

NEWS BRIEFS

Questions about the Old Red Mill wall damage and repair plans

The following questions were posed to Galen Hagen, P.E., Project Engineer, DuBois & King, Inc.

What was the original problem you were asked to solve?

The project is to repair and/or replace the failed portion of a historic stacked stone wall at the "Old Red Mill" on the Browns River in Jericho that failed during a Halloween 2019 storm event.

Was the wall eroded by storm water run off or was it undermined by the river flooding?

The exact cause of the wall failure cannot be definitively determined. However, after subsurface explorations, it appears that contributing factors to the failure included scouring of the base of the wall from high river flows, and soft soil conditions behind the wall founding on a bedrock surface that slopes toward the river.

How are the plans designed to keep the problem from reoccurring?

The design plans are still in development; however, the new portion of the stacked stone wall will be built on a more stable concrete base and the wall construction methods will be similar to the methods used by VTrans in 2012-13 as part of the bridge project.

By whom and how has the bank been inspected and what were their conclusion?

The initial site visit and observations were conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Subsequently, a topographic survey and a subsurface investigation were conducted by DDK Joint Venture, an NRCS-contracted engineering firm. A geotechnical report for the subsurface investigation is being prepared, and the design is ongoing.

What is the estimated cost of the project?

An engineer's cost opinion has not yet been assembled.

The *Mountain Gazette* will continue to update information as it becomes available.

Election Q&A with Town Clerk

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Have any lingering questions about the process of voting in the unusual upcoming elections? I recently recorded this virtual conversation about voting on Tuesday, November 3 with Jericho Town Clerk Jessica Alexander and Richmond Town Clerk Linda Parent. They cover a lot of ground, providing many details and some historical background.

You can watch online at <https://archive.org/details/votingqandajerichorichmond>.

Thanks Bolton for tax payments; ballots in the mail

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Thank you to all of the Bolton property owners who have paid the first installment of property taxes. The Town counts on these payments in order to meet our financial obligations — i.e., pay our bills and pay our staff! Interest has been calculated and late reminder notices were mailed on Tuesday, September 22. Currently, there remains \$36,095.37 in payments outstanding, which is equivalent to about 8.5 weeks of payroll expenses. As always, in these challenging times, if you are experiencing financial difficulty and want information on tax abatement, please contact the Town Office.

The State of Vermont has started mailing absentee ballots for the Tuesday, November 3 General Election to all ACTIVE registered voters in the state of Vermont as of Monday, September 21. If you are an active registered voter in Bolton, be on the lookout for your ballot! Then vote in the comfort of your home, carefully follow the instructions to return your voted ballot, and deposit it in the mail (postage prepaid!) or in the secure drop box available 24/7 at the Town Office, ASAP! This is an effort to protect the health and safety of voters and poll workers during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing for contactless voting. VOTE EARLY and RETURN YOUR BALLOT ASAP! Thank you.

Cambridge annual property inspection rounds notification

By Dale Copping, Cambridge Lister

To Cambridge property owners: Cambridge Listers will begin their annual inspection of the exterior of your home and outbuildings beginning Monday, October 5, 2020.

Due to COVID19, we will drive to each property, but not get out of our vehicle. We will contact you if we need information.

If you have any concerns about the Listers being on your property without your consent, please notify us at listers.cambridgevt@gmail.com or 644-2200, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Thank you for your cooperation.

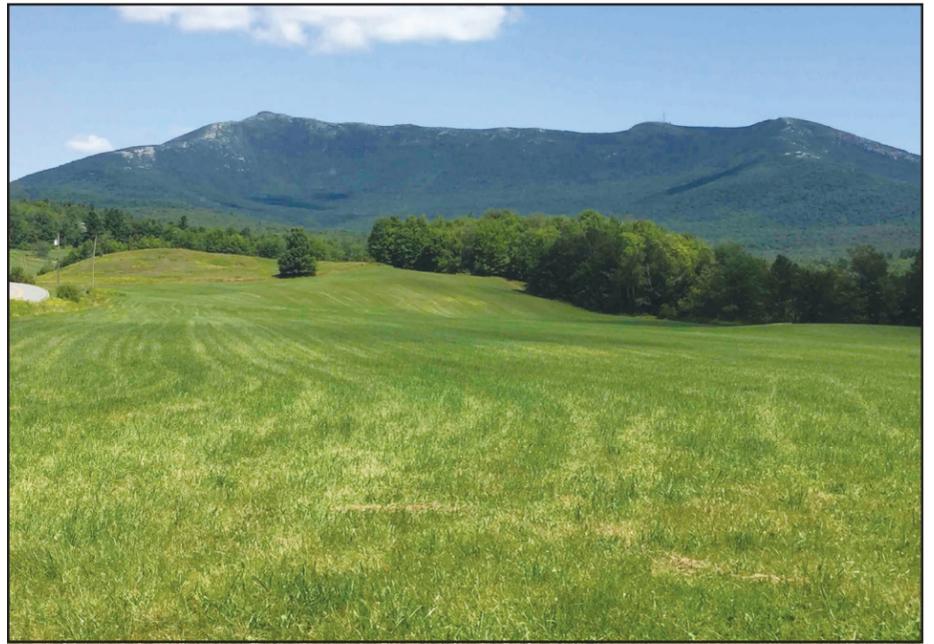
Tomasi Meadow, now conserved!

By Livy Strong

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is very pleased to announce that the Tomasi Meadow is now permanently conserved and owned by the Town of Underhill! This iconic view leading to Casey's Hill greets everyone traveling along Pleasant Valley Road and forms a scenic gateway to Mount Mansfield.

The Tomasi Meadow's pastoral setting also offers year-round recreational opportunities such as walking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding. Its high quality agricultural soils have produced excellent hay for many years. This land also provides a buffer to the extensive Browns River wetland complex. There are many reasons to celebrate the Tomasi Meadow and its conservation for today... and tomorrow.

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust wishes to thank the Tomasi family for their keen desire to see their meadow protected and their donation of appraised value, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for substantial grant support, our local community for significant financial contributions, and a positive vote at the Underhill Town Meeting. Both the Jericho Underhill Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust collaborated to assist with this land conservation opportunity. The Vermont Land Trust and the



Vermont Housing and Conservation Board hold the conservation easement on the Tomasi Meadow. This conservation easement protects public access and important natural features. It also recognizes the Tomasi Meadow for outdoor recreation and education, productive agricultural land, and natural habitats. We all have much to celebrate as the Tomasi Meadow joins Casey's Hill in being permanently conserved.

George Murtie is hitting the road



By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

In 2017, George Murtie retired after a 33-year career with the Essex Police Department. A year later, the former Detective Captain cut his first CD entitled *My Next Last Chance*, writing all the songs and playing all the instruments. This October Murtie will be hitting the road, travelling across the country playing music from that CD as well as covers of some of his favorite tunes.

"I fell in love with the guitar when I was eight years old in 1964 when I saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show," Murtie recalls. "I've been playing since I was about ten." Murtie played guitar in church, with a gospel music group and with several bands before getting into police work. During his law enforcement career, the guitar became a way to relieve stress and he tried to play every evening. After 33 years, his wife Linda noted that the job was beginning to wear on him and suggested it would be a good time to retire and return to his first love. "I thought that window had closed," he said, "but if my wife wanted me to play music for a living, I'd be crazy to say no."

Murtie retired in November of 2017 and a month later, Linda was diagnosed with a recurrence of stomach cancer. The couple spent a month at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and when Linda recuperated, they travelled to Nashville for the summer so Murtie could jumpstart his career. Unfortunately, the cancer returned and Linda passed away in July of 2019.

Murtie admits that there have been some roadblocks to his new musical career. "Working as a live musician is all about gaining traction," he said. "You play someplace and people hear you and then you're asked to play at other places." Linda's illness limited his ability to travel and after her death, it took some time before he was willing to be around other people. He started playing again but the onset of COVID-19 meant the loss of gigs. "I was playing in senior facilities," he said, "and they are some of the worst places

for spreading the disease." This summer Murtie was able to perform at a number of outdoor concerts, but that work is fading as the temperature drops. He credits his sister-in-law Kim for her work in uploading his hiking photos to social media and hopes to update his website to include those photos, as well as pictures of Mercy, his rescue dog. "She's way cuter than I am," he said.

Murtie loves his home in Cambridge but he's going to head south on October 1. He plans to start giving concerts around Flagler Beach, FL and from there he'll head to Asheville, NC to see his brother and check out the music scene. "I plan on continuing west," he said, "but my itinerary isn't well defined because I want to avoid places where there are too many COVID cases." He intends to return to Nashville and then visit Memphis, New Orleans, and Vicksburg, MI before hopefully heading to Texas and the west coast. "I want to put my foot in the Pacific," he said. After that, Murtie hopes to head north through Nevada into Utah and then back home via Interstate 90, bypassing Chicago. "I think I'll be gone for the month of October," he said, "but I might stay longer if there isn't much work here."

Murtie, joking, describes himself as having "musical ADHD." He finds himself listening to one genre for a month or so and then switching gears to another, going from country to rock and back again. "I listen to a lot of jazz," he said, "but I don't consider myself a jazz player. They approach their instruments with much more knowledge of theory." He appreciates any music that features good guitar playing, be it classical, jazz, rock, or country.

Music to remember is Murtie's new slogan. "I play a lot of songs that people remember from some point in their lives," he said. "Music provokes memory and I hope my music is memorable."

Murtie is still looking for financial assistance for his cross-country trip. You can help via the GoFundMe button on his website, <https://georgemurtie.com/> or on his Facebook page.

Underhill conflict of interest hearing follow-up

By Jim Beebe-Woodard, Underhill Town Administrator

Thank you to all of the Town's residents who took time to attend the Tuesday, September 21 Selectboard meeting and for your interest in the conflict of interest hearing regarding Selectman Peter Duval. For those interested who could not attend the meeting, the recording of the meeting is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/Underhill-SB-9-21>.

The conflict of interest hearing begins at 1:39:52 in the recording.

During my testimony, I experienced frustrating technical difficulties with the videos that were embedded in my PowerPoint presentation, despite having tested it out earlier in the day. I apologize for the inconvenience. I have made those videos available on the Selectboard page of the Town's website. You can view them, along with other Selectboard meeting recordings, at <https://tinyurl.com/TownOfUnderhillSelectboard>.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

4-H NEWS

Youth Summit examines environmental issues

Do you want to learn about climate change, wetland restoration, or recycling and waste reduction at home? Or perhaps you are curious about who is responsible for environmental legislation, or how to become a citizen scientist.

If you are a student in grades 6-12 and are interested in these and other environmental issues, the Youth Environmental Summit (YES!) is for you.

This year the annual event, sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H, goes virtual and will run for three weeks, from October 30-November 20, allowing you to attend on your own schedule. In an online community learning space created using *FlipGrid*, you can explore a wide range of topics through workshops, listen to keynote speeches on how to take action on important issues, and share your ideas and connect with teens in Vermont and other states.

Although free, you must register at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements by Friday, October 23. If you need a disability-related accommodation to attend, please contact Lauren Traister, University of Vermont (UVM) 4-H Teen and Leadership Program coordinator, at 866-260-5603, ext. 402, by Thursday, October 15.

As a summit participant, you will be able to view more than two dozen workshop presentations led by environmental professionals, activists, and student leaders. Topics include the future of wastewater and drinking water in a changing world, understanding stormwater and green infrastructure practices, invasive plant species, phenology, and the connection between racial and climate justice.

Or you can learn how to take action on energy and climate projects, host a zero-waste event, make a bug house, and become a teen teacher for TRY (Teens Reaching Youth) for the Environment, among other topics. There's even a session on the power of poop, which explores how animal waste is used as an energy source and a conservation tool.

In addition, you can enter the YES! scavenger hunt to win raffle prizes such as gift cards to stores and restaurants to help support your local economy. Or share what you do to make a difference for the environment at home, school, or in your community on the virtual *Be the Change* Audio Wall.

After the summit, expand on what you've learned through a self-designed service-learning project for your community that focuses on an environmental issue that's important to you. And consider sharing your project at next year's summit.

If you need more information or have questions, contact Lauren Traister, lauren.traister@uvm.edu.

News continued from page 1

November election ballots have been mailed

Information from the League Of Women Voters Vermont

By October 1, VT Secretary of State Jim Condos has sent out early voter absentee ballots to all voters who were registered by September 1. Watch for this important mailing! Early voting will have started, so the ballots can be voted as soon as they are received. Now is a good time to plan how you want to vote.

You can vote in one (and only one!) of three ways:

- **By Mail.** The ballot can be mailed in the secure envelope provided with the ballot. The Secretary of State recommends mailing ballots by Saturday, October 24 to assure delivery by Tuesday, November 3.

- **By Hand.** The ballot can be delivered in the secure envelope to the Town or City Clerk's office, up to the close of the office on Monday, November 2. Check for office hours. Many offices provide a secure drop-box where the ballot envelope can be deposited prior to Election Day.

- **In Person.** Polls will be open for voting on Election Day for in-person voting. You can register and vote at the polls on Election Day.

The most important thing is to VOTE!

Public Utility Commission public hearing in Bolton October 12

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer
PUC Case No. 20-2092-PET

The Public Utility Commission will hold a public hearing to receive input concerning the renewal of the Certificate of Public Good of Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company, Inc., to provide cable television service in Bolton.

The hearing will be held on Monday, October 12, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, utilizing *GoToMeeting* video conference with a telephone call-in option.

Participants and members of the public may access the public hearing online at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/857877901>, or call in by telephone using the following information: phone number: 1-872-240-3212; access code: 857-877-901. Participants may wish to download the *GoToMeeting* software application in advance of the hearing at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/857877901>. Guidance on how to join the meeting and system requirements may be found at <https://www.gotomeeting.com/meeting/online-meeting-support>.

The hearing officer will join the meeting 30 minutes before the scheduled start time and will be available to assist with any technical issues related to accessing the hearing. We encourage you to try to access the video conference during this 30-minute period. If you are unable to access the hearing, please call in using the phone number and access code provided above, or send an email to micah.howe@vermont.gov.

If you have questions before the hearing date, please contact the Commission at 802-828-2358.

College news

Lincoln Owens of Underhill, VT has been named to the Spring 2020 President's List at Georgia Southern University, Savannah, GA.

Free, fun online 4-H programming this fall

The UVM Extension 4-H program is pleased to offer youth of all ages interactive and engaging programming this fall. Topics are wide-ranging and include: animal and veterinary science, babysitting, gardening, civic engagement, and career exploration. Programs in science, leadership, and coding for teens, too! Program information and registration will be listed on the 4-H@Home webpage at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home>.

Are you a family that is homeschooling this fall or is our family part of a newly formed learning community? 4-H has curriculum and activity guides for youth on a variety of topics that can be used to guide hands-on learning. For more information on curriculum, activity guides, or exploring starting a 4-H club in your community, contact your local 4-H county educator. Contact information is available online at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/join-4-h>.

TRY for the Environment: apply to be a Teen Teacher! TRY stands for *Teens Reaching Youth* and is an environmental leadership opportunity for students in grades 7-12. It is an environmental education program taught by teens and designed to increase environmental literacy and responsibility in younger youth. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the TRY program will be limited to two content areas: *4-H₂O* and *Waste Solutions*. Each content area will consist of three 45-minute lessons that are designed to be delivered virtually, either when students are in the classroom or at home. We will offer the TRY teaching opportunity to teens twice: Session 1 (January-March, with training in December) and Session 2 (March-May, with training in February). All trainings and program delivery will be virtual; Session 1 applications are due by Monday, November 2. Learn more at the 4-H Announcements page, <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements>.

Advanced Leadership Immersion (grades 9-12). Everyone is called to lead. Whether it's a project, a group, a business, or a

country, you will find yourself asked to step forward and lead many times throughout your life — and effective leadership is a learned set of skills. That's why, this October VT 4-H has partnered with the Governor's Institutes of Vermont to offer the Advanced Leadership Immersion (ALI) to students looking to take their leadership to the next level. ALI will meet online the second weekend of every month from October-May for classes and leader chats, plus schedule their own discussion groups and social events. Tuition is "pay what you can." Visit <https://giv.org/apply-fall/> for more information and to apply. Applications will remain open only until filled.

Become a Cloverbud Connector! (ages 10 and up) Calling all teens and tweens! Would you like to become a Cloverbud Connector? In April UVM 4-H launched Cloverbuds Connect, short video challenges and activities for Cloverbuds (youth ages K-grade 2). We currently have a library of 30 videos and we are inviting you become a Cloverbud Connector. As Connector, you get to create short (5-10 minute) videos that are educational, hands-on, and inspiring. We use the platform *Flipgrid*, so all of the content is secure, private, and curated. Is there something you are passionate about that could spark the interest of others? Do you enjoy creating short, fun videos for the internet or friends? Do you enjoy mentoring peers and younger learners? If you answered yes, then this is a project for you! Apply here: https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_cUdNRQKcRcElFnD.

Askable Adult Training: Youth in our communities need trustworthy and approachable adults now more than ever. Are you a parent, educator, or community member who works with or interacts with youth? Are you interested in learning how you can be more askable? The UVM Extension 4-H program is hosting the Askable Adult Training created by the Vermont Network. In this training you will hear perspectives from youth and explore how you can be more supportive and "askable." For more information about the training, dates, and registration, check out our announcements page at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements>.

COMING EVENTS

IN-PERSON, and VIRTUAL AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED Saturday-Sunday, October 3-4

Fletcher Rummage Sale, Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Fletcher. Whole pies for sale on Saturday!

Wednesday, October 7

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex. Sponsored by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club. Please log into RedCrossBlood.org and enter "Covenant" to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, October 8

We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins At Breakfast, 5:00 PM, save your seat online at <https://learn.uvm.edu/aiken/>. UVM's George D. Aiken Lecture Series invites you to join us for a special conversation with New York Times bestselling and award-winning author Jonathan Safran Foer to discuss his newest book, *We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast*, the unifying, and achievable, call to action we need in these polarizing times. We Are the Weather explores the central global dilemma of our time — climate change — in a surprising, deeply personal, and urgent new way. Foer reveals how the task of saving the planet will involve a great reckoning with ourselves, and that only through collective action will we save our home and way of life.

Sunday, October 11

Annual Harvest Ham Dinner-Take Out, pick up 4:00 – 5:30 PM, St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center. This year we will serve take out meals only, in compliance with expectations expressed by the VT Department of Health. Menu: ham, baked potatoes, squash, carrots, coleslaw, rolls, and homemade desserts. Tickets will be one price, \$12 per meal. Purchasing your tickets ahead of time will help us plan, but tickets will be available at the door. Tickets will also be available after all Masses at St. Thomas Church, and can be purchased at Wells Corner Market, Underhill Center and at Snowflake Chocolates, Jericho. For more information or to place a ticket order, please call Teri at the Church office, 899-4632.

Trail Work Day at Mills Riverside Park, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Mills Riverside Park, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Please join us for some basic trail clean up. Sign up for one or both of the blocks of time by emailing Park District Board member Tom Cota at TCMRP2020@gmail.com with your preferred time slot. There will be a lunch break scheduled between the two time slots. Our trails depend on ditches and culverts that direct water away and these need leaf and branch removal. Please bring the tool of your choice (shovels, hoes, and rakes work well). Meet at the pavilion to leave promptly at the start times to the work areas — please arrive a bit early. Wear work gloves, good foot attire, and bring water. This will be a rain or shine event so

please dress accordingly. Remember to bring a mask, as we will be abiding by all coronavirus precautions. There will be tasks for every ability. All participants must be twelve or older. Please contact Tom Cota, TCMRP2020@gmail.com, with any further questions.

Saturday, October 17

Waterville 6th Grade Pumpkin Yard/Craft Sale, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Waterville Town Hall. This annual event will feature crafts and yard sale items. (No food vendors.)

Sunday, October 18

Bootlegger Bikes Class IV Ramble, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Bootlegger Bikes, Jeffersonville. Route to be published via RideWithGPS one week before the event. This will be a 50 mile adventure on northern VT's best gravel Class IV roads, woods paths, and such. Wheels down from Bootlegger Bikes in Jeffersonville at 9:00 AM. The ride is self-supported. BYOB for safe, 6' social distance, post-ride discussion on the porch.

Saturday, October 24

Wild Game Dinner, 6:00 PM, Cambridge Christian Fellowship, 1154 N. Main St., Cambridge. The dinner will feature venison, wild boar, pheasant, and antelope. Speaker Craig Jaques will speak on *Behind the Scenes with the Benois*. Seating will start at 5:30 PM. Because of COVID policies, only 50 tickets will be sold; to assure your safety, face masks, social distancing, and temperature checks will apply upon entry. Door prizes will be drawn and the feature prize will be a wild boar hunt in North Carolina for two people (does not include transportation or housing). Tickets \$10; to purchase please contact 644-5771 or kenandsue@hoepner.com.

Thursday-Friday, November 5-6

UVM Extension Master Gardener State Conference Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats, and Communities, 12:00 – 2:00 PM, on Zoom. Have you ever asked yourself if something is compostable, or if you're composting correctly? Have you ever asked yourself what Vermont's new composting law means in practical terms? Please join us online to hear Natasha Duarte (CAV) and Cat Buxton, Vermont soil and compost experts, speak about the new composting law and to learn how to promote the healthy soil so important to abundant growth in the garden and to healthy ecosystems. Speakers also include: Sylvia Davatz, expert seed saver and founder of Solstice Seeds; keynote speaker Dan Jaffe Wilder, Horticulturalist and Propagator for the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary; and Jamaica Kincaid, award-winning writer, novelist, and Harvard professor. Register online; the \$40 fee includes access to both days, and to a live recording of the conference. Partial scholarships are available. To learn more or to register please go to <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/state-conference>.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Broadband: a national imperative

By Bill Schubart

A few years back, I remember attending an author event at Bixby Library in Vergennes. It was after hours and the library was closed except to guests.

As I entered, I passed a cluster of young kids dressed against the cold huddling on the granite steps in front of the library. I inquired of my host why they were there. "We leave our WiFi on for them," he responded. "They don't have it at school and come here to use ours."

Today, the pandemic is exposing Vermont's endemic problems, accelerating some into full-blown crises, the latest of which is the state and federal failure to meet the challenge of inequitable broadband deployment, which, at present, is driven by return-on-investment as measured by population density and capacity to pay — or privilege.

As COVID-prevention policies have limited the ability of our public schools and colleges to open their doors this fall, our dependency on "last mile" broadband service is, in fact, a national crisis. A student who can neither access online learning nor attend school is essentially denied the constitutional guarantee of a free public education; and few parents in the COVID economy have the time to homeschool.

Starting early in the last century, several administrations rose to respond to the social and economic need to rapidly deploy new technology that promised to significantly advance the nation's social fabric, economy, culture, and security.

The Roosevelt administration's 1936 Rural Electrification Act provided for and funded "last mile" electrification of rural areas around the U.S. by providing financial support to rural electric cooperatives.

I remember the last of the remote hill farms in Lamoille County being wired up and some farmers wrestling with the phenomenon of "stray voltage" that drove their cows mad and damaged many herds. The problem was soon resolved, however, with improved wiring and grounding systems. There was light in the barn and the farmhouse.

In 1907, AT&T President Theodore Vail, whose Lyndon, VT summer home is today the campus of Northern Vermont University, defined and committed to "universal service" in exchange for a federal grant of monopoly. His "regulated monopoly" lasted 70 years until AT&T's breakup in 1984.

The Communications Act of 1934 enabled a "natural monopoly," the Bell System, to provide long-distance service and most local telephone service under heavy price, profit, and investment regulation. The public-interest tradeoff was higher long-distance prices and lower local service prices, with rapid expansion of basic telephone service as a goal, particularly in more rural high-cost areas like Vermont. As children, we were forbidden to call neighboring towns because of the prohibitive cost. When I went away to school in New Hampshire, I was only allowed to call home once a month.

In 1979, Bell Atlantic still had 35,000 party lines in Vermont. In 1972, my brother and I started Philo Records in Saul Douglas's former pig barn in Monkton. A customer of the Charlotte Telephone Co., our small startup business was on a four-party line. The barn was in Monkton, had a Charlotte phone number, and received mail in North Ferrisburg. Our ring was two longs and

not everyone congregating in the barn knew our unique ring — a source of continuous frustration to neighbors who shared our line.

During the Eisenhower administration in 1956, the patchwork of rural and state roads was deemed inadequate to support interstate travel, transport, and defense deployments, and construction began on the Interstate Highway System to weave the country together.

There have been various attempts within the Vermont business, regulatory, philanthropic, and telecommunications communities to address the challenge of ubiquitous broadband in Vermont. But so far, the reality remains discouraging, depending heavily on one's definition of "broadband access." Although a significant amount of fiber has been installed here, the "last mile" connectivity remains a steep investment challenge.

The latest in-state effort is to plan the buildout to resemble municipal light and power authorities, using broadband districts or communications union districts (CUDs). But consider, how does a small, mountainous, low population-density state with a limited tax-base pay for and mount a major effort to bring all Vermonters online within months? Is this not the same for most of our fifty states?

If free public education is indeed a constitutional right and the only educational resource for many Vermont children (and adults) is online, do we not see an ethical and legal imperative to make this happen?

In healthcare: if hospitals must close their doors to all but emergency patients or COVID victims and rely on telemedicine for diagnosis and treatment, what are the implications for those with no broadband?

With the advent of rail, electricity, telephony, broadcast, and highways, a sense of national community prevailed. The President and Congress once shared a vision for American opportunity and acted together to fund and deploy new technologies for the common good.

But with last-mile broadband, we've dithered, as if our nation's national leaders see no "common benefit." Tyler Cooper, Editor-in-Chief at BroadbandNow, says: "I think unfortunately we're paying the price for dragging our feet over the past decade when it comes to keeping up with the rest of the developed world."

When my wife, Kate, first moved to Vermont in 1996, she was manager of news polling at Prodigy Communications, which required her to have reasonable Internet access. Twenty-four years ago, Waitsfield Telecom, our service provider, installed a bright card nearby and, voila, she had an early form of DSL service that enabled her to work from her new home. Our rural home is now wired for fiber optic and our granddaughter attends her Brooklyn school daily from here. But then we live in Chittenden County.

If broadband is merely a business product and not a fundamental utility for advancing Americans' opportunity and security, then deployment will continue to depend on return-on-investment, population density, and consumer capacity to pay (privilege.) Will any business build out a fiber network in Stannard, Jamaica, or Wolcott?

With education, telemedicine, business communications, entertainment, and social interaction all increasingly dependent on broadband access, where's the leadership that understands the moral, social, and economic imperative to build out an affordable network to every home in the land?

going to work at 5:00 AM showed me that farming was hard work with little reward. College was a way out of poverty, but first you need to pay for it. That is why I enlisted in the Navy. I vowed that my children would all have a chance to go to college if they wanted to.

My first son went to Johnson State, Middlebury, and finally Oxford. He has a master's degree and is a great teacher. Our second son, Jeff, graduated from SUNY Buffalo and became an occupational therapist and invested in real estate. Our third child, Pam, also attended SUNY Buffalo, but didn't graduate. She has had a lot of interesting jobs working and living in Montana near Yellowstone National Park. Our fourth child, Randy, was the best athlete in the family. After studying at a technical college, he worked with me at Eureka Supply and is my partner in our family business, Boardman Plumbing and Heating.

Stephanie, our fifth child, attended Krissler Business Institute, and after graduation became an underwriter at an insurance agency. She can type over 100 words per minute, like my mother could when she worked for National Life of Vermont. That kind of typing speed still amazes me. Of all the courses I took in high school, the most important one for me was typing, which I didn't realize at the time. It got me into a tech school in the Navy, where I made rank and came in second in my class. I told my kids, whatever courses you take is up to you, but always take typing class — and they all did. It saved Doug Jr. because he wrote like a doctor, meaning that you couldn't read it, so he typed everything.

I recommend taking some higher learning. Books, and skills, and internships, are also important. You do not need to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to go to prestigious "high mucky-muck" colleges when you can get a good education at a smaller regular or technical college. Remember, a diploma gets you in the door, but having skills and a good work ethic keep you there.

Next column: Selling everything and moving back to Vermont

Community columns continued on page 4

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services in September at MMUUF

Join us for virtual Sunday services in September at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!

September 27, 9:30 AM: "Slow Democracy: Reaching for Understanding in Uncivil Times," with Susan Clark

These extraordinary times of political polarization call for special attention in our everyday thoughts and words. A contemplation of the qualities we can nurture to strengthen our communities and democracy. Susan Clark is an author and community educator who focuses on sustainable community engagement.

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sunday Services — Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Please email info@mmuuf.org for how to join us on Zoom. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service

With optimism for cooperative weather throughout the month of September, Jericho United Methodist Church is hosting its weekly worship service outdoors and in-person. All are welcome! Bring your mask and lawn chair and join us behind the church on September Sundays at 10:00 AM. We are located adjacent to Jericho Town Hall, with a shared driveway and parking. There will be music, prayer, and message from our new pastor, Rev. Sean Delmore. If weather challenges our gathering outdoors, we will revert to Zoom virtual worship, a decision made on Fridays. Feel free to email for updates or a Zoom invitation ~ Jen (luitjens@yahoo.com)

Weekly Peace Vigil welcomes Black Lives Matter too

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

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

Bell Ringing at United Church of Underhill

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

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

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

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

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

Peace

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

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

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

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

Online worship service at Good Shepherd

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

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

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

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

Kids and college... or not?

By Douglas Boardman
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Everything in life is comparative! Our oldest child was a boy and born a year after marriage on the island of Malta, where I was stationed with the U.S. Navy. The Maltese hospital was staffed with British nurses, since it was still a colony. Back in those days, you got married before you started "spawning!" When she had Doug Jr. my wife Sandy didn't scream and holler like the Maltese women did, so they thought she had died. She tried to nurse, but it hurt too much, so we had to use formula. They only had one brand of formula on the island, which our son threw up, so we ended up using goat milk, which he also barely tolerated. We had to take turns carrying him around and trying to get him to sleep.

I have always said that Doug Jr. was our experiment. We didn't have anyone to give us advice or baby essentials in Malta. This is the same kid who asked me at age 12, "Are we poor?" I hesitated to answer because I knew we certainly were not rich, but we were on par with a lot of neighbors and ahead of the others, so we were comparable. I said to him, "Fortunately, you have not seen poor yet!"

We had five children, and I told them that they would all have a chance to go to college. I encouraged them to get some further education. Getting into college was hard enough, and then they had to do all the hard work to stay in college. Some found out later that a technical school gave you skills to succeed. Not everyone is college material, but the most important things are to have some skills and a strong work ethic.

Having a job as a teenager is very helpful in figuring out what your future job might look like. Working on a farm taught me a lot of practical knowledge. Getting up at 4:00 AM each morning and

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HEALTH NEWS

Meals on Wheels in need of drivers

Happiness knocks when you volunteer to deliver a meal! Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a nutritious meal. The moment you knock on that door, you make a connection. It might be a quick hello or a conversation, but the impact lasts a lifetime. Not just for those receiving the meal, but for you, too. We need your help. Time commitment is based on your availability — it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (week-days only). Delivery is typically from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Christine at Age Well: cdevey@agewellvt.org or 802-662-5254.

3Squares makes back-to-school easier

In-school learning, hybrid learning, homeschooling... How have your kids headed back to school? With many unknowns and decisions to make for this school year, one thing that can be known is how to supplement your food budget with 3SquaresVT.

To find out if you are eligible, go online to <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/3squaresvt-resource-hub>.

Free prescription drug mail back envelopes

Healthy Lamoille Valley has a supply of free prescription drug mail back envelopes. Proper disposal of unused, unwanted, or expired prescription medications is one way that you can keep your home, community, and environment safer.

Please email jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org to request your envelope today!

You can also drop unwanted medicines off at Cambridge Kinney Drugs, Copley Hospital in Morrisville, Hardwick Police Department, Lamoille County Sheriff's Department in Hyde Park, Morrisville Police Department, and at the Stowe Police Department.

To learn more ways to prevent substance misuse, please go online to www.healthylamoillevalley.org/prescription-drugs.

American Red Cross certification classes in October at Smuggs'

The American Red Cross will offer two for-fee classes at Smugglers' Notch Resort in October. All classes meet at the FunZone 2.0 Party Room, and participants are required to wear a mask and will be required to practice social distancing. Smuggs' employees may qualify for a discount

Babysitters Class: Friday, October 16, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, \$95/participant. Our in-person babysitter class will cover how to provide care for infants and children; how to stay safe; what to do in an emergency; how to choose age-appropriate activities; and how to recognize and handle a variety of behaviors. Students will also learn the basics of starting a babysitting business. There are six interactive modules featuring video, activities, games, and tools babysitters can use to build their knowledge and skills and manage their babysitting business. Students who successfully complete the course will receive a printable certificate.

Pediatric and Adult First Aid, CPR, and AED Blended Learning: Wednesday, October 21, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, \$95/participant. This course will prepare you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing, and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children, and infants, and meets OSHA/workplace requirements. This blended learning course includes an online portion and an instructor-led classroom skill session. The online portion must be completed prior to attending the in-class portion and must be taken on a PC or tablet with a high speed Internet connection. Allow approximately 2 hours 30 minutes to complete the online portion. Upon successful completion of this course, you will receive a digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years.

Pediatric and Adult First Aid, CPR, and AED Review: Wednesday, October 28, 1:00 – 3:30 PM, \$75/participant. This course will prepare you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing, and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children, and infants, and meets OSHA/workplace requirements. Participants must hold a current certification in Pediatric and Adult First Aid, CPR, and AED to be eligible for this class. Upon successful completion of this course you will receive a digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years.

To register, contact Emily Boek, Aquatic Manager, eboek@smuggs.com or 802-644-1062.

Community columns continued from page 3

Eastern hemlock: a profile

By Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

Many of us have had the experience of walking through the woods, when suddenly the raucous sounds and green-tinted light of a deciduous forest becomes dark and quiet. If this has happened to you, you have already had the unique experience of entering a hemlock forest.

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) forests appeal to our intuitive sense of aesthetics, with a tight-knit canopy and a park-like, open understory. The reasons for the unique "feel" of hemlock (no relation to the Socrates-killing poison) forests, and the keys to hemlock's survival strategy, are tolerance and persistence. Hemlock is Vermont's most "shade-tolerant" tree species, capable of surviving with little to no direct sunlight. Like many of our shade-tolerant tree species, hemlock is also "long-lived," capable of living 300 years and occasionally up to 600. Most shade-tolerant trees have a simple strategy: they play a centuries-long game of tortoise-versus-hare. Slowly and persistently they establish in the forest's understory, waiting for an opportunity to grow upwards. Outpaced by faster-growing, shorter-lived tree species, hemlocks persist in the shade as other trees decline and die over the course of decades. When they finally reach the canopy, hemlocks create dense stands where very little light reaches the forest floor, making conditions where few trees but hemlocks can survive.

Because of this strategy, in stable forests where large-scale disturbances occur infrequently, shade-tolerant, long-lived tree species like hemlock are often the most common. Prior to European settlement, eastern hemlock and American beech (another long-lived, shade-tolerant tree species) were by far Vermont's most common tree species.

Eastern hemlock's range extends from Minnesota to Prince Edward Island and from southern Ontario and Québec down to northern Alabama and Georgia, growing largely at higher elevations in the southern portion of its range. In Vermont, one often finds hemlock on sandy or gravelly soils, growing with red spruce and white pine, or on swampy soils with a high water table, alongside red maple and yellow birch. Their ability to grow on the steep slopes of river-side ravines, stabilizing soils and shading streams, make them an invaluable species for protecting water quality and aquatic habitat.

Hemlock stands provide important habitat for some of our wildlife, most notably white-tailed deer. Because of their tight-knit canopies, hemlock stands tend to be warmer and have less snow than other forest types. For this reason, hemlock forests often function as "deer wintering areas" or "deer yards," areas where deer congregate in the winter and which are critical to their survival.

Growing and regenerating hemlock is notoriously difficult. Like yellow birch, their seeds struggle to germinate except where soils that have been "scarified" — where the top few inches have been scuffed-up — or on rotting wood. For this reason (also like yellow birch), managing for hemlock in the summertime, and allowing some scarification to occur, can improve their chances of regenerating. Hemlocks are slow-growing and out-competed by other



Eastern hemlock in Vermont: forest, cones, and needles.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

species in the open, so creating tiny gaps in the canopy, from a single tree to an eighth of an acre, will also encourage them. Leaving lots of dead wood on the forest floor following forest management can also provide seedbeds for future generations of hemlock.

Hemlock wood is notoriously fickle, heavy and hard to work, less valuable than other softwoods like white pine and spruce, but is increasingly being utilized as lower-cost building material. While it is stronger and harder than these other softwoods, it isn't truly rot-resistant — although many have touted it as such. Historically, hemlock bark, with its high tannic acid content, was the most valuable product that the species provided, used in the leather-making process by tanneries.

Like our ash trees, hemlock is under threat from an introduced ("exotic") forest pest. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) has wiped out hemlock forests throughout the Appalachians. This pest is in Vermont, established in Windham and southern Windsor Counties, and presents an existential threat to our hemlock forests. While populations of this pest seem limited by Vermont's winters, we expect HWA to spread as our climate changes. It could also be easily introduced to other parts of the state by that transportation of hemlock, so consult with state guidelines before moving hemlock material anywhere. The loss of Vermont's hemlock forests would be devastating not just to this species, but to all the other species that rely this unique tree species.

You can learn more about HWA, and how to manage in light of it, here: <https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/hemlock-woolly-adelgid>. Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or 802-585-9099.

Hot tips for fire prevention

Since this week is National Fire Prevention Week, parents have been hot to ask me what they should be teaching their young children should a fire occur in their home. I hope these tips get you fired up to talk with your family about the following ways to safely escape a hot situation.

Avoid smoke because it's just as dangerous as the flames and poses a serious risk for injury or death.

Cover the nose and mouth with a moist towel or article of clothing to reduce inhalation of dangerous fumes while finding your way out of the house.

Don't run through the smoke. Instead, try to crawl or squat down under the smoke to stay as low to the ground as possible, since smoke rises.

Feel the doorknob before entering a room and if it is hot, don't open the door. Look for another exit instead.

Don't use the elevator if you live in an apartment building that has one — head for the stairway marked "Fire Exit."

Leave personal belongings and pets. Reassure your children that the fire department will do all they can to save the pet or their

possessions. Their life is a priority, so going back for something they forgot is forbidden.

Stop, drop, and roll is more than a saying. It's exactly what you need to do to extinguish the flames if your clothes do catch fire. Remember that dressing your children in flame-retardant sleepwear is always a good idea.

Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors should ideally be installed outside every bedroom and at a minimum on every level of your home including the basement. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year to be sure.

Place fire extinguishers on each floor, especially in the kitchen.

Review escape routes and try to designate at least two ways out of the house, and a meeting place where everyone gathers outside the home in case of a fire. Practice with a home fire drill every six months.

Hopefully tips like these will put out any concerns you have when it comes to fire safety planning.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Chittenden 8-3 Legislative Report

By Robert Bancroft, State Representative, Chittenden-8-3 (September 13)

It was a busy week on the floor of the House (Zooming). The body dealt with seven bills. All were passed. Five of them involved approving amendments to Senate bills or previously passed House bills that had come back with Senate changes. They were S.187, S.220, S.234, H.578, and H.688. The remaining two, H.968 and H.969, were new bills. I will only address S.234, H.688, H.968, and H.969. (I voted in favor of all, except H.688 and H.968.)

• S.234: The most significant parts of the amendment to H.234 were the expunging of past criminal convictions for possessing two ounces or less of cannabis and changing possession of between two and three ounces from a criminal offense to a civil one.

• H.688: This bill is referred to as the Global Warming Solution Act. (I voted no.) There were several amendments to this bill that were originally passed by the House in February. I understand we are in the midst of dramatic climate change, but I cannot support legislation which hands over legislative authority to a 23-member council, that is not directly accountable to voters. It is the responsibility of the legislature to create a legally enforceable system by which Vermont will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The reason for setting up this council is to shield legislators from having to defend the means by which emission reductions are achieved. Besides abdicating legislative authority, H.688 allows anyone to sue the State, if the emission targets set by this unelected council are not met. Adding insult to injury, the State will not only have to devote resources to defending the State, the State will also be responsible for the plaintiff's legal fees, if they prevail. It is highly unlikely the State will achieve its stated reduction by the specified dates. \$586,000 has been appropriate to cover the salaries of three individuals plus other setup and operating costs for the remaining nine months of FY21. If setting up this council is such a good idea, why don't we set up councils to create the State's

budget and another to implement tax policy, thereby shielding legislators from criticism?

• H.968: This bill called for using \$5 million from the General Fund (not federal funds) to provide stimulus payments to undocumented residents. (I voted no.) I support providing help to undocumented residents living in Vermont, who have a demonstrated need, such as food, clothing, and shelter. I cannot, however, support providing a \$1200 gift to undocumented adult residents, especially given that most have been employed during the pandemic. Given the pressures on the state's revenues, we should allocate our scarce resources where it is most needed. This \$5 million would be better spent on helping the 30,000+ unemployed Vermonters, the hundreds of distressed businesses, and/or subsidizing child care.

• H.969: This is the FY21 budget bill. My hat is off to the Appropriation Committee for crafting a budget that did not require new taxes and funds several high priority items. There are so many parts to the budget, I cannot give it justice in a few words. I will mention that the VT state college system received a total appropriation of \$98 million, which included the necessary bridge funding to see the system through this year. The system's normal allocation is around \$30 million. A more detailed look can be found at *VT Digger's* website, vtdigger.org. The real challenge is going to be crafting next year's budget. We will not benefit from another tax windfall due to a booming economy, as was the case in 2019. It will be quite the opposite. The COVID crisis will continue to place additional demands on the budget.

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) spent most of the week hearing testimony on the current status of the unemployment insurance program. The testimony on unemployment insurance dealt with the number of claimants, the current status of the program's trust fund, and issues related to

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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

While DRML is still closed to the public, we are offering curbside pickup as well as appointments for browsing and use of library computers. Please call us at 899-4962 to arrange for pickup or for an appointment.

DRML has many items that were checked out in March and May that haven't been returned yet. Please return them in our book drop as soon as possible! Our book drop is available 24/7, so drop off items any time. It is emptied every morning. Also, please know that anything returned to us is quarantined for up to seven days after it is returned. It will still appear on your account while it is quarantined and because our notices are computer generated, you will still get reminders sent to you. Check your account eight days after you return items and they should be off your account. If it is still there and you know you returned it please call us! (899-4962) We do not charge fines for overdue and we are quarantining to help keep everyone safe. We do offer curbside pick up and we do have appointments on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Check our website www.drml.org for more information or give us a call!

Curbside pickup hours are: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; and Saturday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

Appointments for browsing: Thursday, 12:00 – 6:45 PM; Friday, 10:45 AM – 4:45 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Appointments for computer use: Thursday, 12:15 – 7:00 PM; Friday, 10:15 AM – 5:00 PM; Saturday, 10:15 AM – 1:15 PM.

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resolving claims. New weekly claims are in the neighborhood of 8000, with a total of approximately 30,000 individuals receiving benefits. Prior to the onset of the COVID pandemic, the Unemployment Trust Fund (accumulation of insurance payments less benefit payouts) had reached approximately \$500 million, which has proved to be very fortunate. The COVID-induced unemployment has drawn the fund down to approximately \$300 million. Even under optimistic COVID relief assumptions, the fund will continue to decline through the first quarter of 2021 to around \$150 million.

(September 21)

It was a very hectic week between committee meetings and House assemblies. Thirteen bills came before the body, plus the Governor's veto of H.688, the Global Warming Solution Act. The 13 bills dealt primarily with amendments by either the Senate or the House. All were approved. The Governor's veto was overridden by a vote of 103-47. (I voted to sustain the veto — see reason in last week's post.) I voted in the affirmative for most of the bills, but was unable to vote on five of the bills on Friday's calendar. The five bills were S.27, S.237, H.99, H.663, and H.952. I, nor members of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC), were able to vote as we were hearing testimony and finalizing the language for S.352 and S.353. Of the six plus hours the whole House met, I was only able to attend for about 90 minutes. (This is a sad testament to this year's extended and remote session.)

Below is a listing and brief explanation of the 13 bills that came before the House:

- S.27: Eliminates the sunset on the Medicaid provider tax on home health agencies. (The tax revenue can be leveraged for additional federal money.)
- S.54: Sets up a legal market for marijuana. It establishes a Cannabis Control Board, which will regulate the industry including the licensing of all businesses involved in the growing, processing, and sale of cannabis. Advertising will be allowed with restrictions. It includes a 20% tax. Retail sales by medical marijuana dispensaries are set to start on May 1, 2022. Other retail outlets will follow later on. (I did not support passage for the same reasons I stated in my March 1, 2020 post, when S.54 first came before the House.)
- S.220: Requires certain professionals to obtain education on the State's energy goals as a condition of initial licensure and license renewal.
- S.234: Deals with the expunging past criminal convictions for possessing two ounces or less of cannabis and changing possession of between two-three ounces from a criminal offense to a civil one.
- S.237: Contains miscellaneous provisions to promote access to affordable housing.
- S.352: Expands the Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program to include additional essential employees who performed work with an elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the eligible period. Look up the bill on the legislature's website for a list of occupations.
- S.353: Also expands the Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program to include additional essential employees who performed work with an elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the eligible period. Look up the bill on the legislature's website for a list of businesses. The bill added additional funding and temporarily changed the amount of unemployment taxes a business would have had to pay in 2021.
- H.99: Prohibits the purchase, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell of any item that a person knows or should know is an animal part or product from a list of endangered animals.
- H.663: Require health insurance plans to cover all methods and forms of contraceptives without cost sharing. It requires school districts to make free over-the-counter contraceptives available to all secondary school students.
- H.880: Requires the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to list the Abenaki place name for sites within State parks.
- H.952: Approves amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington.
- H.962: Specifies the duration of temporary relief from abuse orders.
- H.967: Expands the number of hours that a family child care home may care for school-age children from four hours a day to full time when the school-age children's school schedules a student for remote electronic instruction off of the school premises.

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) spent most all of its meeting time dealing with S.352 and S.353.

Adult Programs

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and open to all, but registration is required. To register, please email program_assistant@drml.org.

Youth Programs

Curbside Crafts (any age) are available on Wednesdays during curbside pick-up from 1:00 – 5:30 PM, and come with pretty much everything you need to complete the craft. There are only a limited number available, so first come, first served. Extras will be put out each day until they're all gone.

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

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

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

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

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

JTL is pleased to announce that we are now open for curbside service, following our regular Monday-Friday schedule. Our interim librarian, Loona Brogan, is eager to help with your library needs.

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

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

Jericho Settlers, DRML videos

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Here are links to the latest videos in Mount Mansfield Community Virtually Television's *Virtually Yours* series, looking at local innovation during the pandemic.

Jericho Settlers Farm: <https://archive.org/details/virtually-yours-jericho-settlers-farm-09092020>

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library: <https://archive.org/details/virtually-yours-drml-091120>

If you know a local (Jericho/Underhill/Richmond) business or organization we should feature in this series, please drop us an email, mmctv15@gmail.com. You can find more *Virtually Yours* videos at MtMansfieldCtv.org.

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Legislative update

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden

Voting – The Secretary of State's office started mailing ballots to all active registered voters beginning Monday, September 21. The mailings are being staggered, so if you do NOT receive a ballot by Monday, October 5, please reach out to your town clerk if you want to vote by mail. Please remember that if you vote by mail or return your mailed ballot to your Town Clerk's office or the polling place, *you must fill out and sign the certificate envelope that your ballot is inserted into*. This was one of the most frequent errors in the primary. Watch for announcements from your local town clerk for additional updates on voting as November approaches.

At the "virtual" State House last week, we acted on a number of bills:

S.352 and S.353 – these are acts that clarify and expand the Front Line Hazard Pay Program; the bills expand the program to provide a payment to some individuals who were considered front line workers who were not previously covered in an earlier bill, as well as clarifying provisions of the previously enacted legislation. These bills do NOT cover ALL individuals who may be considered front-line employees. Payments of \$1200 or \$2000 will be made, depending on the number of hours worked in situations of elevated risk.

S.237 – an act promoting affordable housing. This bill encourages development of affordable housing within existing zoned areas; it also updates the requirements for "accessory dwellings" to allow for more flexibility.

H.688 – the Global Warming Solutions Act was taken up in order to determine whether the Governor's veto would be overridden. A two-thirds majority (100 votes) is required to override a veto; the veto was overridden on a vote of 103-47.

S.27 – an act relating to the Commissioner of Taxes' December 1 property tax rate letter for fiscal year 2022; this bill makes it clear that the Legislature intends to deal with a projected \$60-\$70 million projected deficit in the Education Fund through methods other than raising property taxes. Ordinarily, in order to assist local school boards in their budget deliberations, the Commissioner of Taxes would issue a letter outlining the projected tax rates. This bill delivers communication to local education professionals and school boards, that the property tax is not expected to be used to close the projected gap for fiscal year 2022. These are the school budgets that will be voted on by local voters at school and town meetings next year.

The current legislative session, which ordinarily ends in mid-May, will hopefully be wrapping up its work by the end of this week. Please feel to reach out to me at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

We are open for curbside pickup Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. To request an item, please search our catalog at <https://staff.kohavt.org/> and send your request to varnumrequests@gmail.com.

We still have some unclaimed craft kits and clays kits available to be picked up; email us if you want one or didn't get a chance to pick yours up.

We have lots of free books available; please stop by during curbside service and see what we have for you to take home.

Inter-library loan services were set to begin on September 14.

To everyone that participated in the Roald Dahl Youth Book Club at the Varnum, you were greatly missed for the rest of the year. We had one last book to read (and a lot more snacks to eat) so we are going to reconvene, virtually, one last time to discuss our last book, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, in October. Email varnumyouth@gmail.com and we will set out a copy of the book (to keep) during our curbside pick-up hours. If you weren't part of the club but are interested in participating, all are welcome — but let us know so we can order more books! After everyone has had about a month to read it, we will announce a virtual reunion meet-up date and time!

Join the Varnum Memorial Library and co-sponsor, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville, for a book discussion on this year's *Vermont Reads* selection, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. This discussion will be held online via Zoom on Sunday, October 18 at 5:00 PM. We have a limited supply of books, so please only request one per household and consider sharing with your friends and family. Please send book requests to varnumrequests@gmail.com.

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

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

School has only recently restarted and many of you have questions about resources, especially all you new homeschoolers. The Vermont 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. The Westford Public Library has enrichment and homeschooling materials. Let Bree know what you might need. It is best to email or call ahead to discuss your needs. Also, if you are doing an enrichment unit, try to narrow it down with age/grade range and specific titles. The library can also get books from other libraries, but it can take up to two weeks, so plan ahead!

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

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

Thursdays: Early Literacy Storytime, for birth to pre-school! We now have in-person, outside, and socially distant storytime at 11:30 AM on the Common. Bring a blanket and masks and talk to your kids about social distancing ahead of time. Snacks or a lunch

Library continued on page 6

Library news continued from page 5

are a good idea, too. We will sing songs, read stories, move, and have fun! If weather is bad, storytime will be sent out digitally. Feel free to watch a “re-run” at <https://westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/story-time/>.

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

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

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

• <https://help.libbyapp.com/6144.htm>

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

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

(Mostly) Fiction Book Discussion Group — Tuesdays, 6:00 PM. Group coordinator Gwen Landis, 434-5012 or gwennie1972@yahoo.com. October 13: The Alice Network by Kate Quinn; November 10: Britt-Marie Was Here by Fredrik Backman; December 8: Emma by Jane Austen.

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

Remember to browse our catalog at rfl.kohavt.org! We have more than books to lend — request audiobooks on CD, Playaways, Magazines, and Movies! Log in to your account with your library card barcode and your last name as the password to reserve items, or call or email the Library. Not sure what to read next? Let us help!

We are again able to offer library patrons access to the physical collection. This includes books, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs. We cannot allow visitors beyond the outer foyer but you will find that this space has been adapted to serve as a safe and convenient place to pick up your item requests. Book bins in the foyer have been labeled alphabetically. Requested items will be bagged, labeled and placed in the bins according to patron’s last

name. The door will be left open so visitors need not touch anything except their own bag. Please be mindful of others and wait your turn to enter the space if there is already someone there.

There are three ways to request materials:

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

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

• Email us at rfl@gmavt.net.

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

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY WILLISTON

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

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

New curbside pickup hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 7:00 PM. The Fairfax Community Library is located at 75 Hunt St., Fairfax.

In light of 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.

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.

The library will have our annual Halloween Candy Collection this year for trick-or-treating in Fairfax. Please consider a donation of Halloween candy to the library and we will distribute it to downtown residents. Bagged candy donations can be dropped off at the curbside return cart or in the outdoor book return bin until Thursday, October 22. We will follow protocols for safe distribution of the Halloween candy. If you live on or near Main Street and would like to receive candy, please call or email the library with your name and phone number. We will notify you and candy can be picked up during our curbside hours on Tuesday, October 27 or Thursday, October 29.

Youth Events

Thursday-Friday, October 8-9: Mummy Luminaries. Make some little mummies who will light up the night! 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+ Please register!

Tuesday-Wednesday, October 20-21: Candy Catapults. Build your own catapult to launch your Halloween candy straight into your mouth! 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+ Please register!

Adult Events

Friday, October 9, 11:00 AM: Virtual Book Club. Join us for a virtual book discussion! This meeting of the Virtual Book Club will meet on Zoom to talk about the book *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. To request a copy of the book for curbside pickup and the Zoom link, call the library or send an email to fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com.

Thursday-Friday, October 15-16: Halloween Wreathmaking. Make a cute and creepy Halloween wreath! Materials provided. Younger participants are welcome as well! Pick up your materials at the library on Thursday between 3:00 – 7:00 PM, and watch the Facebook livestream on Friday at 7:00 PM. The video will remain available afterwards, so don’t worry if you miss it! Please register!

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/1EAlpQLSch6EF1cpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZI_eIS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMTUa/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good news story

To the Editor,

About two weeks ago there was a posting on FPF for a man’s wedding ring that was found at Waterbury Reservoir. I’m happy to report that ring is now back on my nephew’s finger. To truly appreciate this story I have to share that the ring was lost at Waterbury Reservoir TWO YEARS AGO! We will never know what adventures that ring went on swimming around in that huge body of water. Thank you to the people who found it and posted it. Thank you to FPF for providing the most amazing service to our community. Never give up hope.

Lorraine Tallcott, Jeffersonville

Jeff, Cambridge villages beautification for fall

To the Editor,

It is hard to believe we are saying goodbye to summer 2020 and soon to the flowers that graced the villages this summer. Every year our hope is to get through to Peak Week and it looks like we will make it again this year despite such cold nights last week.

With the generous donation of cornstalks from Boyden Farm, volunteers from the Cambridge Rotary, and the Village Beautification Project, we completed the fall decorations Jeff village today. We will be decorating Cambridge village in two weeks, once we remove the baskets from the poles.

Thank you to Suzanne Masson, Jochen Obert, Catherine Aranda, and Peter and Mary Ingvolstad who helped with this fall project so far. We will be looking for help when we decorate Cambridge light poles.

We would love to have more volunteers for the Village Beautification Project — many hands make light work. Our projects involve a very limited amount of time in the spring and fall with a wide range of needs requiring physical capabilities from light to a good short workout, no meetings, a lot of fun and personal satisfaction on the job!

Please contact me (totogbo@juno.com) if you have an interest in helping out. I will keep a list of contacts for upcoming projects and contact you when / if needed.

Monetary donations are always appreciated and needed. Thank you.

Karen Obert, Jeffersonville

Underhill Telephone Pole Banner Project

Hello dear community members,

A group of us decided it would be a good year to leave the banners up all winter. We don’t usually do this, since the wind and snow will wear them out, but this seems like a good year for a little unexpected visual CHEER!

So many people have remarked over the years on how much they enjoy the banners made by kids, families, and interested community members.

Since many of the banners are a little tattered, we thought it would be a good time to make a new crop.

We could use VOLUNTEERS.

Will you send me a message if you are willing to sew? I can drop off the fabric to you next week. We can start painting as soon as we have banners ready to go.

So many of you have said over the years, “I wish I had time to paint a town banner...” Please contact me (maryhillstudios@gmail.com) and we’ll get you set up to paint. If the weather cooperates we may try for a few outdoor paint sessions, but most likely we’ll drop supplies off to you or organize

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small groups to paint in my studio.

You are invited to "paint what you love about Underhill" — trees, fields, mountains, hiking, skiing, sledding, maple syrup, fresh eggs, snow, rivers, ... I've heard from mothers that they drive around with their kids looking for the banners the kids made when they go up in the spring.

If you want to paint but don't feel comfortable drawing an image, we will ask some of our town artists to "pre-draw" some of the banners.

Many thanks to the Underhill Historical Society for funding the flag project! Fabric, thread, grommets, poles, paint, brushes, and metal brackets have been willingly paid for by the Society for all the years we've been creating them... the tradition was started in 2013 as part of the 250th anniversary of Underhill becoming a town.

Thanks so much ahead of time. Hello to many of you that I never see!

Mary Hill, Underhill

Thinking about Justices of the Peace

To the Editor,

With the election coming up, mail-in ballots will be arriving in your mailboxes soon and as many as half of the votes will be cast before November 3, 2020. With this in mind, I would ask that all voters consider looking over the entire ballot, paying special attention to the election of Justices of the Peace.

The Justice of the Peace has a long and respected history in Vermont (Thomas Chittenden was one) and they do much more than you might think. While attending at weddings is one of their roles, in Underhill they also comprise the majority of the Board of Civil Authority. As members of the BCA, they are responsible for the proper conduct of elections, insuring that all eligible votes are

properly counted, that the voter rolls are up to date and accurate, and are also tasked with the delivery of absentee ballots to the polling place.

The BCA hears appeals of tax assessments when the property owner disagrees with the Listers, and sits on the Board of Abatement, which determines if a taxpayer's property tax should be forgiven under certain circumstances.

By Vermont's Constitution, a Justice of the Peace can administer oaths (Vice President Calvin Coolidge was visiting his family home in Vermont when President Harding died and was sworn in to the office of the President by his father, who was a JP), is a notary, and can even be a magistrate if commissioned by the Vermont Supreme Court.

Every four years the presidential election overshadows everything, but the close relationship of the citizen and their local government is essential to the success of a free society.

The election of a Justice of the Peace is one of the most directly representational decisions a voter can make, and I urge everybody to take the time to consider their choice.

David Workman
Underhill

(Mr. Workman is on the ballot in Underhill as a JP candidate)

Supporting MMU students in necessary trouble

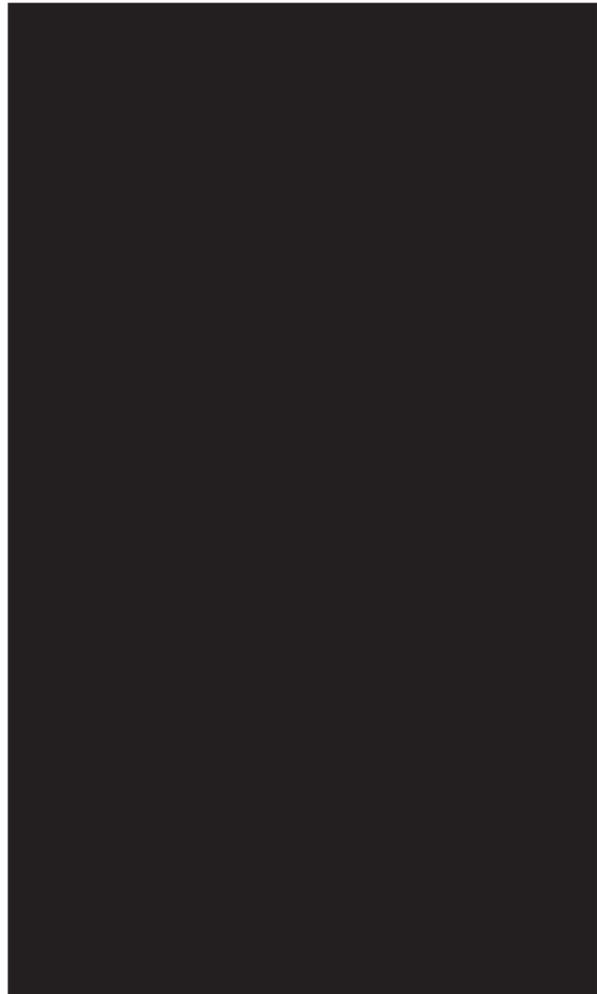
To the Editor,

To the brave MMU students who organized the painting of BLACK LIVES MATTER on River Road:

Do not get discouraged by the desecration of the message. Those actions only serve to prove that systemic racism exists.

In the words of John Lewis: "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

Louise Miglionico
Jericho



Outdoor
Drive-In Movies
at The Mansfield Barn

3 Irish Farm Road, Jericho, VT

20x40 foot screen ! (70 Car Limit!)

Tickets available in advance through Essex Cinemas WEBSITE
www.essexcinemas.com

Info call 802-899-2823 (Rain or Shine) (Grounds open 6pm)
\$25.00 per car load. (7 people max per car)
**You must have a FM radio to hear the sound.*
Bathrooms on site.

Dates

SATURDAY 9-26-20 7:00pm **Smokey and the Bandit PG 1h 36min**
SATURDAY 10-3-20 7:00pm **Dirty Dancing PG 1h 40min**
SATURDAY 10-10-20 7:00pm **Monty Python's Holy Grail PG 1h 31min**

10% Discount at Jericho Café and Tavern to anyone who presents their Essex Cinema tix confirmation on the date of the movie you are seeing.

Call ahead and bring food to the movie or eat at the Tavern. Dinner and movie while staying in Jericho!!

Info or questions contact Grant Allendorf at 802-899-2823.

Transition Town Jericho aids farmer to donate butternut squash



In 2019 at a Transition Town Jericho (TTJ) meeting, local farmer Tucker Andrews highlighted his frustration at not being able to find the labor to get gleaned produce out of the field and into the hands of those who need it. TTJ approached Tucker with the promise to do just that. During the Spring of 2020, Tucker announced that he would plant an extra row of butternut squash for donation.

With a good growing season under our belt, the squash was ready to harvest, and the weather was threatening to freeze the crop if we did not get it out of the fields quickly. Laura from TTJ contacted past TTJ participants and was able to round up a dozen volunteers on short notice. On a Sunday afternoon, in one hour those 12 people harvested 584 squash averaging 2.5 pounds each; total weight estimated at 1460 pounds.

After making arrangements with local food distribution agencies, the squash was divided between Jericho/ Underhill/Essex Food Shelf, where 50-80 families are fed once each month; the Janet S. Munt Family Room, where they feed 110 families a week; and Feeding Chittenden, where 12,000 people are fed every year.

With such a success, Tucker wants to pursue this again in 2021. He said, "The partnership this year was a great start on something that could be an important aspect of food security in our community."

If we could establish a mindset like that with other farmers, they may be willing to do more in support of the community, as they know the community supports them.

We'd like this not to be a fad, but to be a generation-to-generation sustaining behavior that supports the farmers and the local economy. Could we build such a model?

And finally, as Irene from TTJ posted on Facebook, "Thanks to Transition Town Jericho members and friends who picked 584 butternut squash on a beautiful Sunday afternoon from the rows planted by farmer Tucker Andrews exclusively to feed our neighbors. Job well done by everyone."

News briefs continued from page 1

Cambridge reopening public comment on policing

By Courtney Leitz
Cambridge Selectboard Member

The Cambridge Selectboard would like to reopen our public comment period on policing in our community. In the past, when we have held public comment periods, we have asked residents to email our Town Administrator. In an effort to allow residents the choice to remain anonymous, the comment period on policing was set up online. However, we realized that it was a bit confusing and apologize to those who tried to comment and gave up in frustration. In addition, we appreciate those who shared that frustration with us so that we could make adjustments and try again. We have refined the form a bit and clarified the directions. If you follow the link below, you can choose to share your personal information, or not, and then proceed to the comment box where you can type in your comments and questions. Please take time to read the directions on the form, as they also provide links to the VSP letter and relevant policing data. Your responses will be compiled and shared with Lt. Bob Lucas of the Vermont State Police when he joins our Selectboard meeting in October.

The VSP is asking Vermonters to share your thoughts on policing in the 21st Century, "your priorities, your concerns and how we can ensure that policing in your town keeps Vermont a safe, just and welcoming place for everyone." If you haven't already, the Cambridge Selectboard would greatly appreciate you taking the time to be a part of this timely and critical discussion. Follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/66P9HHJ>

What's new on the Town of Jericho website?

There are a few projects and some news that we want to highlight on Join in Jericho: <https://jerichovt.org>.

• **MOBBS BIOBLITZ** — The first ever Jericho Bioblitz is off to a great start! As of Friday, September 18 we have 216 different species identified at Mobbs Farm! Learn more about how you can participate in the Bioblitz, what events are happening, and how to submit art or poems on the bioblitz page: <https://jerichovt.org/bioblitz>.

• **ELECTIONS UPDATE** — Warning and sample ballots are posted on the website. For more information, visit the Elections Page: <https://jerichovt.org/Elections>.

• **NEW KIOSK AT TOWN HALL** — Thanks to the hard work of the highway guys, we have a pretty cool new agenda kiosk in front of Town Hall. Check it!

Underhill Community Food Sharing Shed closed after season

The final day of operation of Underhill's Community Food Sharing Shed was Sunday, September 27. Many thanks to the many growers and takers. Thanks from the Food Shed Team!

Here are a few comments from those who benefitted from the shed:

- "Thank you. You helped us feed a couple of elderly people that could not have a garden this year and couldn't get out to the stores."
- "Thank you for the veggie plants."
- "You gave me the idea to start my own shed in Jeffersonville."
- "It's so cool that your town has this food shed. Just passing through on my bike."
- "Thanks to the individuals who donated the rhubarb. I made two pies!! Just delicious."
- "Thank you. You rock."
- "My family is so appreciative that you all are sharing and I hope you are all safe."

An Ode to the Metal Dumpster

By Allison Hope
Westford Selectboard member

Okay, so "ode" is most likely the wrong word, but you'll get the idea:

*Roses are red
Violets are blue
The metal dumpster is only for metal
It's really quite true
(for me and for you)*

Please make sure that you only put metal in the metal dumpster that we're lucky to have at the Town Garage. For a bit now, many large and cumbersome non-metal items have been set nearby or in the dumpster. In the long term, this means we may eventually lose the dumpster. In the short term, this wastes the valuable time of our road crew.

And I'd certainly be remiss if I didn't mention that there are cameras at the Town Garage. Because the problem has been getting more noticeable we have been reviewing the cameras to get the license plate numbers of folks who have been delivering the non-metal items, and notifying the police (who then may well issue a ticket, or at the very least ring you up for a chat).

Metal. Metal only and always. Thank you!

Westford Selectboard Meeting, September 10 draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers
Westford Town Clerk

What is your Selectboard discussing? You can read the draft minutes of their September 10 meeting online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-09-10-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

On Westford trails, do your duty!

Westford Conservation Commission Reminder!
Please carry out any used dog waste bags from the trails. We've installed plastic bag stations at several trails for the convenience of dog owners, but sometimes the bags are left on the trails or in the forest.

It's a simple act to carry out the plastic bags and dispose of them properly. Please assist us in keeping our trails beautiful. Remind friends and neighbors to do the same!

If we all do our part, everyone can enjoy our wonderful Westford trails.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

HALLOWEEN WREATHMAKING

Make a cute and creepy Halloween wreath!
Email libraryfairfax@gmail.com to sign up.
Materials pickup is **OCTOBER 15** so make sure to sign up quickly!

OCTOBER 16 | 7:00 PM

SCHOOL NEWS

MMUUSD hybrid instruction survey for families

Schools in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) have completed two-plus weeks of hybrid instruction. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey to let us know how this plan is working for your child or children and family. Please fill out a survey for each child you have in our district. This information will help guide us as we make future decisions around our direct and virtual academic instruction. The survey can be found online at <https://forms.gle/pYpsAL751ZQpricG9>.

5 reasons to pick up free meals from MMUUSD

1. The food is free to all kids 18 and under, no questions asked. Regardless of your level of need, it saves you money on food for your kids. Also, note that need can be financial, situational, or emotional.

“I want to save meals for those who really need it.” We have heard this comment throughout our community and we want to assure you that we have enough food for all.

2. When the food is not picked up, the Mount Mansfield Nutrition Department may receive less funding, which can lead to not being able to offer as much food, as well as to employee layoffs. The food is reimbursed by the federal government on a per-meal basis. *The more kids we feed, the more reimbursement we get.* The fewer we feed, the less we get. Plus, even with all kids now being eligible for the free food, fewer meals may actually be served than during a typical school year, leading to potential shortfalls in the future.

3. It can save the food from turning to waste. In some cases, if the food isn’t picked up, it has to be thrown away!

4. It’s comforting to kids to have familiar foods from their school. Kids love eating foods they would normally get at the school, and drinking milk from the little cartons they only get there as well. It’s hard enough missing normal school life. This gives them a little “taste” of it at home, and reminds them every day that the school misses them and still wants to take care of them.

5. It saves you some stress of feeding your kids, as most of the food is ready-to-eat. There are typically individual servings of cereal, milk, sandwiches, fruit, veggies, snacks, and more. Kids can just grab it and eat it.

“It has saved me a lot of time and hassle so instead of cooking or trying to figure out what to feed them, I can focus more on helping my kids learn!”

School food service guarantees healthful options for your kids, and it can be fun for kids to drive up to their schools and see some familiar faces, if even just through their car windows!

Go to this link to sign up. There are five- and seven-day options available. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHAai1NaZIE1wruc2Hbvx_SUIo_OA6F3NThbFUw7k9DNVkJw/viewform

YMCA Afterschool Care

The Y knows how important it is for a child to have an enriching place for learning and growth, both in and out of school. While the school year may look different than before, our school-age programs continue to be a familiar place where children can be safe, active, learning, and engaged during their time out of school.

To register for afterschool care in your community, go online to <https://www.gbymca.org/online-forms/y-before-afterschool-registration/>.



Suzanne Freitas was out for a walk on a recent morning and saw this sign at the MMU softball field. The Cougar has on a mask — a sign of the times. PHOTO BY SUZANNE FREITAS



At the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on Wednesday, September 16, Master Gardeners and local community members joined hands to produce a fabulous potato harvest. They are pictured cleaning the more than 300 pounds of harvested potatoes, which were donated to the local Essex/Jericho/Underhill Food Shelf located at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**COVID-19 Pandemic
POD Open for School Age Students**

- Licenced K-12 Teacher. 27 years experience in education.
- Masters in Education with a concentration in Reading.
- Offering education/assistance to students on Remote or Hybrid learning days.
- Will work with students’ individual learning needs as well as schools/districts’ curriculums and guidelines.
- Experience working with students’ individual learning plans and Special Education Services.
- Some flexibility with scheduling
- Practices COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols
- First Aid and CPR certified teacher
- Caring and nurturing environment
- Snacks provided

Located on 11 Covey Road Underhill, Phone 858-9171

Location convenient for Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Essex, Fairfax, and Cambridge.

Spaces limited due to COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols.

Call or email Connie Esmay

Phone 858-9171

Email: esmayconnie@gmail.com

Support Cub Scout Popcorn Sale

Hello, my name is Levi and I'm with Cub Scout Pack 620 of Jericho/Underhill. Cub Scouting has taken so many important lessons and put them together into an organized and interesting format that will provide life long benefits not only for me but to the community in which I live.

Popcorn is one of my Pack's yearly fundraisers that helps support summer camp, Pinewood Derby, and other fun Scouting events. I have many DELICIOUS flavors of popcorn to sell. The Caramel corn is my favorite because of its sweet and sticky flavor! I am happy to stop by your house for you to order, or below is the link to the website where you can place your order and have the popcorn shipped to you. (Door-to-door has more selection options available than the online products.)

Can I count on your support to help fund my adventures? I would be grateful for your support!

<https://ordering.campmasters.org/PopcornOrdering/Home/Index?UnitUserId=2f7b9ebf-13f6-ea11-a82b-000d3a3cfc9b>

Cub Scout registration is ongoing

Interested in joining Cub Scouts? With COVID-19 safety impacting so many things in life, we want you to know scouting is still active this year and it's a great time to join with so many things that can be learned and experienced while still adhering to the evolving precautions.

Pack 620's Annual Registration period continues. Scouting is open to both boys & girls, grades K-5! Scouting is a great chance to build a stronger family, create memories, build citizenship, learn new skills, and create friendships that will last a lifetime.

Please email Andy at beatnickvt@yahoo.com or cubpack620vt@gmail.com for more information!

You may also review the BSA Scouting Introduction online at <https://ppcbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/membershipCubScoutAdventuresBookletC.pdf>, or at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/>.

Masks will be required by anyone attending scouting events; other COVID-19 precautions will be taken as well.

Button Up Vermont

Button Up Vermont weatherization campaign has started and will last through November. Check out <https://buttonupvermont.org> for resources that can help stop air leaks, insulate homes, save money, and stay cozy.

New this year are Weatherization Wednesdays webinars, aired weekly, that started Wednesday, September 16 with a workshop on Teaching Weatherization to middle and high schoolers.

For the list of all events, visit <https://buttonupvermont.org/events>.

Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program – short version

By John Mandeville
Executive Director

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

Does your business need assistance to recover from the impacts of COVID-19? Or, can your business provide assistance to others?

The Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program works with businesses to identify a recovery solution and find the appropriate professional technical assistance to implement the solution at NO COST to your business. Find more details about providing or receiving assistance at www.vermonteconomicdevelopment.com. You will be contacted by the Recovery Navigator for your region.

Eligible businesses must be Vermont-domiciled and have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants for homeowners, renters, landlords with COVID hardship

By Emma Vaughn

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Are you behind on mortgage or rent due to COVID-19? The VT Housing Finance Agency and VT State Housing Authority are still accepting applications for grants to help you catch up if you have faced a hardship due to the pandemic.

If you're a homeowner, learn about applying for a VT COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance grant for up to six months of past due mortgage or property tax payments at www.vhfa.org or 802-652-3421.

If you're a renter or landlord who needs rental arrearage assistance, learn more about the Rental Housing Stabilization Program at www.vsha.org or 802-828-2040.

Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program – long version

By Emma Vaughn

Communications Manager,

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

The Vermont Legislature allocated \$2.5 million of federal CARES Act funding for small business technical support in Act 137. On September 18, 2020, Governor Scott and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development announced that the Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) of Vermont would be tasked with deploying \$1,400,000 in technical assistance (TA) funding for small businesses across the state under the Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program (ReVTA).

The RDCs of Vermont will use this award to contract with hundreds of Vermont small businesses and non-profits who will, in turn, be compensated to provide TA to Vermont businesses who have been negatively impacted from COVID-19. The program is expected to assist more than 250 businesses with awards averaging \$3000. All funds need to be spent by December 4, 2020.

The TA must help the business recover from direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. TA includes, but is not limited to: assistance for business operations; financial management; digital strategies; architecture and design; re-configuring products or processes; updating safety measures; technology and software consulting; marketing services; business pivot consulting services; and legal or professional services.

A website has been created for businesses to register to provide assistance as well as those interested in receiving assistance.

More details, eligibility requirements, and registration forms are available at www.vermonteconomicdevelopment.com.

United Way Lamoille County firewood project

United Way of Lamoille County's firewood project is underway and we request your help. Over the past several weeks, 75 volunteers have offered over 360 hours and helped our neighbors secure a little more warmth this winter. To date, 36 cords of wood have been delivered, and we need volunteers accomplish more.

The Firewood Lot is located at 595 Bridge St., Morrisville; just look for the giant pile of wood! Work starts at 8:00 AM, and they are always in need of additional chainsaws, wood splitters, stackers, and delivery trucks. Food, water, ear plugs, and gloves are provided.

The next date of service is Saturday, October 3, two shifts: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and 12:00 – 3:00 PM.

For more information visit www.uwlamaille.org or call 802-888-3252.

CES thanks Cambridge Cares

Cambridge Elementary School would like to extend a great big thank you to Cambridge Cares for their generous donation of over 800 cloth masks.

Talented sewers from around our Cambridge community donated time and fabric to make masks of all colors, styles, and sizes. It's been fun to see CES students smiling behind their stylish Cambridge Cares cloth masks.

A special thanks too to Runamok Maple, who donated hand sanitizer, and Concept 2, who donated face shields.

Cambridge Community working together once again!

United Way of Lamoille County wants to hear from you

The mission of United Way of Lamoille County (UWLC) is to build a stronger community by working together, advocating for the health, education, and financial stability of Lamoille County families. This year, as we look to recover, rebuild, and reimagine a better community, UWLC is looking to you and your neighbors to help prioritize what our community will need in the coming year.

Please take a few minutes to share your experience and perspective through this anonymous survey. Your voice is important. As they hope to hear from as many Vermonters as possible, please share this survey link with your families, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and social networks. Anyone who is age 18 or older and is a Vermont resident is invited to complete this survey once.

Here is the link: <https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=YD3AEMKFNf>

Results of this survey will be made available to the public and shared widely in December. Thank you for sharing your perspective and ideas for our community.

United Way volunteer opportunities

United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering in this new time, so the opportunities are still limited, but we are starting to see more. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to see these and other opportunities. Interested in volunteering from home? Click on *Virtual Volunteering* to see how you can help remotely!

JOIN THE BOARD — The Cancer Patient Support Foundation is seeking some dedicated community members to join their local board, which supports Vermont cancer patients and their families. Every year nearly 700 local families are provided financial support to meet their basic needs and remove barriers to treatment. Contact Sarah Lemnah, sarah@cpsvt.org, to learn more.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR WIZ — Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity in Williston is looking for a capable volunteer to test out donated lawn mowers, chainsaws, snow blowers, etc. Do they run well, need a tune-up, what parts can be changed out, or does it need to be scrapped? If you think you can help, contact volunteer@vermonthabitat.org or 318-7533.

UREGENT NEED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY — Age Well Meals on Wheels is looking for delivery volunteers to help their neighbors by providing a friendly face and a comforting meal. Immediate openings in Georgia, Swanton, Highgate, Richford, Enosburg and Montgomery. Contact Laura Need at 662-5254 or email lneed@agewellvt.org.

EVENT MANAGEMENT INTERN/VOLUNTEER — Cancer Support Foundation is seeking a friendly, organized, and reliable individual to assist in event management. Work in conjunction with staff and the Board of Directors to help plan and implement events, solicit auction items, place calendar listings, help with social media and much more. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to gain experience in nonprofit event management. Qualified candidates must project a professional and friendly demeanor, have effective communication skills, well-developed writing skills, attention to detail, and comfortable using computers. Contact Sarah Lemnah, sarah@cpsvt.org, to learn more.

TELL OUR STORY THROUGH VIDEO — Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is looking for a videographer or someone with great video editing skills to help film and edit small events to help stay connected to the community during this time of social distancing. For more information, email volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

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**Brenda at 453-6354
mtngazette@gmavt.net**

Back

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

NOTE: If these ballot(s) have been brought to you by two justices of the peace, return them to the justices after you have sealed AND SIGNED the envelope.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MARK YOUR BALLOTS IN PRIVATE – but if you ask for help, the justices will assist you.

VOTED BALLOT(S)



Matthew Dalton of Jericho and Pamela Cota of Underhill (above) have graduated from the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont Leadership Institute (VLI). Commencement for the class of 2020 was held on August 29, 2020 at Basin Harbor in Vergennes. Dalton is currently the Program Director of Client Consultative Analytics at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. Cota is currently the Licensing Chief for the State of Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and



Independent Living. As participants at VLI, they joined 21 other leaders from around the state for eight overnight sessions, beginning in September 2019. The Snelling Center is a non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to fostering responsible and ethical civic leadership, encouraging public service by private citizens, and promoting informed citizen participation in shaping public policy in Vermont. For more information, please go online to www.snellingcenter.org.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Howard Center welcomes Simha Ravven, MD as Chief Medical Officer following a competitive national search last winter. In this role, Dr. Ravven will direct psychiatric and clinical care services for the agency to ensure the delivery of high quality medical, nursing, and clinical care. Dr. Ravven comes to Howard Center from the Brattleboro Retreat, where she has served as Senior Medical Director and as Interim Chief Medical Officer. Additionally, she is clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine; president-elect of the VT Medical Society; member of the VT Department of Mental Health Ten Year Planning Think Tank; member of the VT Board of Medical Practice Medical Marijuana Review Board; associate editor, Harvard Review of Psychiatry; and serves on the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Human Rights and National Security Committee. She holds American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology certifications in Adult and Forensic Psychiatry. Dr. Ravven says, "It's an honor to have the opportunity to return to community mental health and continue the long tradition of Howard Center's service to diverse populations in the community. In the coming months, I look forward to meeting with many of our community partners and stakeholders. She brings her philosophy of medicine as a profession of service and an inherent belief that it is the physician and medical system's task to meet people where they are and make adjustments to meet people's needs when they seek support and treatment.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

General Election/Town Meeting/Presidential Primary

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTERS

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

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

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

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

OR

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

OR

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

AND

2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the date of the election), and I am eligible to vote in this jurisdiction; and
3. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. except the jurisdiction:
Town or City of Westford

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

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

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

SIGNED: Jane Doe DATE: 8/20/20

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Westford - \$412,000
Under construction now! Our new Colonial sits on 1.75 acres with 24 acres of Common Land. Rolling open sites with wooded fringe adding shade and character. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath open design. Full walkout basement, energy efficient heat and large 2 car garage complete this great home. Still time to pick options.



Fairfax - \$389,000
Mountain views from your .90 acre level parcel. Ready to start construction. Over 6 acres of common land to hike and enjoy. To be built Colonial with a full front porch positioned to give you the best views. 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. 2 car attached garage. Beautiful sunny homesite ready to go. A Vermonter's dream!



Fairfax - \$174,500
Priced to Sell! Two bedroom, 1.5 bathroom townhome at Mill Hill in Fairfax Village. Close to schools & stores. Open Floor plan with large eat-in kitchen, oak cabinets and lots of counterspace. Ample closet space, washer & dryer hookups, partially finished lower level. Attached garage, front porch & back deck.

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NANCY JENKINS REAL ESTATE



Charles Edward LaPlant Jr., August 2, 1966-September 14, 2020. Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Charles Edward LaPlant Jr. passed in his sleep on Monday, September 14, 2020 at his home in Bland, MO where he lived with his beloved fiancé Nancy Bilzing and their fur family: Gustaf, Vesta, Sienna, Finney, and Frankie. Charles was born on August 2, 1966 at the Mary Fletcher Hospital, Burlington, VT to Charles Edward and Brenda Jean (Bennett) LaPlant. He attended U.S. Army schools in Germany where his father was stationed, Monkton (VT) Elementary School, and Mount Abraham High School (Bristol, VT) and Vergennes (VT) High School. He served in the U.S. Army as a Ranger and was stationed on the DMZ in Korea. He was a jack-of-all-trades, an accomplished artist, and a lover of the woods, fishing, and motorcycles. He was an avid reader, a true friend to many, an earth angel. He was always



there to help anyone who needed it and was quick to put you straight if you were out of line. Charles had his shortcomings as well; his battle with addiction lasted most of his life, until he moved to Missouri and rekindled an old love, and there he had almost three years of peace. He leaves this world knowing that he was loved by fiancé Nancy Bilzing, her mom Patricia Bilzing, his parents Brenda (Bennett) and David Boutin, step-mother Pauline LaPlant, siblings Ramona (LaPlant) Martin and husband Shawn, Clifton LaPlant and fiancé Kelly Racine, Jason LaPlant and wife Tanya, Christian Boutin, Hope Boutin and fiancé Brandon Francis, Nicholas LaPlant, step-siblings Shawn Boutin, David Boutin and wife Morgan, and Tonya Bernal. He parts with his children Joshua Taylor of Mississippi, Gage LaPlant of Florida, Megan Ryan of VT, and Colby Belville of VT. He leaves behind one granddaughter, Bralynn Ryan, and several nieces and nephews: Samantha Rhodes and husband Marshal, Steven Martin and wife Kate, Roger Martin and wife Casaundra, Ariel Martin and fiancé Michael, Kate Vermilyea and husband Chris, Tyler LaPlant, Autumn Cossett and husband Connor, Alisha Adams and husband Corey, and Brantley Francis. He will be missed by his many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He will be greatly missed by his partner in crime and brother Clifton LaPlant. Charles' ashes will be spread on his favorite mountain hiking trail. Charles was predeceased by his father Charles LaPlant, grandparents Clifton and Marjorie (Tatro) Bennett and Charles and Betty (LaFlam) LaPlant. Charles was a very private person and so there will be no memorial service. Please remember him in your own way.



Robert Willard Cochran of Jericho, VT died on Monday, September 21, 2020. Bob was born on July 2, 1926 in Williamsport, PA, the son of Willard Leslie Cochran and Carrie Pauline (Heck) Cochran. The family moved to Mishawaka, IN in 1932. Bob graduated from Mishawaka High School in 1944 after leaving in the middle of his senior year to matriculate at Indiana University. That spring he qualified for the Navy V-12 Training Program and was assigned

to the unit at the University of Notre Dame, where he was stationed until the end of World War II in 1945. Bob then returned to Bloomington, IN to complete his undergraduate education. During his senior year, he was vice-president of the I. U. Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. On June 20, one week after graduation, Bob and his high school sweetheart, Willadine (Willy) Orton, were married in the First Methodist Church in Mishawaka. In the fall of 1948, the couple took up residence in Ann Arbor, MI where Bob pursued graduate studies in English. He earned the MA and the PhD degrees from the University of Michigan and gained teaching experience there as a graduate teaching fellow. In 1954, Bob became a member of the English Department of the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Over the years he served as Director of Freshman English, Director of the Master's Degree Program, and Department Chairman. He also served on numerous college and university committees, most notably the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and the Athletic Council. For several years Bob was the Faculty Advisor of the Kappa Sigma Chapter at UVM and then of the Interfraternity Council. In retirement he was also a member and then a president of the University's organization of Retired Faculty and Administrative Officers. He published articles in professional journals on works by classic American authors Hawthorne, Hemingway, Welty, Updike, and Richard Ford and on American sports fiction addressed to mature readers. After the Cochran family moved to Jericho, VT in 1960, Bob soon began to serve the community in various capacities. He coached the Jericho boys in the old Arrowhead Little League; he was a member first of the Jericho Elementary School Board and then a charter member of the Mount Mansfield Union High School Board. Following his retirement from UVM in 1991, Bob was a representative to the state legislature for two terms and a local Justice of the Peace. He also had the pleasure of acting as a Guardian Ad Litem for the Chittenden County Probate Court. Bob and his beloved Willy travelled widely both at home and abroad, beginning in the academic year of 1973-74 when Bob taught on exchange at the University of Oslo. They visited all but a handful of the states, as well as China, Tibet, Tanzania, most of Europe, and several of the islands in the Caribbean. Bob continued to play tennis several days a week into his 80s. He was fond of characterizing himself as a lifelong athlete in numerous sports, "primarily at the intramural level" as Bob liked to put it. Bob is survived by son Andrew and his wife Ardyce, formerly of North Hero and now of Bradenton, FL, and son Clinton and his wife Elizabeth of Berwyn, PA and Ocean Pines, MD. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Tyler Cochran of Fairfax, VT, Holly Burnham and fiancé Kurt Anthony of Colchester, VT, Nichole Lamb and her husband Richard of Jacksonville, FL, Pamela Gratton and her husband Yancey of Milton, VT, Tyler Besche and his wife Jaclyn of Annapolis, MD, and Hunter Cochran of Berwyn, PA; by ten great-grandchildren, and by the Cochran's god-daughter Melissa Hotchkiss of Jersey City, NJ. Due to COVID-19, a memorial service is tentatively being planned for what would have been his 95th birthday, July 2, 2021, in Vermont. Donations in Bob's memory may be made to the Cochran Travel Fund, UVM Foundation, Grasse Mount, 411 Main St., Burlington, VT 05401.

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History of Leadership

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- Essex Tree Farm Recreational Facility – Founder
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- M.S. Environmental Studies - Conservation Biology

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