICATION DATE S:

THURSDAY	DEADLINE DATES:
January 7	THURSDAY
January 21	December 30
February 4	January 14
February 18	January 28
March 4	February 11
March 18	February 25
April 1	March 11
April 15	March 25
May 6	April 8
May 20	April 29
June 3	May 13
June 17	May 27
July 1	June 10
July 15	June 24
August 5	July 8
August 19	July 29
September 2	August 12
September 16	August 26
October 6	September 9
October 20	September 30
November 4	October 14
November 18	October 28
December 2	November 11
December 16	November 25
-	December 9

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Legislative 2021 focus

By Thomas Stevens, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden

To those who celebrate, Happy Holidays! I have been grateful for the time I have been able to spend with (most of) my family this season, and am only sorry it has to be done with the specter of COVID-19 hanging over us. I miss our friends and other family members, but am further grateful for services like Front Porch Forum, which can keep us informed, together, as a community.

I wanted to take a few moments of your time to sketch out the priorities of this upcoming session (and biennium, if necessary). Our work will continue to be driven by the need of COVID relief for Vermonters — individuals, doctors and nurses, schools and teachers, and small businesses in particular. So many facets of our life have been affected by the coronavirus, and our work will prioritize providing relief to those Vermonters who remain in need.

We will continue to see the potential for the negative economic effects of the pandemic in our work, from the expected loss of restaurants and other hospitality services and small businesses, and await relief from the federal government. Vermonters should be proud of the relief we were able to get out during 2020, most of it with funds provided by the federal government. We reacted with flexibility and compassion, and, given the limitations on those funds, have helped Vermonters get through these first nine months of the pandemic in ways we could not have imagined when we last saw each other on Town Meeting Day.

Our time in the legislature will be limited by our institutional reaction to the pandemic. We were one of the few states to successfully integrate remote work into what is, during formerly normal times, intensely personal and human work. Making a connection with legislators, constituents, staff and witnesses is a large part of how things get done. Come Wednesday, January 6, when the session begins, we will resume meeting over Zoom because getting 180 legislators and staff, as well as the public, together inside an old building is not in the best interest of our public and personal health.

When we do get together, we will be monitoring whatever new federal funds come in to help us with homelessness, affordable housing, business relief, potential increased unemployment rates, and other government expenses that have arisen through no fault of our own, and the parallel decrease in revenues due to the interruption in the economy. In addition, our committee will continue to look at instituting a paid family leave program, which would have been so beneficial during this pandemic, and different racial equity issues, perhaps starting with a state apology for our approval of the Eugenics Survey in 1931, which led to so much hardship for our indigenous community, as well as our disabled and French-Canadian populations. We have to come to terms with the reality that we, as a state, approved a program whose primary goal was the allegedly scientifically based eradication of certain populations. From here, we may be able to address the moral outcomes of that policy, and how it resonates today. And there are many other priorities that will be addressed from other committees, including child care and broadband accessibility.

Finally, we will be focusing on redefining “normal” for our work and our government. None of this is normal. Beyond the fear of coming down with COVID are the fears relating to running a business that was always hard and now is harder still, the fears of eating out, shopping, going to school, teaching, learning, doctoring. These stresses will make an impact on our society for months and years to come, and we all need to be patient with each other.

May you find peace in the holiday you celebrate with your family, your friends, and community. Thank you for all that you are doing to keep us whole as a community during this pandemic, and please take care of yourselves, so we can all meet again on the other side of this together.

As 2020 ends, looking ahead to 2021

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden

As we end this stressful and world defining year, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me to represent you in Montpelier; I will do my best to fulfill that trust.

Opening week: We will begin the 2021 legislative session on Wednesday, January 6 just as we ended the 2020 session, conducting business over ZOOM. We will elect a new Speaker and Clerk of the House; the Governor and other statewide elected officials will be sworn in, as will all 180 legislators in the House and Senate. We will receive our committee assignments (these are made by the Speaker of the House), and we will be “seated” virtually. So far, the decision has been made to conduct all House business virtually at least until the Town Meeting week break in March.

Town Meeting: Speaking of Town Meeting, it is expected that a bill that is already being worked on to provide additional flexibility regarding annual meetings for towns and school districts will see action very soon after we gavel into session. We already passed a bill last session to provide some flexibility, and this bill will provide additional options.

COVID-19 vaccine: As the vaccines begin to be administered here in Vermont, you can get up to date information on the following two websites:

- This website gives information by county and total numbers of individuals vaccinated across the state: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>.

- This website answers questions about who can get the vaccines and enables you to sign up for updates: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont>.

I will resume my weekly legislative updates starting the second week of January. As always, you can reach me at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

Finally, I wish for all of you a safe and healthy 2021; it may be a long winter for some of us, so do what you can to reach out to others or to seek out others if you need to. Take care.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library has gone back to curbside only. COVID numbers in the state are rising and we want to keep our community members safe! We will open again for appointments once we see the numbers declining.

Curbside hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. You may place items on hold at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com>. You will receive an email or a phone call when your item is ready. Just let us know what day you would like to pick it up by calling 899-4962 or emailing rawsonlibrary@drml.org. Items may be returned in the book drop any time. Items are quarantined up to a week before they are checked in. Our WiFi remains active and is accessible from the parking lot or other areas adjacent to the building. WiFi is available 24/7. A password is not needed to connect. Please be aware that our WiFi does not offer a secure connection.

Programs: Unless another link is provided, register for programs on Zoom by going online to <https://www.drml.org/programs/calendar/> and clicking the “register by clicking here” link in the program description.

Thursday, January 7, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, on Zoom: Afternoon Tech Talk. Demystify digital technologies! Send suggestions and questions to Erik, program_assistant@drml.org. Adults. Registration required.

Thursday, January 7, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Young Writers Group. Play writing games, stretch your skills, and free write whatever project you have going on. Members of the Young Writer’s Group are guaranteed a writer care kit with a special bonus inside! Elementary, Teen. Register at 899-4962 or for a meeting link at <http://bit.ly/drml youth121>.

Friday, January 8, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Among Us. Back by wildly popular demand! Join your friends and deduce who’s totally sus and who’s safe in a librarian-moderated online environment. The app is free on Android and iOS systems, or costs \$5 through Steam. Elementary, Teen. Register at 899-4962 or for a meeting link at <http://bit.ly/drml youth121>.

Saturday, January 9, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Zoom with Noggin the Sled Dog. Learn all about being a musher and running the Iditarod! Spend a morning with Abbey, musher Karen Land, and some of her amazing dogs to find out everything you want to know. Elementary, Family, Parent, Pre-School. Call 899-4962 or register for a meeting link at <https://forms.gle/d14hFk3W8yfySKu7>.

Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, on Zoom: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers. This month’s book is *The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers. New members always welcome to meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join, contact Christine@cstaffa.com. Adult.

Thursday, January 14, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Graphic Novel Fan Club. This month we’ll be reading and talking about the manga, *Age of Adventure*: Set in 1876, young Takanosuke Arashi is sent to deliver a top-secret message to the United States of America. When his ship is waylaid by pirates, Takanosuke is cast adrift with an eclectic group of passengers, including a dog with four names, and part of a treasure map. We’ll be reading this manga online through *ComicsPlus*. Visit our eLibrary web page (<https://www.drml.org/collections/elibrary/>) to get set up. After our discussion we’ll play the drawing game *scribble!*! Call 899-4962 or register for a meeting link at <http://bit.ly/drml youth121>. Elementary, Teen

Sunday, January 17, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: D&DRML. The party foiled the plot of a Tiegling trying to raise dragons, defeated a deadly Nothic, and made friends with a Specter along the way. This adventure is full right now, but if you’d like to be on a waiting list for another adventure, email Abbey, youth_librarian@drml.org. Elementary, Teen

Monday, January 18, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, on Zoom: Mah Jongg. Join us to explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you’ll love Mah Jongg! We meet on the free website *MyJongg.net*, with a Zoom call allowing us to chat. All are welcome, no experience needed! But you will need a National Mah Jongg League 2020 card to participate. Adult

Tuesday, January 19, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, on Zoom: Legislative Update. Join local reps George Till and Trevor Squirrel for an update on the current legislative session. Adult.

Thursday, January 21, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Young Writers Group. Play writing games, stretch your skills, and free write whatever project you have going on. Members of the Young Writer’s Group are guaranteed a writer care kit with a special bonus inside! Elementary, Teen. Register at 899-4962 or for a meeting link at <http://bit.ly/drml youth121>.

Thursday, January 21, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, on Zoom: Evening Tech Talk. Demystify digital technologies! Send suggestions and questions to Erik, program_assistant@drml.org. Adults. Registration required.

Friday, January 22, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Among Us. Back by wildly popular demand! Join your friends and deduce who’s totally sus and who’s safe in a librarian-moderated online environment. The app is free on Android and iOS systems, or costs \$5 through Steam. Elementary, Teen. Register at 899-4962 or for a meeting link at <http://bit.ly/drml youth121>.

Thursday, January 28, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Graphic Novel Fan Club. This month we’ll be reading and talking about the manga, *Age of Adventure*: Set in 1876, young Takanosuke Arashi is sent to deliver a top-secret message to the United States of America. When his ship is waylaid by pirates, Takanosuke is cast adrift with an eclectic group of passengers, including a dog with four names, and part of a treasure map. We’ll be reading this manga online through *ComicsPlus*. Visit our eLibrary web page (<https://www.drml.org/collections/elibrary/>) to get set up. After our discussion we’ll play the drawing game *scribble!*! Call 899-4962 or register for a meeting link at <http://bit.ly/drml youth121>. Elementary, Teen

Looking for a screen-free family activity? Check out one of our brand new board games! Place a hold through the online catalog, or call the library to reserve one for your family game night. Here is a brief description of our games: *Pictureka* is a game of visual hide-and-seek. *Catan* is the classic game of collecting and trading resources to build settlements. *Telestrations* is kind of like *Telephone* and *Pictionary* had a hilarious baby. *Lanterns* is a beautiful, peaceful tile matching game. *Codenames* is team-based guessing game great for deductive reasoning.

Love comics and graphic novels, but can’t make it to the library? Check out our new online comics platform! Simply go online to <https://deborahrawsonmemoriallibraryvt.librarypass.com/>, enter your active library card barcode (which is case sensitive), set your own PIN and you’re in! Send questions and comments to youth_librarian@drml.org. And check out this video of the new books that have arrived on the Youth shelves: <https://youtu.be/5NEk40aIga8>

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

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

We continue to be open by appointment, which is a perfect family activity if you’re starting to go a little stir-crazy at home! And keep those curbside pickup orders coming: we have books, games, and holiday movies galore to keep everyone busy and happy. You can sign up for a private browsing session, fill out the curbside pickup form, and learn more about both of these services on our website: <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/covid-19-policies.html>.

Jericho Town Library is now admitting only one individual or one family group during each 30-minute time slot. You can still sign up for a browsing session (either individual or family) on our Calendly page: calendly.com/jerichotownlibrary.

We will also be conducting a very brief health screening at the door, including a quick temperature check with a contactless thermometer and a question about if you have left the state in the past 14 days and followed state-mandated quarantine policies. Masks and 6’ social distancing procedures are still absolutely required. You can read our full reopening plan on our website: <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/covid-19-policies.html>.

We cannot stress this enough: if you are sick, please stay home. If a family member is sick, please stay home. We are doing our part to keep the community safe, and we ask you to do the same, especially as we approach the winter holidays.

We are closely tracking updates on the situation and the number of cases in the county, state, and nation, and will adjust our reopening status and plan accordingly. As the days progress, we want to provide books and support to the community as best we can, but we have to do it safely. Thank you all for your help as we work together to move through this!

We are open for winter hours, Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please arrive on time for your appointment; this will keep anyone from having to wait outside and will help us welcome as many people as possible to the library! Thank you for taking a second to review the details on our website and read our full reopening plan before your visit: <https://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/covid-19-policies.html>.

For curbside pickup, please fill out the form on our website or send us an email to make an order. You’ll be notified when it’s ready and you can choose when you would like to pick it up. And we will now be offering after hours pickup: if you can’t make it during the library’s open hours, just let us know and we will leave your order in a bin on the porch for you to grab in the evening!

Thank you all for your support as we move through this reopening process! We look forward to having everyone back and happy reading — Gretchen Wright, Director, Jericho Town Library

Library hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Due to the surge of COVID cases, the Varnum is back to curbside delivery: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Wednesday, 1:30 – 6:00 PM; Thursday, 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM; and Saturday, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Please send your requests to varnumrequests@gmail.com. We can print pages for you at 25¢ a page. Please stay safe and let us know (644-2117) how we can help.

To view our catalog, please visit <https://varnum.kohavt.org/>. When you find your selections, please send a request to varnumrequests@gmail.com.

Your Libby login is your entire library card number and your password/pin should be your last name, all lowercase. If your password/pin doesn’t work, please let us know and we can reset it.

Thank you for continuing to bear with us as we navigate these uncertain times; we miss you all and look forward to the day when we can have more consistent offerings.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

For the safety of the community, the Westford Public Library has (temporarily) returned to a curbside-only service model. With an increase in COVID cases in the area, we are doing our part to minimize interactions between community members.

We have increased our curbside pickup days and times. The best way to order materials is still through our curbside order form, but we will be available by phone during these curbside hours to take orders, answer questions, or help with suggestions. Our digital library, through the Libby app, is available 24/7.

New curbside hours: Wednesdays, 3:00 – 6:00 PM; Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Fridays, 3:00 – 6:00 PM; Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

We have added printing services to these curbside hours. Call the library for more information if you need something printed.

Curbside order form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAPQLSfTe1x3cPw3Puj9gfhTzBxJitoPuJUdXORZp-7GpOzL_cGvVw/viewform

Here are another couple of videos about things you can check out from the Westford Public Library. If you missed our previous *Bree on Books* videos, you can check them out on our YouTube channel, as follows. *Bree on Books – the Binge-Watching Edition*, features DVD series that the library has to offer and is online at <https://youtu.be/4qxEc5IHLVk>. *Bree on Books – What Did I Miss?* has new books from big-name authors that came out over the pandemic, that you might have missed! Part I is online at <https://youtu.be/Yuu2mrVZ598>; Part II is online at <https://youtu.be/...>

Library news continued on page 7

PEOPLE

College news

Gina Airolodi of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Ella Bergin of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Isaac Collins of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.
Mason Combs of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.
Leah Corbin of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Jacob Crawford of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Emma Downie of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Maura Duval of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Catherine Farmer of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Steven Garcia of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Lindsay Hallowell of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Joshua Hyder of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Logan Kenny of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Connor McCormack of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Isabella Mosca of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Letizia Mosca of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Liam Nelson of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Kira Nikolaides of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Olivia Palmer of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Ryan Parker of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
Connor Philbrick of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.
Hannah Randall of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Library news continued from page 6

Storytime: Enjoy this lovely little storytime about mice. Ms. Bree reads three stories, shares a craft, and sings our favorite storytime songs. Online at <https://youtu.be/qRdZrj2oBg>.
 Craft Kits: We have a great curbside craft kit this month – all kinds of festive decorations. Be sure to order one by using the curbside order form on our website, emailing, or calling the library. Here's a little video about the crafts you can get: <https://youtu.be/fcWu7w6KT5w>.
 The VT Department of Libraries, along with several state agencies and groups, has put together an online resource page: https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/children_and_teens/homeschooling_resources.

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

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

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

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

Regular curbside pick-up hours are: Monday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Tuesday 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Saturday 12:00 – 2:00 PM. You may request anything from the Library's holdings: books, audiobooks on CD or Playaway, DVDs, music CDs or magazines. Browse the catalog at rfl.kohavt.org. Need help deciding? Just call or email us and we'll be your "personal shoppers." Remember that items are quarantined for seven days before circulating again. If you've returned an item and it still shows on your record, be patient, we'll be checking it in soon.

A Moisture Meter may be borrowed for seven days from the Richmond Free Library. The meter was provided to the library via a new program from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation's Air Quality and Climate Division and the VT Department of Libraries. Use the hand-held meter to make sure your wood is dry enough to burn safely and efficiently. See our webpage for more information.

Storytime. If your child enjoyed outdoor storytime at the library this fall, you can share our special holiday storytime video with them by visiting the youth page of our website and clicking on the video link you will find there. Miss Wendy and Miss Jennifer as well as Big Gorilla share stories and songs of the season.

Electric vehicle charging is now available at the Library/Town Center Municipal Parking Lot. Anyone with an electric vehicle (EV) can take advantage of the Town's new ChargePoint Charging Station, providing level-2 charging for up to two vehicles. Energy is provided "at cost," and is equivalent to paying about \$1.50/gallon for a gas vehicle. Users can check if the chargers are in use on chargepoint.com or your favorite EV app. Want to learn more about EVs? Learn more at DriveElectricVT.com. The Richmond Climate Action Committee helped the Town to secure the grant for installation, aligning with the Richmond Town Plan and the State's goal of 90% renewable energy across all sectors by 2050. The funding is based on the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust.

Discover *Between the Covers*. Join Stacey Symanowicz (Huntington) and Rebecca Mueller (Richmond) for monthly book chats introducing readers to hidden gems and latest titles, on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM, via *Google Meet*. Hosted by the Community Senior Center. Contact the library for the connection link.

- Call us at 434-3036. Leave a message if it is after hours.
- Email us at rfl@gmavt.net.

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLISTON

If you would like to join us but need some assistance connecting via Zoom, we are here to help. Please email us at programs@damlv.org or call us at 878-4918, and we will be happy to help walk you through it.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Curbside pickup will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM. The table is located in the hallway inside the glass double doors and materials are available upon request.

If you would like to schedule a 20-minute library visit on Tuesdays, 3:00 – 6:30 PM. Please call the library, 802-849-2420.

Due to COVID-19, all programs will be virtual. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for any updates.

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

Youth Events

Thursday-Friday, January 7-8, 4:00 PM: Loom Knitting for Kids. Make a kid friendly knitting loom and learn how to make your own knitted creations! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 4:00 PM. The video will remain available afterwards, so don't worry if you miss it! Ages 6+

Thursday-Friday, January 14-15, 4:00 PM: Don't Melt the Ice! Experiment with ice and make a container that will keep it frozen for as long as possible! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 4:00 PM. The video will remain available afterwards, so don't worry if you miss it! Ages 6+

Adult Events

Friday, January 29, 6:30 PM: Virtual Book Club on Zoom. Join us for a virtual book discussion to talk about Madeleine Albright's memoir, *Hell and Other Destinations*. To request a copy of the book for curbside pickup and for the Zoom link, call the library or send an email to fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 30, 1:00 PM: Virtual Knitting Club. Relax and chat while working on your latest knitting or crochet project! If you would like some basic knitting materials, let us know and they will be provided at curbside pickup on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Join the Zoom meeting on Saturday at 1:00 PM! Please register with libraryfairfax@gmail.com to receive the zoom link!

Thursday-Friday, January 21-22, 7:00 PM: Soy Candle Making. Learn the basics of candle making! This program requires a cooking thermometer – candy, infrared, or meat thermometer – anything that is food safe and goes up to at least 200 degrees! If you don't have one on hand, let us know! We have a few that we can loan you. All other supplies are provided! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and join the Zoom meeting on Friday at 7:00 PM. Please register to receive the zoom link!

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

The library website <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org> has a new digital resource! In the "Write. Right. Rite." series linked on our website homepage, you can find an exciting program led by writer Jason Reynolds, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature for 2020-2021. The program is all about young people learning to express themselves creatively through writing and storytelling. Check out the videos and writing prompts in this fun series sponsored by the Library of Congress.

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

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

While the building is closed, our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

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

Matthew Reinfurt of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.

Evan Spaulding of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Anthony Storti of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Olivia Vita of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Alexandra Wedge of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

OBITUARIES



Jack Francis Corse, Jr., 66, of Cambridge, VT passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020 at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, VT from pneumonia (not cancer or COVID). He was born on December 10, 1954 in Burlington, son of the late Jack F. Corse Sr. and Jane (Ketcham) Corse. He met on a blind date and married the former Carolyn "Cary" Bryden on September 6, 1986 in Bristol, VT. Jack attended Cambridge Elementary and graduated from Lamaille Union High School. As a young man, he could be found much of the winter skiing every downhill slope at Smugglers' Notch. After high school, Vermont felt small to Jack – the West was calling. He decided to attend college in Reno, NV and Ft. Collins, CO, but as it turned out his love for skiing and the thrill of working were much more important to Jack. His time out west, like so much else he did, was an opportunity for adventure and to meet new friends that would become family. Although Jack enjoyed his years out west, Vermont was where his heart

People news continued on page 8

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Tips for safer winter generator use

(NAPSI) — If your electricity goes out due to snow and ice, a generator can keep power flowing to your home or business.

Just keep safety in mind when using generators, advises the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing small engine, utility vehicle, and outdoor power equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

“Not having power when you need it is frustrating, so a generator can provide emergency backup power at a reasonable cost,” says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. “It’s important to follow all manufacturer’s instructions, and never place a generator in your garage or inside your home or building. It should be a safe distance from the structure and not near an air intake.”

More tips include:

#1. Take stock of your generator. Make sure equipment is in good working order before starting and using it. Do this before a storm hits.

#2. Review the directions. Follow all manufacturer’s instructions. Review the owner’s manuals (look manuals up online if you cannot find them) so equipment is operated safely.

#3. Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home. This alarm will sound if dangerous levels of carbon monoxide enter the building.

#4. Have the right fuel on hand. Use the type of fuel recommended by the generator manufacturer to protect this important investment. It is illegal to use any fuel with more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment. (For more information on proper fueling for outdoor power equipment visit www.LookBeforeYouPump.com.)

It’s best to use fresh fuel, but if you are using fuel that has been sitting in a gas can for more than 30 days, add fuel stabilizer to it. Store gas only in an approved container and away from heat sources.

#5. Ensure portable generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should NEVER be used in an enclosed area or placed inside a home, a building or a garage, even if the windows or doors are open. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to drift indoors.

#6. Keep the generator dry. Do not use a generator in wet conditions. Cover and vent a generator. Model-specific tents or generator covers can be found online for purchase and at home centers and hardware stores.

#7. Add fuel to the generator only when it’s cool. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.

#8. Plug in safely. If you don’t yet have a transfer switch, you can use the outlets on the generator. It’s best to plug in appliances directly to the generator. If you must use an extension cord, it should be heavy-duty and designed for outdoor use. It should be rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Make sure the cord is free of cuts and the plug has all three prongs.

#9. Install a transfer switch. A transfer switch connects the generator to the circuit panel and lets you power hardwired appliances. Most transfer switches also help avoid overload by displaying wattage usage levels.

#10. Do not use the generator to “backfeed” power into your home electrical system. Trying to power your home’s electrical



wiring by “backfeeding” — where you plug the generator into a wall outlet — is dangerous. You could hurt utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer. Backfeeding bypasses built-in circuit protection devices, so you could damage your electronics or start an electrical fire.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Miracle on Green Tree Drive: a Lyric family Christmas special

Miracle on Green Tree Drive is a televised Christmas Special celebrating the survival of S. Burlington’s Lyric Theatre’s through these tough times and our unwavering commitment to ring in the holiday the only way we know how: through song and dance and storytelling. It’s a completely original Lyric version of a 1960’s Variety Christmas television show... think Lawrence Welk, except packed full of Lyric members doing holiday songs and sketches with full costumes, scenery, and special effects. A few songs, a few jokes, a few tears, a few memories, and a whole lot of fun.

The video will be available as a 48-hour rent-to-view, on demand, through Wednesday, January 20, 12:00 AM. Tickets (\$20 for a single device; \$45 for a household) are available online at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/42467>.

For information, contact 802-658-1484 or office@lyrictheatrevt.org.

VT International Film Festival runs through June 2021

The Vermont International Film Festival has partnered with the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival to present Split/Screen, an eight-month curatorial collaboration. Now through June 2021, the festivals will co-present a monthly series of films online. Learn more about Split/Screen at <https://vtiff.org/vtiff-now/split-screen/>.

Spruce Peak Arts Winter Concerts

This year’s Spruce Peak Arts Winter Concert series will bring live performances, including options for limited, safe, in-person attendance, as well as for live-streaming. The mix of limited in-person seating and live-streaming of events is to ensure the health and safety of our patrons and community.

Ali McGuirk kicks off the new year on Saturday, January 23 at 7:00 PM, commanding the room with her dynamic voice and heartfelt songwriting.

On Saturday, February 20, 7:00 PM, Bow Thayer, Boston bass staple Jeremy Dryden, and long-time drummer Jeff Berlin will cover most of Bow’s new album *The Woodshed* as well as some old favorites.

The final Winter Concert Series event will be on the Spring Equinox, Saturday, March 20, 7:00 PM with *Beg, Steal, or Borrow*. The Vermont-based quintet is known for warm harmonies, virtuosic instrumentals, and tight musical interplay in an ever-growing repertoire of original music.

Protocols for in-person attendance include mask-wearing, social distancing standards, reduced seating capacity, hand sanitizing, health checks, and extensive cleaning protocols. To learn more, please visit our Health and Safety Policy page, <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/safety-and-health-policies/>.

Tickets are \$25 for in-person attendance, \$15 for live-stream. In the event that Vermont guidance shifts to restrict in-person attendance, existing in-person tickets will be changed to live-stream. In-person ticketholders will have the option of a credit, refund, or making a donation with the remainder.

Call for applications: Artist Development Grants

The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for its next round of Artist Development Grants. The deadline for this current round is Monday, January 11, 2021.

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

Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity.

Eligible expenses for such activities include, but are not limited to: advanced study of technique or practice with a mentor; attending a professional conference to build business or artistic skills or knowledge; contracting professional services including photographic documentation of work, contract preparation, or business incorporation, creation of accounting systems, developing e-commerce on a website, creation of marketing materials, etc.; marketing, planning, purchasing some materials,

or renting space for new exhibitions or performances; adapting and responding to the current COVID-19 crisis; travel within the United States.

Applications are evaluated in three areas: impact, planning, and budget. Priority is given to first-time grantees and proposals for rare or unique opportunities.

Who may apply: artists who: have been residents of Vermont for a minimum of one year prior to the application deadline and are residents at the time the award is granted; are eighteen years of age or older at the time of application; have submitted all required reports on any prior Council grants; meet all of the above requirements and are applying as a representative of an artist group.

Who may not apply: artists whose projects involve activities for which college credit is given; artists who have received any other Arts Council grant in the same fiscal year to support the same project; artists who have received an Artist Development Grant between September 2020-June 2021.

For full details and the online application, visit vermontartscouncil.org/artistdevelopment.

Art relief for COVID

Would you enjoy watching Kathy Bergeron, a well-known Vermont artist/teacher, paint a local autumn scene in watercolors? Kathy paints quickly using wet-on-wet, so we’ll have time for Q&A and to look at some of her other paintings. Her demonstration on Thursday, January 7 will last up two hours, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Essex Art League invites all of you – artists, wannabees, or art lovers – to join our nonprofit for only \$15/year. Then you will be able to Zoom with this warm, friendly group and enjoy Kathy and other prominent artists on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM.

The artist presenters work in many different mediums, so you will be able to enjoy mosaics, mono-printing, acrylic, and oils. I bet this might become one of your monthly highlights.

Please contact Annette Bauerle (annettebauerle@gmail.com) to join!

People news continued from page 7

was. He returned to Cambridge Junction to work alongside his parents, his brother Jerry, and his Uncle Henry in the family fuel business. Jack eventually bought the business and grew Jack

F. Corse Inc. it to what it is today, a well-known local family business. He was a well-respected and accomplished businessman and beloved leader to a dedicated and talented staff. Jack was an active member of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association, a past member of Cambridge Area Rotary, National Skeet Shooters Association, and various other community organizations. He took great pride in knowing he could drive any vehicle except a school bus. He loved to travel and especially loved the ocean, whether on a boat catching fish or hanging out on a nude beach with his wife Cary. He enjoyed multiple hunting adventures, and NHL games with friends. He spent countless hours watching Griffin and Mallory’s soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and volleyball games. Jack always knew how to solve any problem. Whether navigating on sea or land, moving a piano, or painting a high peak on a house he didn’t own, he would figure it out. He was a man of many talents – a brewmaster, sugarmaker, captain of his own charter boat, an accomplished skeet shooter, and a generous community member with a loud voice and a big heart. Jack became a horseracing enthusiast of late. He would win many bets but not fully account or admit to his total losses. He was bigger than life itself. He was happiest in a truck or with his beloved family and his two new sweet grandsons. Jack would often quietly express how proud he was of his son and daughter, who carry many of his endearing characteristics. Jack is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Cary Corse of Cambridge; his children: son Griffin Corse and wife Dr. Rachel Broddie of Cambridge, and daughter Mallory and fiancé

Seth Russin of Jeffersonville, VT; two grandchildren, Benjamin Corse and Warren Russin; his loyal canine companions Murphy and Harper; and a loving extended family and a warm circle of friends. Jack was predeceased by his brother Jerry Corse. Drive-through visiting hours were held at the family home, 1332 Bryce Rd., Cambridge from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Masks and social distancing requirements were followed. Inurnment will be at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions in Jack’s memory may be made to Jenna’s Promise, 1159 Foote Brook Rd., Johnson, VT 05656, or to Lamaille Area Cancer Network, 198 Farr Ave., Morristown, VT 05661. You are also invited to share your memories and condolences by visiting awrfh.com.

Walter C. Weir of Underhill, VT died peacefully at home on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020 after a brief bout with cancer. He was born on June 29, 1931 in Easton, MA. As a machinist by trade, he was well known for his innovative ways and ingenuity, retiring from the University of Vermont Physics Department in 1996. He served in the Korean War as a medical ambulance driver.



Walter fulfilled his dream by moving the family from Massachusetts to Vermont in 1968 to renovate an old farmhouse surrounded by rolling meadows, where he proudly lived for 52 years. He was most happy tinkering with his tractors or haying the land up until this past summer. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marilyn; children Lorinda Crowley (Jim) of The Villages, FL, Steven Weir (Monica) of Underhill, and Janet Weir Carlson of Hinesburg, VT; grandchildren Tom and Dustin Weir and Lauren Ball;

four great-grandchildren; and brothers Paul and Albert Weir of Massachusetts. He was predeceased by sons Brian and Tom, and by sisters Madeline and Jean. The family would like to thank Sandra Harms and the caring team of the UVM Medical Home Health and Hospice. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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LIKENESS ONLY

Milton - \$420,000

New home to be built on 3 acre private lot. The 1768 sq. feet contemporary colonial has 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, w/ kitchen featuring an island, pantry, & dining area. Energy efficient home with full basement & 2 car garage. Enjoy nature and the easy convenience of your location to town and I89.

LIKENESS ONLY

Fairfax - \$389,000

To be built! Colonial on wooded .90 level lot on over 6+ acres of common land. Primary suite w/ large walk-in closet & bath. 2 additional bedrooms and full bath up. Open kitchen and dining area. Living room and den with a view. 2 car garage & full front porch. A Vermonter’s dream!

LIKENESS ONLY

Fairfax - \$174,500

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

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