

25th anniversary of “Snowflake”
Wilson Bentley biography
publication

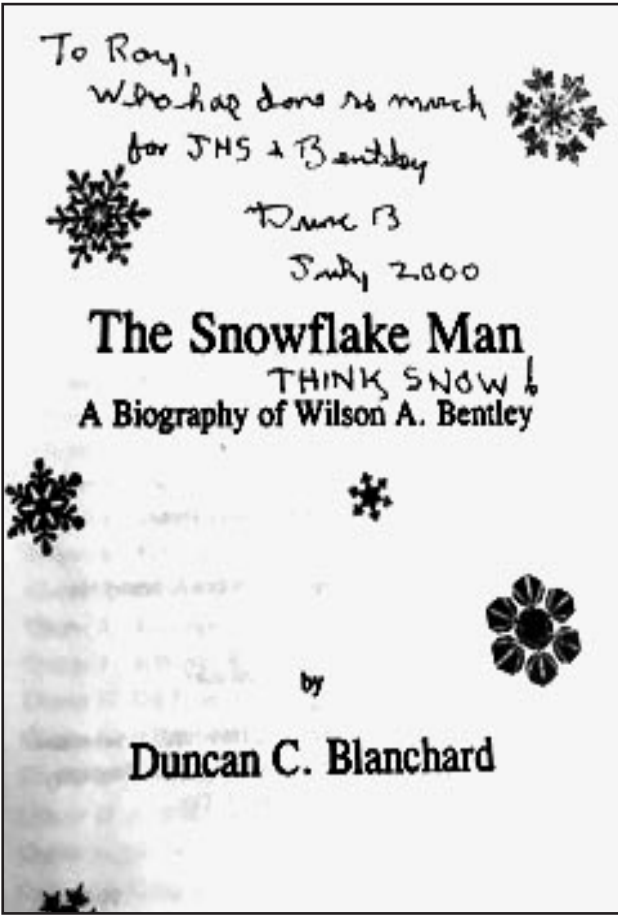
By Louise Miglionico

It is now 25 years since *The Snowflake Man: A Biography of Wilson A Bentley* by Duncan C. Blanchard was published. Mr. Blanchard was an atmospheric scientist and researcher at the State University of Albany. He became fascinated with the work of Wilson Bentley and thoroughly researched his life and work. He considered Bentley both a scientist and artist. Blanchard interviewed many family members, neighbors, and friends of Bentley. Blanchard also visited many universities and other institutes which housed Bentley works.

In the book Blanchard described the lengthy and painstaking process Bentley went through to finally photograph over 5000 of his beloved snow crystals. Blanchard masterfully described the environment in which Bentley lived and the relationship between that environment and the Snowflake Man’s creations. The book also provides perspective of Bentley’s relationship with his family as well as his presence in the Jericho community.

In his acknowledgements Blanchard described his work with the Jericho Historical Society: “I have spent many hours visiting, talking, and writing to several members of the Society. Jean Smith, the former archivist, sent me copies of Bentley articles that otherwise would have been hard to get. I am equally grateful to Ray Miglionico, the present archivist, who sent me many photographs of Bentley, his relatives, and friends. But most of all, I am indebted to the indefatigable Blair Williams, who for more than 25 years has been building up the Bentley collection at the Jericho Historical Society and has not let the citizens of Jericho or the world forget Wilson Bentley. I have treasured the exchange of many letters with Blair.”

For more information, please visit <https://snowflakebentley.com/>.



COMING EVENTS

All about the eclipse — information, glasses, viewing party!

By Bree Drapa Librarian, Westford Public Library

Are you ready for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024? The Westford Public Library is here to help! We are so excited to be part of Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). This means we have had training, equipment and solar glasses for FREE.

Eclipse timing for Westford: partial eclipse begins: 2:14 PM; totality begins: 3:26:20 PM; totality ends: 3:29:42 PM (that’s an incredible 3 minutes 22 seconds of totality!); partial eclipse ends: 4:37 PM

Learn all about the Eclipse at an Eclipse Talk on Saturday, April 6, 2:00 – 3:30 PM at the Library. Solar eclipse ambassador and avid space enthusiast Molly Drapa will explain all about eclipses. Her presentation will cover what they are, why they occur, and teach you all about this upcoming, once-in-a-lifetime event. Great for all levels of learners — older kids to experts. The presentation will last about an hour, with plenty of time for questions afterwards.

Experience the eclipse together at an Eclipse Viewing Party on the Common on Monday, April 8, 2:00 – 4:30 PM. There will be Eclipse Crafts in the Gazebo with Westford PTO, with cool sun viewing equipment Sunoculars and a SunSpotter. It is cool to view something like this as a community!

How and When do I get eclipse glasses? Come the Library between Tuesday, March 26-Monday, April 8 — while supplies last — we have 500 pairs! Anyone who attended our space programming will have a reserved pair. All students at Westford School and the Barn School will receive their own pair. Pick up glasses at the library with a valid Westford Public Library card (max two per household). NASA recommends one pair of glasses per three people — you do not need glasses at all during totality!

Need a library card? Contact the Library!

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Meeting House, Westford Common Hall, and/or private residences/businesses. Don’t be shy! All ideas will be considered, even if we may not be given permission to investigate the idea if it involves the use of private property.

Send your idea(s) to Holly Delisle at townadmin@westfordvt.us for consideration. Thank you, Westford!

St. Patrick’s Shenanigans fundraiser for Jenna’s Promise

Come to the Underhill Town Hall on Pleasant Valley Road in Underhill Center on Saturday, March 16, 5:00 – 9:00 PM, for an evening of St. Patrick’s Day Shenanigans! The event will benefit Jenna’s Promise, an organization based in Johnson, VT dedicated to the pursuit of substance use prevention.

Put on your dancing shoes for the *Blue Rock Boys*. Enjoy bangers, French fries, and smoked corned beef — all provided by Mike Fullem of Underhill, and bring a dessert to share!

Jeff Church accepting items for Memorial Day sale

The Jeff Church (Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville) will be having their annual Memorial Day Sale on Saturday, May 25. As you are doing your spring cleaning — should you find you have salable items you would like to donate, please call Becky, 802-644-8827, or Melody, 802-644-2409. We cannot take large furniture, helmets, computer equipment, etc.

We will also be opening up the church grounds and community room for flea marketers. \$25 per space. Call one of the numbers above if you are interested.

We have room for your ad.
Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354
for more information
or email mtngazette@gmavt.net

Tour the Solar System with VT
Symphonic Winds on March 13

In anticipation of the coming solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, the Vermont Symphonic Winds (VSW), conducted by music director Lisa Jablow, will present *PRECLIPSE*, a complete performance of *The Planets* by English composer Gustav Holst. The concert will take place on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael’s College, Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester. The VSW will be joined by *Bella Voce*, under the direction of Dawn Willis.

Each of the seven movements in the work paints a vivid musical portrait of a planet; in concert order: Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Interestingly, Earth is not represented because Holst created the work from an astrological perspective. Since the Earth has no astrological significance, he did not include it.

Please join us for this unique musical and astronomical experience. Questions? Message us via Facebook or Instagram (search for “*vermontsymphonicwinds*” for both) or email vermontsymphonicwinds@gmail.com.

Admission at the door: \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children. Cash and Venmo only, please.

Ongoing Events

Eagles Auxiliary Friday Night Bingo, Fridays, 6:30 – 9:45 PM, through Friday, May 24, Eagles Club, VT Rt. 109N (Waterville Rd.), Jeffersonville (.5 miles from the junction of VT Rts. 108-109). Eagles Auxiliary welcomes all back to bingo and hope you all enjoyed the two-month break in January-February. We thank you for supporting our Auxiliary Bingo that supports our many charities, donations, and scholarships, we make in our community throughout each year. Doors open at 5:00 PM, with bingo refreshments available. Please purchase your quickie, regular, and special bingo game papers by 6:15 PM. Bingo quickie games start at 6:30 PM; regular bingo games begin at the end of the quickie games. Pull tabs may also be available prior to games starting. There is a 50-50 raffle at half-time intermission, when refreshments are sold. The \$1000 jackpot-cover-all game is played during the last regular game of the night and has to be won by a “designated number” of balls called. If not won, the cover-all game continues for a consolation payout. All players must purchase a minimum of three cards. Each games’ payouts are split between the winner(s) for that game. Children attending must play a minimum of three cards and be under supervision by an adult (any payouts to children will be paid to the adult supervising them). No card splitting. Please view our game rules posted at the Eagles Club for additional information. Inquiries can be made by calling the Eagles Club on Friday nights, 802-644-5333 after 5:00 PM (you can leave a message on this phone during the week and someone will call you back on Friday when the bingo opens). Come join us and enjoy our Eagles Auxiliary Friday Night Bingo!

The Underhill-Jericho Walking Club meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5:30 PM, at the United Church of Underhill on Park St., Underhill. We walk for 30-45 minutes; we don’t walk if it is raining or snowing. Please bring yak tracks and a headlamp. Join us whenever you like!

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (March 14) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (March 7, 21), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper, on the last Thursday of the month (March 28), 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come and enjoy some great soups and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

Waterville Country Church hosts a Community Meal the first Thursday of each month (March 7). Come enjoy a relaxing homemade meal with neighbors at the church, or pick up meal(s) to go. Donations accepted. All donations will be given to a local nonprofit, charity, or community service organization. March donations will go to the Johnson Food Shelf. For information contact Susan Schill or Kim Pitt, watervillecountrychurch@gmail.com. Ask about delivery to shut-ins!

Bone Builders Class: at the Jeffersonville Church (Second Congregational Church of Christ, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville) from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. It is a drop-in class, but first-timers have a couple of pages to fill out and sign. It is free, but a donation bucket is available for those wishing to reimburse the church for the use of the space. All are welcome. We have a good time — be prepared for some laughter as well as improving your strength and balance. Call Melody Tobin (802-644-2409) to discuss, or just show up.

Bone Builders Class: at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center, on Mondays/Wednesdays/most Fridays, 9:00 – 10:15 AM; first Friday of the month, 9:45 AM. Sponsored by the United Way of Northwest VT, RSVP Bone Builders is a free exercise program for men and women, designed to prevent the negative effects of osteoporosis. For more information contact Danielle Schwer, 802-861-7821 or danielle@unitedwaymwvt.org.

Thursday Trivia nights — Thursdays through May 1, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Supersounds Trivia at Jericho Cafe & Tavern, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come by for Trivia, hosted by DJ Mike Toomey. Lots of awesome prizes, and a way to ward off the winter blues.

Healthy Habits VT, meets Friday and Saturday mornings: Fridays in Essex Junction at 9:30 or 11:00 AM; Saturdays in South Burlington at 9:30 AM. Leslie Dunn leads weekly group meetings where participants talk about managing weight, being more physically fit, and motivating each other — building habits to achieve better health is the underlying theme of each meeting. For more information, go to <https://www.healthyhabitsvt.com/>, email leslie@healthyhabitsvt.com, or call 802 234-1277.

Coming Events

The film Nuclear Now by director Oliver Stone was presented by the Jericho Energy Task Force on Thursday, January 25, and will not be presented on Thursday, March 25 as listed in the February 15 edition of the Mountain Gazette. (March 25 is not a Thursday, in any case.) We regret our error and any inconvenience it caused for readers. — Editor

Wednesday, March 6
Conversational Soup Supper & Soulful Silence, 5:30 – 7:00 PM, Richmond Congregational Church. 20 Church St., Richmond. Begin (5:30 – 6:15 PM) with a simple soup supper and convivial communal conversation in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Continue (6:30 – 7:00 PM) by finding a comfortable place to be in quiet and still your spirit in the Sanctuary and Parlor upstairs. You can sit in silence, light a candle, read a book, pray, meditate, knit, color, etc. Silence will begin and end with ringing the church bell. This free event is open to the whole community. You can join for just dinner, or silence, or both. Please contact Rev. Katelyn Macrae, katelyn@rccucc.org or 802-434-2053, if you have questions or would like to help provide soup and bread for one of the evening meals.

Saturday, March 9
Using Microsoft OneNote, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. This class shows how genealogists can organize their research materials using a free tool from Microsoft called OneNote. The power of OneNote is in its ability to combine all kinds of media. Start your move away from paper and manila folders, and instead organize photos and articles, PDF files, Word docs, and use links to outside sources. In this class Dwight Fowler will review the basics of OneNote to show its capabilities, along with examples of it in use for research. Attendees should be familiar with Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, or Excel. An understanding of MS OneDrive, or cloud-based tools like Dropbox, or Google Drive, is also recommended, but not required. This Zoom webinar may be followed by a virtual training offering. Cost is \$10. Please visit www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



HATS & BEANIES: \$25 EACH

Questions? mmctv15@gmail.com

Updates from Mount Mansfield Community Television

By Angelike Contis, MMCTV

Hats: Spring is around the corner, but for the time being we are stuck with this colder weather! But no matter the season, MMCTV has a hat to have you covered! We have two styles to choose from, each with a locally-embroidered design on the front. We have a thick knit beanie in charcoal grey, and a light grey baseball cap. Hats are \$25 each and proceeds help us keep up our local programming. We are happy to mail hats for a small fee, drop them off, or arrange pickup! If interested in snagging one of these snazzy hats, email us at mmctv15@gmail.com.

Hockey: Winter sports have been going strong, and our coverage of MMU hockey has never been more robust. Thanks to the work of filmmaker Tegan Greenberg, we livestreamed/ filmed 14 home games this season! You can watch livestreams at <https://www.youtube.com/@2mmctv/streams>, and recordings

Coming events continued from page 2

Apple Tree Pruning Workshop, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Pratt Refuge, Duxbury. Join Women Owning Woodlands for a free hands-on workshop to learn about and try simple techniques for pruning apple trees. Proper pruning helps to ensure the long-term structural integrity and health of the apple trees, making them stronger but and maximizing healthy fruit production. We will cover proper pruning techniques, timing, and how to determine what tool will meet your pruning needs. Bring along your pruning saw, loppers, and clippers to practice on some of the wild apples at the Refuge. Event Leaders: Caitlin Cusack, Forester, Vermont Land Trust; Rachel Grigorian, Landscape Designer, Clark Brook Designs. Contact Caitlin Cusack with questions and accommodation requests at caitlin@vlt.org or 802-989-9616.

Spring Soirée at DRML, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Road, Jericho. Welcome all to this annual Wine and Dessert event that you come to every year. The wines are all homemade by David Osborne at Snipe Island Wines on Nashville Road, and Dave donates them to us each year. The desserts and savory items are prepared by the Library Board. To add a little fun this year we will have a Jericho and an Underhill trivia quiz that you may wish to do. There will be a prize for each town winner: a \$25 gift certificate to Phoenix Books. Tickets are \$10 for admission and unlimited desserts, \$15 for one glass of wine and desserts, and \$20 for two glasses of wine and desserts. Donations are always welcome. All proceeds from this event will go directly to DRML. For information, call 802-899-4962. Come and join your friends to say goodbye to winter!

Monday, March 11
Lamoille County Legislative Breakfast, 8:00 – 9:30 AM, Jenna’s Promise, 117 Saint Johns Road, Johnson. The session begins with a light breakfast, followed by a short briefing by the legislators attending, and a Q&A session. Breakfast by Two Sons Bakehouse; coffee by Jenna’s Promise Roasting Company. Learn more and please register at <https://lamoilleeconomy.org/breakfast/>.

Tuesday, March 12
Researching Your Irish Ancestors, 7:00 PM, Vermont Genealogy Library, Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Rd. (VT Rt. 117), Essex Junction. As part of the 2024 Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, this free in-person presentation by Ed McGuire will provide a brief history of Irish immigration to North America and some of the major problems facing Irish researchers. Ed will discuss techniques for finding your ancestors’ parish and he’ll highlight the major record sets in Ireland. The talk will also cover major new collections that have appeared online recently. A handout listing key references and links to helpful online resources will be provided. Please register at www.vtgenlib.org.

Wednesday, March 13
Election Issues and Democracy: mis- and dis-information, 7:00 PM, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, located at 135 Main St., Montpelier. Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Vermont and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, this final event in the 2023-24 Lecture Series on *Election Issues and Democracy* presents journalist Dave Gram and M.E. Kabay, Emeritus Professor of Computer Information Systems at Norwich University, to discuss the issues of misinformation and disinformation and its potential impact on political campaigns. Sky Barsch, CEO of *VTDigger*, will moderate the discussion. The program will also be live-streamed by Onion River Community Access TV (orcamedia.net).

at https://archive.org/details/@mount_mansfield_community_television.

VAN updates: In a time when the cable revenue which we rely on is declining rapidly around the country, Vermont Access Network (made up of 24 community centers, including MMCTV) is working hard to carve out a new funding source for community media in the state! After a five-year effort, legislation supporting a Community Benefit Fund for future PEG support has been introduced in the Vermont House (H.657) and Senate (S.181). While we do this long-term effort, your donations today are extremely valuable! If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, consider making it a recurring gift! It’s easy to donate online at <https://mtmansfieldctv.org/donations/>.

Viewer Poll results: Thank you to those of you who participated in our viewer poll! And congratulations to our raffle winners Peter Booth and Jeff Forward, who each won an MMCTV hat, and David Sunshine, who won a \$20 Sweet Simone’s Gift Card. We greatly appreciated everyone who took the time to give us feedback. Here’s some of what we heard:

- You are happy overall with our meeting coverage, but suggest ways we can improve, such as reminding meeting leaders to stop sharing screens too long.
- You’d like more community and non-government content!
- Several of you would like more sports coverage; we will keep trying to schedule youth and pro videographers at MMU!
- Many viewers are interested in more local arts (dance recitals, music, etc.).

Thank you for everyone’s comments, and just a reminder that we take feedback all year round! Shoot us an email at mmctv15@gmail.com.

Vermont Wild Bees Matrix: a 55,000-piece puzzle

By Bernie Paquette

I have discovered a new world that seems unmoving without a close, attentive look. Yet I have observed over one thousand taxa (many at species level) of invertebrates in our 1.3-acre yard, including 98 bee species, over three years.

Who are Vermont’s 350 wild bee species?

I am searching for information about the lives of each of the 350(+) wild bee species that are known to be in Vermont: life cycle, behaviors, how they sense their world, how they gather food, their mating habits, how they raise families, how long they live, and about 75 other categories about their existence among us.

My goal is to mobilize and aggregate Vermont wild bee data into an easy-access, shareable, and updatable spreadsheet that allows users to sort, filter, and categorize the subset of data they wish to review.

This data set is meant to augment the data sets of other organizations such as the Vermont Center for Ecostudies

(Vermont Atlas of Life Species data set).

Come collaborate with me on this project by helping to piece together or fill in some of the 55,000 puzzle pieces about Vermont bees.

Every time I locate data and fill a cell with it I imagine I have earned an M&M! Fill in one cell, or ten, or however many you like, and let me know. It is a big puzzle and will take lots of hands to piece it together. Share some data, resources, or ideas (p.s. you have to provide your own M&Ms).

Process: The challenge is to locate or analyze existing knowledge about each of the species of Vermont bees. Organization tasks crowd with finding and collecting information into a common location and format.

I will detail the specific column headers of information being sought about all the VT bee species upon request. An overview is listed on my blog post at <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2024/02/vermont-wild-bees-matrix-55000-piece.html>. I am asking the online community to send me their puzzle pieces or data and I will enter them onto the master sheet as the online community reports the information.

Sources of the data are a requirement along with the submitted data.

I am open to suggestions for an easy-to-use submission system. In time I will create a specified format to transmit data to be added to the file, possibly a *Google Sheets* file or *See Click Fix* (<https://crm.seeclickfix.com/#/login>) type of tool. For now, emails to me will be the method of data transmission.

For more information, see my blog post at <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2024/02/vermont-wild-bees-matrix-55000-piece.html>.

I invite others to look closely through my *iNaturalist* postings, from the ninety-eight bee species to the dragonflies, hoverflies, beetles, and more. I promote ‘inverting’ via my VT Bug Eyed blog, Zoom presentations, single-panel nature-inspired comics (posted every Saturday), Six-Word Insect Memoirs, First in VT (insect) announcements, Jericho Underhill Life Search Game (JULS), stories (Meet Clara Bee Huginton — you will like her), and outdoor programs like my *Bug Safari* offering (see <https://vtbugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/08/bug-safari-on-nashville-road.html>).

Mostly, I want to share this fascinating world of everyone’s backyard for all to explore — to observe and get to know their closest neighbors.

Managing forests for resilience

By Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

Landowners often ask me: “is my forest healthy?” While this may seem like a simple question, the more time I spend working with forests, the more difficult it is to answer. While most people picture a “healthy” forest as one with lots of healthy trees, when we take a more holistic and expansive view of forest ecology, it’s actually much more complicated than that. More and more, I define forest health in terms of *resilience*.

The resilience of a forest is essentially its ability to persevere and to “bounce back” from adversity — to respond to threats, stressors, and disturbances while maintaining its productive

Community columns continued on page 5



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Update from the Vermont House

By Thomas Stevens, State Representative,
Washington-Chittenden

February 10

The Legislature just wrapped up the first third (six weeks) of the session. Much like we can learn to tell time of year by the height of the sun in the sky (when it reappears after a month behind the clouds), the Legislature can mark time by the service of our Pages, eighth-grade students from around the state who serve us in the State House for six-week stints. This week we said goodbye to the first group of pages, and then focused our thoughts on the next six-week period, which will see us work faster on a number of key issues and processes in front of us.

Over the next six weeks, committees will finish work on bills that are generated on our side of the building. Policy committees such as General and Housing finish this portion of our work on Friday, March 15 (the Ides of March!), while bills with money in them have a deadline of Friday, March 22. The deadline is the same in the Senate. Each body will then work to pass the bills in the full House or Senate, and then we will work on each other’s bills until the end of the session. This middle section will also include Town Meeting, and we will attend each of them in our district.

Reporting what passes out of committee or through the House is, by its nature, incomplete. While it represents *our* work, what we report won’t become law unless the Senate agrees to take up the bill and agree with it, with or without revision, and if that happens, it has to signed by the Governor.

That said, here’s what we passed the last two weeks, either in General and Housing or in the House: we’ve been focused on anti-discrimination work and passed H.363, which would ban discrimination based on hair styles. It is our variation on the CROWN act, which is language that has passed in 23 states already. We also passed H.751, which would extend equal pay protections to individuals in all protected classes.

We are gearing up to deal with a number of bills related to housing, in categories such as funding, building and landlord/tenant law.

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capacity and natural processes over time. It’s important to recognize that some amount of “adversity” is a normal and natural part of forest ecology — as long as there have been forests, there have been pests, parasites and pathogens, windstorms, ice storms, and forest fires. While these disturbances kill trees, they are as normal (and arguably as essential) a part of forest ecology as the trees themselves.

Key to their resilience is forests’ ability to *regenerate* — to grow new generations of trees in place of the old. In Vermont, we are blessed with forests that readily regenerate from all manner of disturbances — any time light reaches the forest floor, the forest responds with an explosion of new trees, shrubs, and plants. Over time, disturbances of different types, intensities, and frequencies can manifest *species diversity* (different species of trees, which regenerate under different light levels, soil conditions, and more), as well as *structural diversity* (different generations of trees) both within an individual forest and across our landscape.

Species diversity and structural diversity are both products of, and contributors to, a forest’s resilience. Different species and ages of trees help forests *risk-spread* — similar to how we might diversify a business or a stock portfolio, risk-spreading buffers forests from catastrophic and destabilizing events. For instance, if most of the trees in a forest are a single species, a pest or pathogen that attacks that species could stress or kill nearly all the trees in that forest. Similarly, if all the trees in the forest are the same age, a windstorm may topple virtually all of them at once. Having a diversity of tree species, sizes, and ages buffers a forest from these larger-scale, more harmful disturbances.

While resilience has always been a key component of healthy forests, today it is more vital than ever. Modern forests face an unprecedented array of threats and stressors that we refer to, collectively, as *global change*: the combination of climate change, non-native invasive plants, animals, pests and pathogens, deer overpopulation, forest fragmentation, deforestation, and more. To make matters worse, because of past land use (especially the agricultural clearing of the 1800s) our forests are generally young and simple, in most cases lacking the diversity so vital to their resilience.

It’s important to recognize that even if we lived in a landscape of diverse, old-growth forests, and even if climate change was the only threat that they faced, *climate change alone would test the limits of our forests’ resilience*. On a landscape of altered and degraded forests, and with all the threats posed by global change, it is unreasonable to expect forests to summon the resilience needed to survive this moment without our help.

How can we help forests build resilience? Most forests need, or will at least benefit from, some intervention: even if we do nothing else, it is vital that we protect forests’ ability to regenerate by doing things like controlling non-native invasive plants and protecting young trees from deer browse. We can also use forest management to help our forests build resilience: encouraging the development of species diversity and structural diversity, helping them adapt to a changing climate, creating habitats that are under-represented across our landscape and vital to our waning biodiversity.

As we learn what it means to care for ecosystems at this moment in time, it is critical that we move from a mentality that values *stability*: a forest’s ability to stay the same, to one that values *resilience*: a forest’s ability to respond to change and adversity when it invariably comes. In a changed and changing world, resilience is, and will likely always be, our forests’ greatest asset.

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

Nature notes from the CCC

From the Cambridge Conservation Commission

Just when we were all ready to put winter behind, it finally arrived! And it seems the animals around us have been confused, too. Many of our sightings have been, sadly, roadkill that we normally see on roadsides in spring. Raccoons, skunks, and

Senate update:
focused on kids, families

By Keshia Ram Hinsdale, State Senator
Chittenden-Southeast

February 29

Town Meeting Day marks the halfway point of our legislative session. I know there is a lot on your mind as you prepare to vote on local candidates. First, I wanted to share an alert from our Secretary of State:

A group called VT Grassroots is conducting a concerning “Voter Integrity” project in our area. This is a private organization not operating in any official capacity. While the group’s activity is lawful, their canvassing may cause distress and intimidate potential voters. Please know that no municipal or state programs would require you to answer questions about your registration status, residency, homeownership status, or home occupants at your door. Please visit <http://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters> for more information about voting and elections.

Now, I want to address some of the issues I’m hearing the most about from neighbors.

Property taxes

We are facing large school budget increases through factors beyond our districts’ control — things like inflation and loss of federal funds. But the Legislature also made the policy decisions to add universal school meals and increased pupil weighting for ELL and FRL students to the Education Fund. To me, this means we also have a duty to accompany those important policy decisions with new sources of revenue that alleviate pressure on homestead property taxpayers. We are looking at proposals like an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and a higher tax on second homes that would help us fill the gap without an automatic rise in homestead property tax rates.

Housing

We have a severe housing shortage while we simultaneously try to relocate unhoused families and find workforce housing and homeownership opportunities for middle class Vermonters who are being priced out of the housing market. Furthermore, putting our rising municipal and educational costs on a declining

opossums are often killed as they travel for breeding or food sources.

Barn owls are hooting, but March is the “normal” time for them to seek a mate.

One of the Cambridge Commission members found a TICK on their mate! A tick in FEBRUARY!

Other sightings — lots of wild turkeys, bluejays, and a bald eagle on the south side of VT Rt. 104 near Minor’s.

A new friend in Cambridge has a wild raven that roosts in her garden shed. The bird comes at dusk and leaves at dawn — how cool is that!

My roadworthy chest freezer:
Greta in winter

By Bill Schubart

In 2016, for only the second time in my life, I bought a new car, an emission-free Nissan Leaf. I named it “Greta.” I recently ran into a friend who has a Tesla all-electric vehicle (EV) also named “Greta.” I’m now wondering how many EVs there are in the world bearing the Swedish teenager’s name (Greta Thunberg).

I’m comfortable saying it was the extraordinary courage of this young woman who could be my granddaughter that drove my decision to go all-electric. “Okay, Boomer,” I said to myself, “It’s your turn to help leave a habitable world for the next generation.” Almost eight years later, I’m now on my fourth Nissan Leaf.

As someone who frequently writes about health issues, I’m familiar with the DSM-5, the standard reference work for mental disorders like anxiety. They should consider adding “range anxiety” to their list of emotional symptoms. You may think that “range anxiety” is a fear that your pots and pans won’t work on your induction stovetop (I’ve suffered from that, too) but it’s anxiety over whether or not you’ll make it home in your EV, especially in winter. My primary-care doc’s never heard of it, but she has a BMW.

When I bought my first Greta, my only question was driving range between charges, a deciding factor for most potential buyers. The range was nominally 150 miles. My benchmark was the 88-mile roundtrip between my home in Hinesburg and Montpelier. Seemed to be fine.

I set out on my first excursion with a full 152 miles on the gauge. When I got to Montpelier, I expected to find it down 44 miles, but it was, in fact, down twice that — about 66 miles left to go before I’d need a charge. This didn’t make sense, so before heading home, I pulled out the manual and read what I’d neglected to read before buying Greta.

Like all living things, her capacity is temperature-dependent. It was 10° above when I left the house so I had turned on the heat. Now, I had no choice but to risk a straight shot home.

Leaving Montpelier, I turned off the heat, and at 65 mph on the Interstate, scraped my freezing breath off the inside of the windshield with a Shell credit card while watching the miles disappear on the range indicator faster than on the odometer. I panicked.

When I got off the Interstate in Richmond and turned onto Kenyon Road, I turned off the headlights and radio, only turning the lights on again when I encountered an oncoming car.

I made it home with two miles to go.

I just sat in the dark, overwhelmed with gratitude and thinking to myself, “Should I buy a powerful flashlight to mount on Greta’s roof, a wool blanket for myself, or a mile-long extension cord in case the battery dies in a rural area and I need to plug into a nearby farmhouse?”

I’m generally not one to read user manuals. I consider myself intuitive when it comes to tools and technology, though I’m often wrong. I ask you, who wants to read a 500-page manual in five languages that fills up a glove compartment and contains mostly warnings written by lawyers?

When I finally settled in to read Nissan’s version of War and Peace, I learned that Greta’s batteries will be severely damaged by exposure to temperatures below 13° below and that she uses battery juice to keep her battery from freezing in winter while just sitting in the driveway. I’ve lived in Vermont for 75 years

housing stock will continue to escalate individual tax burdens. Our housing bill, the Bringing Everyone Home (BE Home Bill) alleviates state regulatory pressure on the housing market while making smart investments in first-generation homeowners and rehabilitating blighted properties. It is now being taken up by the other Senate committees of jurisdiction and we look forward to its ultimate advance.

Youth mental health

On a personal note, my husband and I are expecting again, soon to become the proud parents of two children under two years! Family well-being and youth mental health are on the minds of many parents, including ours. They are also cost drivers in our Education Fund, as our schools seek to help children in crisis. I am committed to passing bills that put our families and children first. Here are just a few...

- **Baby Bonds:** It has been a privilege to work with Treasurer Mike Picciak on a financial tool that has real potential to close the wealth gap in this state and country. We have been working with national scholars on the social policy of “Baby Bonds,” which would invest \$10,000 on behalf of all children born into Medicaid-eligible families. The money is deposited into an interest-bearing account and our young people can access their investment when they are at least 18 years old to pay for housing, education, training, or a business to give them the best possible opportunity to build wealth early in life, when it counts the most.

- **Ghost guns:** The possession and distribution of untraceable firearms or “Ghost Guns” poses a serious threat to our communities. With gun violence and teen suicide on the rise, it is important we do all we can to ensure all firearms are subject to background checks, including ones that are kit-made or 3-D printed. S.209, which would require all firearms to have serial numbers, was just passed by the Senate on a 26-3 vote. I want my children to grow up being able to play and go to school safely, and common sense gun legislation is crucial to creating a safer Vermont for future generations.

- **Kids Code:** Social media is the largest driver of negative youth mental health impacts. Rates of hospitalization for depression and eating disorders have skyrocketed since 2010,

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and have yet to see a winter when it didn’t get colder than that. I remember a sunny, dry winter day in Lincoln at -38°.

Did this mean I should try and bring her in the house? I imagined Greta parked near the woodstove with our two cats curled up on the hood purring.

More important, could Greta even survive here, much less provide frigid transportation beyond a few miles from home? I began to worry.

When I was young and poor as wood, I was on my fifth rusty VW Bug. I routinely drove them until they died and then bought another for \$350. Bugs were notorious for their heater boxes rusting out and most of the ones I had had no heat. Some Bug owners installed gas heaters in the space where the glove box was, but they were notoriously dangerous and expensive.

I’d get so cold in winter that I imagined removing the passenger seat and installing a tiny Jotul 602 woodstove there with a steel vent going out the sunroof, but I was talked out of it by people who knew more than me, of which there were many when I was that age.

Now on my fourth Leaf, I’ve learned that by monitoring the temperature and my energy usage as I drive, using the eco-pedal to recharge as I drive, charging every night at home during off-peak hours, I can manage quite well. And I haven’t bought junk food or fuel in a gas station for years.

When I first got it, I used to take pleasure in driving up to our local service station in Hinesburg and saying, “Fill’er up.” It didn’t take long for my joke to wear thin and the attendant didn’t even bother to come out when I pulled up.

Only once have I used a public charging station. To charge Greta fully takes up to eight hours on a 220-volt charger and twice that on a 110-volt household outlet. That’s more coffee than I can drink in one sitting. I thought about keeping a folding cot in the trunk, but my trunk is taken up entirely by my mile-long extension cord.

But more important than my personal comfort are the larger environmental implications of continuing to burn fossil fuel. According to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, transportation accounts for 38% of the state’s carbon emissions and in spite of earnest expressions of concerns and many unfulfilled commitments, emissions have increased in recent years and are 16% higher than they were in 1990.

A recent United Nations report has been unsparing on the havoc we’re wreaking on our children’s and grandchildren’s home as a result of continued emissions of carbon dioxide and toxics.

While pro-business forces from the Ethan Allen Institute and the VT Fuel Dealers Association have opposed the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), TCI is supported by Democratic leaders in both chambers and a number of Vermont environmental groups. According to his website, Governor Scott now supports regional and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas from transportation and heating sources.

As I get even older than I am now, I know that much of the remaining work I have left to do on Earth is to try and leave a better, more just place for my children and grandchildren.

It’s disheartening to hear special interests and climate deniers froth on about their temporal material interests. I wonder what they think when they gather over the holidays with their children and grandchildren. As they play together, do they never imagine their progeny trying to make it in a world of uncontrollable fires, floods and rising sea levels, massive climate migrations, and dying food systems, all so they can drive a fossil fuel car or get their convenience foods in un-recyclable plastic? Our children comprise a quarter of our country and they will inherit our mess.

In Matthew 5:5 from the Sermon on the Mount, one of the Beatitudes tells us the meek shall inherit the Earth. Our children, who will inherit the Earth, are finding their voice and are no longer meek. We owe it to them to listen.

Sometimes when I’m driving Greta late at night. I stare at the range indicator, anxious about whether I’ll make it home, I hear Greta whisper to me, “Okay, Boomer, you did good.” To a braver, kinder, livable new world!

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

Our artist for the month of March is Beverly Doyle.

Adult programs

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi for Fall Prevention. Age Well and DRML are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Falls Prevention for those 60+ or those who have limiting conditions that would like to improve their balance, strength, and well-being. We will learn the Sun Style Form and ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed. The form can be adapted to your personal needs, so all can participate fully. In person at DRML, or ZOOM from the comfort of your own home. Zoom link will be provided. Registration required, please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne at joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 7, 21, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters Group. Join us at DRML in the fireplace room for a couple of hours of crafting and conversation with your neighbors. All are welcome, beginner to expert, in any craft you can transport. Hope to meet you there! Any questions — please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhehir@comcast.net.

Saturday, March 9, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Spring Soirée. Welcome all to this annual Wine and Dessert event that you come to every year. The wines are all homemade by David Osborne at Snipe Island Wines on Nashville Road, and Dave donates them to us each year. The desserts and savory items are prepared by the Library Board. To add a little fun this year we will have a Jericho and an Underhill trivia quiz that you may wish to do. There will be a prize for each town winner: a \$25 gift certificate to Phoenix Books. Tickets are \$10 for admission and unlimited desserts, \$15 for one glass of wine and desserts, and \$20 for two glasses of wine and desserts. Donations are always welcome. All proceeds from this event will go directly to DRML. For information, call 802-899-4962. Come and join your friends to say goodbye to winter!

Monday, March 11, 1:00 PM: Mah Jongg is back! Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you'll love Mah Jongg! All are welcome, no experience necessary!

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers, a monthly adult book discussion group. This month's selection is Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join, contact Chrstiine@cstaffa.com.

Thursdays, March 14, April 11, and May 9, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Representatives Trevor Squirrel and Edye Graning will be holding monthly legislative updates for Jericho and Underhill residents at the Library. We hope to have remote attendance capability for these updates and will provide that information as we get closer to the event date. If you have specific questions or would like to know what is being discussed at the statehouse, please join us for this conversation.

Friday, March 15, 7:00 PM: The History of Coinage — pre-Roman to Vermont and United States coinage. Rick Heh of the Underhill Historical Society will describe and show examples of the earliest coinage known, followed by Roman coins, American Colonial and Vermont coins, on up to modern U.S. coinage. Before the invention of coinage, trade for goods and services was done... with the exchange of goods and services. The introduction of coins resulted in profound mental and cultural change. Coins were much lighter and easier to carry around than, say, hogs in a cart. It was a whole new way of thinking about “value” and the transaction of goods and services! Rick Heh retired from 35 years at IBM and Global Foundries, and has lived in Underhill 39 years and served the community in many roles. During the past 20 years he has appraised, bought and sold coins and helped collectors to find coins to complete their collections, and is a member of the American Numismatic Association, Numismatic Guaranty Company, and Professional Coin Grading Service and has taken advanced courses at the ANA in Colorado Springs, specializing in Counterfeit Coin Detection, Advanced Coin Grading, and World Coin Grading and Attribution.

Saturday, March 16, 10:00 AM: Jericho/Underhill Coffee Hour at DRML. Each month Jericho and Underhill residents are invited by the Community Center in Jericho to a relaxing hour or so of coffee, interesting conversation, and getting to know one another or seeing old friends. All are invited! Take a break in your busy day and come join us. This gathering is an effort by the Community Center committee to encourage and strengthen our feelings of a shared community.

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM: Board of Trustees meeting, in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@gmail.com) to receive the link to attend.

Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Club. Discussing A Distant Grave by Sarah Stewart Taylor. If you need a copy, call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. We meet in-person in the program room. A Zoom link is available. Email Holly at drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com for a link.

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 PM: Romance Book Club. Join us for the first meeting of the Romance Book Club, as we discuss our favorite literary declarations, miscommunications, and reconciliations. Everyone and every book is welcome! We will meet in the Fireplace Room, and a Zoom link is available upon request. Please email program_assistant@drml.org with any questions.

Thursday, March 28, 10:30 AM: Mah Jongg is back! Please join us as we explore the ancient Chinese tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you'll love Mah Jongg! All are welcome, no experience necessary!

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 PM: JETF Guest Presenter. Jericho Energy Task Force (JETF) presents a guest speaker at the DRML! Stay tuned for more details.

Youth programs

Here is what's going on this month! All programs meet in person at DRML, unless otherwise specified.

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby Toddler Storytime. [ages 0-5] Join us for a baby and toddler focused story time with tickles, bounces, songs, rhymes, and — of course — stories.

Fridays, 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London. [ages 0-5] What makes Friday so great? Songs and stories with Beth and David London. Hope to see you there!

Tuesday, March 5, 3:00 PM: Bookmark Pennants [all ages] Give old bookmarks new life by making them into beautiful pennant strings. We've got all the supplies you need to make a great new decoration for your space.

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [ages 8+] We're hosting three sessions of Animation Club in March! There will be time to work on your own animations, as well as a secret project for the library. Please sign up for this very popular program when you call, visit or email the library.

Fridays, March 15, 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+] Build a snowflake, a snowman or a ski slope! Use a challenge card for inspiration or flip through the LEGO Ideas book. Any way you look at it, there's no wrong way to LEGO! Please sign up for this very popular program when you call, visit or email the library.

Wednesday, March 20, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Read to Wyatt [all ages] Cozy up to therapy dog Wyatt and read him a story. He loves Elephant and Piggie, but is happy to listen to anything you want to read. Sign up for a 15-minute spot when you call, email or visit the library.

Saturday, March 23, 11:00 AM: Solar Eclipse Science and Safety [all ages] Join Vermont Astronomical Society member Scott Turnbull for information on how to safely observe the upcoming eclipse and the science behind it.

Tuesday, March 26, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: STEM Stations [ages 8+] Join us as the program room is transformed into a science lab! We'll have stations for Makey Makey simple circuit boards, a 3D Doodle pen, and some LEGO Education STEM kits. Each visitor will get about 20 minutes at each station before we switch.

Thursday, March 28, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Minecraft Social [ages 8+] Come hang out at the library and play Minecraft. Make new friends, or find old ones. Since this is getting so popular please sign up! Please bring your device if you have one. The library only has a few to borrow.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: New Baby Social — save the date! We'll host a New Baby Social for all the little ones in Jericho and Underhill born in 2023. We'll have a short story time around 10:30 AM, and there will be plenty of time to select a picture book to put a dedication plate in.

Please visit drml.org or call 802-899-4962 for the most up-to-date information. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml.org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

New hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Please join us for the following weekly programs and special events at Jericho Town Library in Jericho, VT. Building accessibility note: we are working hard on a project to make our historic building accessible to all Vermonters, but visitors must currently use a set of stairs to get to the front entrance of the building and a longer staircase to reach the second floor. We are committed to serving all members of our community; if you cannot enter our current building and would like to attend one of our programs, please reach out so that we can try to modify our plans.

Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:00 AM: Storytime Yoga. This interactive, movement-based storytime is designed for kids ages 6 and under (with an accompanying adult).

Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Playgroup. Make new friends and enjoy our second floor play area for two hours of unstructured play. Kids 6 and under (with an accompanying adult).

Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Romp & Rhyme. Drop in for a short storytime, followed by unstructured play on the second floor of the library. Babies and toddlers (with an accompanying adult).

In March, we will be launching a Speculative Fiction Book Club for adults who love science fiction, fantasy, alternate histories, dystopian novels, and anything just a little bit weird! Please check our website for details.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

In case you missed it, our own library was featured on Vermont Public's *Brave Little State* podcast! Hear the entire episode on your streaming service, or online at <https://www.vermontpublic.org/podcast/brave-little-state/2024-02-08/not-just-academics-and-diversions-how-libraries-remain-at-the-heart-of-vermont-towns>.

There are still a few AARP Tax appointments available, just call to make the reservation: AARP TaxAide is providing free in-person help by appointment at the Varnum on Mondays, March 11, 18, and 25. There are still appointments available for in-person tax preparation done by IRS certified volunteers. The program is open to taxpayers of all ages; AARP membership is not required. Contact the library to set up an appointment: 802-644-2117.

We are still waiting for confirmation regarding a couple of regularly scheduled programs, so please be sure to call or check back with our website, <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>. Program descriptions can be found on the website, as well. Our regular weekly offerings this month:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 (ish) AM: Story Time for all ages.

Tuesdays, March 12, 19 26, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Board Games for All.

Wednesday, March 13, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: Dungeons and Dragons.

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Crafternoon.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

Thursdays, March 14 and 28, 4:30 – 6:00 PM: Boundless Book Club.

Thursday, March 21, 3:30 – 4:00 PM: Afternoon Story Time.

Thursday, March 21, 4:30 – 5:30 PM: Adult Crafting with Patty.

Saturday, March 9, 9:00 – 10:30 AM: Teens Teaching Technology.

Saturday, March 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Make Your Own Beaded Bookmarks.

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Teen Advisory Board. The Varnum staff and volunteers always look forward to seeing you so don't be a stranger!

The Varnum Library, Jeffersonville; <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>, 802-644-2117

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday/Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday unless otherwise noted.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. Patrons of all ages are welcome; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. If you feel you need curbside service, for whatever reason, please email Bree at the library (westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

New art at the Library: *Over Time*, a multimedia exhibition. Long-time Westford resident Janet Jaffe will display selected artworks from her diverse personal collection at the Westford Public Library from mid March-June. Although primarily recognized as an improvisational art quilter, Janet has long maintained her primary form of creative expression is doodling. She finds inspiration everywhere. In addition to a collection of wall quilts, viewers can expect to see pen drawings as well as assorted works assembled with recycled components, items found in nature, acquired at flea markets, and found in her world travels. Come to an Opening Reception on Friday, March 22, 6:30 – 8:00 PM to meet the artist. Refreshments served.

Zentangle is a relaxing and forgiving drawing art form, taught by Zentangle certified instructor Julia Davenport. We work on a small scale with minimal tools. If you can write your name, you can do this art form. It is a great brain break and calms the nervous system, and you will be amazed at what you can create. Two opportunities are offered:

- Mondays, March 12, 19, afterschool 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Zentangle for kids grade 2 and up. Snack and supplies provided. Kids ride the bus from school with a note from home; signup for both days required.

- Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: Zentangle for adults. Come relax and have fun with other adults! All supplies and snacks provided. Signup required.

Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Crafting with Marianne. Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: LEGO Club. Grades 1-4, signup required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. More information on bussing to those who sign up. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun! Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early. Priority will be giving to kids who did not get in the first session.

Thursdays, 11:30 AM, inside the library: Early Literacy Storytime. We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. March 7: Chicks; March 14: Green; March 21: Bunnies; March 28: Eggs.

First Thursday of the month (March 7), 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Makers' Group. All types of crafters are welcome to attend. Bring projects to show off, share expertise, and enjoy each others' company.

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Community Conversation about possible Library Capital Improvements. The Westford Public Library has the opportunity to apply for a grant through the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries. We hope to use this grant to make significant improvements to the interior space of the library and make the building fully ADA compliant. We have worked with Black River Designs architects to come up with conceptual plans in order to apply for this once in a lifetime grant opportunity. Come see what we are thinking of doing. We will plan more of these meetings if we secure this grant. This is more of a conceptual “show and tell”. We hope to see our active library users.

Tuesdays, March 12, 26, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Whatever your game — we will play it. Meet with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards — a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, especially looking to connect with seniors. Please be prompt so we can include all in play.

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Trustees Meeting. Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: The World of Weather — Pulling Back the Curtain on What the National Weather Service Does. Do you find weather fascinating? Always wondered how the forecast comes to be? NOAA Meteorologist Jessica Storm and staff from the Burlington Office of the National Weather Service will give a presentation on how they forecast the weather. Bring your weather questions!

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group reads The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. An astounding novel of decadence, debauchery, and secrecy from one of Ireland's greatest writers. Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray makes a Faustian bargain to sell his soul in exchange for eternal youth and beauty. Under the influence of Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, where he is able to indulge his desires while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only Dorian's picture bears the traces of his decadence. A knowing account of a secret life and an analysis of the darker side of late Victorian society, the novel offers a disturbing portrait of an individual coming face to face with the reality of his soul. Shocking in its suggestion of unspeakable sin, this novel was later used as evidence against Wilde when he was tried for indecency in 1895. Print and audio copies available at the library; ebook and audio books available on Libby.

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Table Top Game Night. Hosted by avid table top gamers Bill and Martha McClintock who will bring games from their extensive home game collection to share with those who come. This is a new group, so we will see how it goes. Please come to make things like this possible. Snacks provided. Bring your own beverages.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (March 6, April 3), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (March 18), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and

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household items.
Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/WestfordVT pl](http://www.twitter.com/WestfordVTpl)). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; www.westfordpubliclibrary.org; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

March is national craft month! Here are a few books you can find in the library to help inspire you to get creative: Cat castles: 20 cardboard habitats you can build yourself, by Carin Oliver; Totally twisted: innovative wirework + art glass jewelry, by Kerry Bogert; Practical pottery, by Jon Schmidt; Create a costume! by Sarah Myer; The knitter’s year: 52 make-in-a-week projects, quick gifts and seasonal knits, by Debbie Bliss; Cross-stitch to calm: stitch and de-stress with 40 simple patterns, by Leah Lintz; Hello, watercolor! Creative techniques and inspiring projects for the beginning artist, by Jeannie Dickson

Please sign up at least one week before the program date — all events are free unless noted. Where pre-registration is required, please call 802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Youth events

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children’s books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Mondays, March 11-25, 3:00 PM: Chess Club. Chess Club is starting up again! Learning chess has been proven to have many benefits: such as building creativity, problem solving and concentration! Ages 7+. Space is limited, so email libraryfairfax@gmail.com to sign up!

Tuesdays, March 12, 26, 5:30 PM: D&D Club. Dragons! Danger! Dice! The library is now hosting a middle school Dungeons&Dragons (D&D) club. Join our DM, Nic, and create a character to take on exciting magical adventures! No prior D&D knowledge is necessary, and players of all experience levels are welcome. Materials provided. Grades 5-8. Club meets every other Tuesday. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Tuesday, March 5, 3:00 PM: LEGO Club. Kids ages 6+ enjoy themed LEGO play after school. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 6, 3:00 PM: Tie Dye Style Sharpie Art. Create swirly, tie dye style art with sharpies and rubbing alcohol! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 13, 3:00 PM: Orbeez Galaxy/Diorama Jars. Make art in a jar with crushed Orbeez! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 20, 1:00 PM: Perler Bead Crafternoon. Spend some time making designs with Perler beads! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 PM: Bead Pins and Jewelry. Learn how to make pins and jewelry from safety pins and beads! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Tuesdays, March 12, 19, 26, 5:30 PM: Mandarin Club with Keyuan Xiang. Interested in learning Mandarin, or just want to know more about Chinese culture? Join Keyuan Xiang at the library for lessons! You don’t need to come to each club meeting, but registration is required for the day or days you would like to attend. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Saturday, March 9, 10:30 AM: Needle Felted Eggs with Nicole Bachand. Join Nicole to learn the basics of needle felting, and make fuzzy festive eggs! Materials provided. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Thursday, March 28, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is The Road from Coorain by Jill K. Conway. Book

club will meet in the library. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

Family events

March 1-31: Marshmallow Peeps Pageant! Make a book-themed diorama with marshmallow peeps — the sillier the better! For some inspiration, check out the board of ideas the library has curated, at <https://www.pinterest.com/fairfaxl/peep-pageant-inspiration/>. We will have both a physical display in the library and a virtual gallery online, so feel free to bring in your peep creations yourself, or send a picture of it to libraryfairfax@gmail.com. The cutoff date is Sunday, March 31, so make sure to submit your dioramas before then!

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

Useful links: website, <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org>; VTGrandpa, <http://www.vtgrandpa.com/>; Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fairfax-Community-Library/160431583972368>; Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/fairfaxcommunitylibrary/>.

Fairfax Community Library, 75 Hunt Street, Fairfax; 802-849-2420; <http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org>; 802-849-2420.

Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Friday, 1:00 – 4:15 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Wednesday, March 13: Vermont Reads: Last Night at the Telegraph Club. RFL joins libraries and community groups around Vermont in a big community facilitated discussion of this novel by Malinda Lo. The book is suited for teens and adults and focuses on a Chinese American older teencoming of age in 1950s San Francisco. Copies of the book are available to take home (to keep or to borrow) now. There will be a free swing dancing lesson on Friday, April 5 and community art with Radiate Art Space later in April. Join us as we explore themes of Chinese American immigrant experience, McCarthyism, and queerness in mid-century America.

Tuesday mornings through April 9: AARP Volunteer Tax Preparers. Volunteers working with AARP are meeting with seniors to prepare tax returns in the library community room. Call the library (802-434-3036) to schedule an appointment.

Weekly/Monthly Children’s Programs

Weekly programs at the RFL run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant-five years and their grownups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 10:30 AM: Baby Laptime. This short, active story time is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We’ll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. This program is designed for infants and early toddlers.

Third Saturday (March 16) of every month, September-May, 10:30 AM: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime). Join native Spanish speakers Chichi and Eva in the Community Room for 30 minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language.

Trustees Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (March 11) via Zoom until further notice. All meetings are open to the public.

Library hours: open for in-person browsing and pick-up at the circulation desk on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Chess Time. Whether you’re just learning or already play a good chess game, you are welcome at this Chess Time. For all ages.

Tuesday, 5:00 – 6:00 PM: Learn to Crochet and Knit. Meet up in the Main Reading Room and pick up the basics of crochet and knitting. Feel free to bring projects and hang out with new fiber artists!

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

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

For all ages

COVID Test Kits are back, thanks to our friends at Vermont Center for Independent Living. You may take up to four kits per person in your household. Available while supplies last.

Accepting book donations! Two boxes accepted (per household/per week) that are easy for us to carry. Fiction and nonfiction, juvenile and adult, hardcover and paperback in very good condition, that we may put into our collection or sell in our June book sale to benefit the Children’s Summer Reading Program. No textbooks, magazines, VHS, encyclopedias, multi-volume sets, technology or travel books over five years old, mildewed, stained or smoky items please. Thank you so much!

Children’s area

Saturday, March 16, 1:00 PM, Memorial Hall: 802 Reptiles. Join us to learn all about raising snakes as pets, and even get your picture taken with one!

Through Saturday, March 30: Bear Bingo. Bears have decided that the library is the place to spend the winter! Can you find them all? Grab a bear bingo sheet and search the library for as many as you can find. When you find one, grab a sticker and put it on the matching bear on your sheet. Each completed row earns you a raffle ticket. Tickets can be entered into the raffle box in the children’s room for a chance to win a copy of a bear themed picture book! Happy Hunting (but don’t wake the bears!)

Exploration Station: Ongoing. See the blue table for this week’s challenge.

Storywalk® along the back garden fence.

Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen. Rock’n’read with Miss Noreen!

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM: Storytime with Ms. Emily. Stories and songs for young patrons.

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Come and check out our great collection of LEGOs! No pre-registration necessary. Best for ages 9 and up, or 6 and up with an adult helper.

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Pokemon Club. Open to grades 4-8. Pokemon decks available for kids to play the card games, as well as some themed crafts available. Participants are invited to bring their own handheld video game devices or tablets to play their own Pokemon games or Pokemon Go.

Fridays while supplies last: Grab n’Go Craft Kits.

Adult area

Wednesdays through March 27, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: French Club for Adults. Voulez-vous pratiquer le français ensemble? (Do you want to practice French together?). Designed for adults with some basic (Level 1) French skills who want to improve their French conversation skills and expand their French vocabulary. Meets in the Mezzanine.

Library news continued on page 8

WORSHIP SERVICES

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant community. We are young and old; straight and LGBTQIA; singles, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. We are an Open and Affirming and Reconciling church, which means all ARE truly welcome. We are the Old Fashioned Harvest Market Church, the Clutter Barn Church, and a church of fellowship, mission, and service. We gather to worship together virtually and in-person every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM for a traditional but lively service with music, and Sunday School and nursery for the children. We welcome you to join us for worship or just come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor’s

office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary email secretary@ucu.church. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>.

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in person or on Zoom. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church

“An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message”

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT
Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Pete Anderson
Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages
Fellowship time at 9:30 AM
Worship Service at 10:00 AM
Nursery care provided
Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building
802-899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible — all are welcome! There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. Weekday online offerings include Centering Prayer. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren’t sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at www.goodshephrdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. The Spirit is stirring in

this little church. Come be a part of it! Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho and worships Sundays at 9:30 AM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453.

St. Thomas Catholic Church

St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center invites you to join us in person for the Holy Mass at 8:30 AM every Sunday. There is also a vigil Mass at 4:00 PM on Saturday evenings. Our priest, Fr. Richard Calapan, also celebrates Mass during the week, on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and Fridays at 8:00 AM. Confessions are available on Tuesdays before Mass. Visit us at www.stthomasvt.com or call 802-899-4632 for more information.

Covenant Community Church — “Come As You Are!”

What is the Covenant? The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo — people united in Christ, people serving people in God’s name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one’s arms are outstretched, indicating the church’s outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call “the Covenant.”

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 – 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 – 11:00 AM; Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM – ?

Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo’s)

Waterville Union Church

We meet in person at 9:30 AM at the church; masks recommended. Zoom is only available when there is bad weather or illness of a speaker. We do not post our recorded services to Facebook. But information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>, watervilleunionchurchvt@gmail.com; 32 Church St., Waterville.

Obituaries continued from page 8



Burns; by her children Rick Wheatley of Oslo, Norway, Kate (Wheatley) and Dan Bacon of Freeport, ME, and Jon Wheatley and Chrissy Hart of South Portland, ME; grandchildren Malou Wheatley, Hannah Bacon, Zack Wheatley, Mattias Wheatley, and Charlie Bacon. Kit is also remembered by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. A funeral mass will be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center, VT. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Kit’s name may be made to Hospice of Southern Maine (<https://www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org>) or to the ALS Association, Northeast Territory (www.als.org).

Lucinda “Cindy” Sherman Hamlet of Underhill, VT passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, after a courageous 14-year battle with Parkinson’s disease. Cindy was born in Watertown, NY to Virginia and Nathaniel Sherman. Cindy and her siblings were raised on a farm outside of Watertown, which engendered Cindy’s lifelong love of all creatures, big and small. After high school, hoping to meet the cowboy of her dreams, Cindy ventured west to Bozeman, MT and enrolled at Montana State University. After two years, she transferred to the University of Colorado, where she fell in love

with a man from Boston, MA, Stanton Hamlet. After graduation, the couple married and moved to Lexington, MA for a few years before finally settling in Vermont. Cindy and Stan raised their three children on a farm in Underhill, where they collected goats, sheep, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, cats, and dogs. For many years, Cindy taught kindergarten at Orchard School in South Burlington, VT, where she was adored by her students and coworkers. Cindy maintained deep and lasting friendships wherever she went. She served on the Underhill Library Board and participated in hiking groups, ski groups, bridge groups, and book clubs in both Burlington and Underhill. Cindy’s favorite activities took place outdoors — she loved to hike, bike, snowshoe, and ski. In her later years she would walk the trails daily near her Harvey Road home, with walking sticks and her beloved dog, Josie. Cindy leaves behind her three children: Russ and his wife, Meg Hamlet, of Bainbridge Island, WA; Penny and her husband, Peter Serrurier, of Portland, OR; and Sandy and her husband, Fred Barber, of Cambridge, VT. Cindy had four beloved grandsons: Alex Serrurier, Nathaniel Serrurier, Curren Hamlet, and Ethan Barber. Cindy also leaves behind her two siblings, Carol Sherman Knapp of Damariscotta, ME and Chick Sherman of Watertown, NY. Cindy’s husband of nearly 50 years died in 2010. Cindy’s children are grateful to the University of Vermont Hospice and the incredible community of Underhill, where Cindy leaves behind so many wonderful neighbors and friends. There will be no services, but please consider a gift in honor of Cindy to the Underhill Historical Society or the Vermont Land Trust.

Jack Long, age 74, longtime resident of Jericho, VT, died at home on Saturday, February 17, 2024, his life shortened by high-grade glioblastoma. Jack was born in Washington, D.C. to Madeline F. and Brig. Gen. Robert F. Long. His early years and education were spent in multiple locations in the U.S., followed by college at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and medical school at the University of Vermont ((Burlington, VT), where he received his MD in 1975. His pediatric training included residency programs at the University of Rochester and the University of Washington and a fellowship in Neonatology at UVM. Throughout his long career in pediatrics in Vermont and Haiti, Jack embodied the philosophy of an early mentor, GRUSK with PAP: be gentle, respectful, understanding, sensitive, and kind,

We are all Waiting for Wildflowers: Spring’s Gifts, and an online offering on that topic from the VT Land Trust on Thursday, March 28, 7:00 – 8:00 PM may help you weather the wait for those first wildflowers. VT Land Trust presenter biologist Liz Thompson will help



you learn about the woodland wildflowers that will appear in April and May — what they are, where they grow, and what they tell us about the woods. Please pre-register at <https://vlt.org/events/waiting-for-wildflowers-springs-gifts/>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



MD, and wife, Leslie Bradford, MD, their children Madeline and J.Merrill Long. Other family members include his two sisters, Patricia Davis and Kathy Famulari (Tom); Wing in-laws; and nieces and nephews. The family is grateful for the excellent care provided by his neuro-oncologist, Dr. Alissa Ashley Thomas and numerous teams at the University of Vermont Medical Center and UVM Home Health & Hospice. We will forever celebrate the gift of Jack’s life and mourn its loss. There will be no public services.

SUMMER CAMPS

Girl Scout day and overnight camps

Registrations are open for Girl Scout day and overnight camps for this summer! Our nearest day camp is located in Richmond on a lovely parcel in the woods, and our overnight camp is in Thetford.

If that’s your jam, come join us!
Here are the postings from Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains:

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Twin Hills! Camp Twin Hills is located in Richmond, VT and offers one-week and two-week sessions for campers in kindergarten through grade 10. Visit the link to learn more about our programs and bus routes: https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/content/dam/girlscoutsgwm-redesign/documents/2017_camp/2024-camp/2024-Twin-Hills-Day-Camp-flyer-final.pdf.

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Farnsworth! Camp Farnsworth is located in Thetford, VT on Lake Abenaki and offers sessions ranging from four days to two weeks for campers in grades 1-12. Visit the link to learn more about our programs: https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/content/dam/girlscoutsgwm-redesign/documents/2017_camp/2024-camp/2024-Camp-Farnsworth-flyer-final.pdf.

Lake Champlain Yacht Club’s Junior Sailing Camps

Lake Champlain Yacht Club’s (LCYC’s) Junior Sailing camps are open to children ages 8-17. Our program creates a love of sailing. Your child will learn safe on-water practices while having fun and gaining a sense of stewardship for Lake Champlain.

Registration is open for the 2024 season. Don’t miss out on all the summer fun! Sessions are week-long half-day and full-day for new and experienced sailors. LCYC’s program builds confidence and independence. Instructors are U.S. Sailing certified and maintain Red Cross First Aid and CPR qualifications.

For more information go to <https://lcyf.info/junior-sailing> and click on Junior Sailing.

Summer camp registration open at Saxon Hill School

Register today for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho!

Weekly camps at Saxon Hill School provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. Saxon Hill School camps engage children with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun.

Our camps are designed for children ages 3-6. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure, counselors will aim to focus each week on children’s interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open!

Camps run weekly from June 10- August 12, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

Pleasant Valley Porter Farm Summer Camp

We are pleased to announce openings for our summer camp for children ages 4-12. Join us on the farm for some great summer fun! Camps operate 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Monday-Friday, July 15-August 9:

- Farm Adventure: ages 4-5;
- Navigation and Exploration: ages 6-8;

- The Woods We Live In: ages 9-12.

We offer campers a variety of summer activities, creative play, art, exploring and swimming, and handwork on a farm setting along the Seymour River in Pleasant Valley, Cambridge.

For more information about the summer schedule, camp details, or registration, please visit our website <https://www.maryelizabethfarmschool.com/programs>.

Chittenden County Soccer School

By Eric Barker

Registration is open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2024, Monday-Friday, July 8-12 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the “love of the game” to all our players.

Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

There are half-day and full-day camp options, and age groups range from 5-16+.

Please email barkereric15@gmail.com, with any questions. Or visit our website at <http://chittendencountysoccerschool.org>.

Registration open for summer camps at Poker Hill Arts

Summer dreamin’ on a cold winter’s day! Registration is open for two camps: Art from Nature, Monday-Wednesday, July 1-3; and Fairy Camps, from Mondays, July 8 or 15. See Poker Hill Arts summer camps online at <https://www.pokerhillarts.com/summer-camps>.

Poker Hill Arts will also offer Musical Theater camps from Mondays, July 22 and 29, contact dtomas0712@gmail.com; and Music Rocks camps from Mondays, August 12 and 19, contact timbolandusa@gmail.com.

BCA Summer Camps open for registration

Secure a summertime filled with creative fun for the young artists in your life — Burlington City Arts’ (BCA’s) summer camp registration is now open. With an abundance of unique offerings for ages 6-17, half-day options to combine to create a full-day camp (see catalog at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog>) and an Aftercare Art Club that goes until 5:00 PM, you can create a custom camp experience that supports your whole family.

Spaces are limited and they go fast, so be ready and browse the options, submit a scholarship application (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/form/apply-for-a-youth-scholarship>), create an account or locate your login at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog> and be ready with your camper’s full information for checkout. You can also peruse our camp registration FAQs (https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Camp%2024_FAQ_edited.pdf) to get all the tips and tricks that will make registering a breeze.

www.burlingtoncityarts.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Camp%2024_FAQ_edited.pdf) to get all the tips and tricks that will make registering a breeze.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration open

If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont’s wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s Green Mountain Conservation Camps (GMCC) this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and at Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

“Whether kids come alone or with friends, they are guaranteed to meet new people and form new bonds while experiencing Vermont’s natural resources to the fullest,” said Fish and Wildlife Education Specialist Hannah Phelps. “An important take-away message and common theme during the week is that conserving and managing habitat will help ensure Vermont will have fish and wildlife in the future.

“We would love to have all of the advanced sessions filled for campers who have already attended a basic session,” added Phelps. “Advanced sessions are for campers who have completed a basic session in a previous summer and who are 16 years old or younger. Advanced sessions include more in-depth activities about backpacking, camping, natural resources, and unique hunting and fishing techniques.”

Conservation Camps open Sunday, June 16 and continue until Friday, August 16. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging, and equipment, and financial assistance is available.

Information and registration are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call 802-522-2925.



Camp Koda, Underhill

- Co-ed summer camp for kids that have completed K through age 12
- Nine sessions, M-F, 8:00am – 5:30pm
- Campers have fun playing, learning, and growing in a safe environment
- State subsidy and /or financial assistance may be available

Register at gbymca.org/programs/camp-koda



Your community credit union

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



Join the Lamoille Family Center in Morrisville for an informative introductory workshop series (on Zoom) of the parenting paradigm *Conscious Parenting with Vermont’s only Conscious Parenting Coach, Suzy Blais. We will cover some of the popular parenting myths from Dr. Shefali Tsabary’s groundbreaking book The Awakened Family: How to Raise Empowered, Resilient, and Conscious Children. Together we will explore and discuss these common parenting myths that we have come to believe, and how they may be negatively impacting your child’s growth, your growth as a parent/caregiver, and the overall health and wellbeing of your family. This community is for you if you are looking to become a cycle-breaker and parent from a new place of intention and awareness. The Zoom workshops held from 6:00 – 7:30 PM on Tuesdays, March 12 and 19. Register online at www.lamoillefamilycenter.org.*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Free tax preparation with AARP Foundation TaxAide

AARP TaxAide is providing free in-person help by appointment. There are still appointments available for in-person tax preparation done by IRS certified volunteers. The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required. We work hard to make sure you get every tax credit and deduction you’ve earned. We accept appointments in Lamoille County at the Varnum Memorial Library in Jeffersonville. Some returns are out of scope, but please contact the library to set up an appointment. The upcoming tax dates at the Varnum Library are Mondays, March 11, 18, and 25. Call the library at 802-644-2117 to schedule an appointment.

A Peek at Puritan Gravestone Symbology

By Peter Opstrup, Cambridge Historical Society

Ever wondered what a grimacing or grinning skull means on old 17th and 18th century gravestones? Why do they have wings? Are those geometric shapes just decoration? Jen Bartlau discusses all this and more.

A video of her presentation *A Peek at Puritan Gravestone Symbology* is now available on YouTube, online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aD0D-SlUcSw>.

Sugar makers welcome visitors for Maple Open House Weekend

Learn, taste and explore Vermont’s sweetest season and the first crop of 2024! The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association is hosting Spring Maple Open House Weekend Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24.

Vermont continues to lead the nation by a commanding margin as the top maple producing state. In 2023, Vermont’s sugar makers produced 2.05 million gallons according to USDA statistics, which represents about half of the U.S. production of maple syrup. With warmer temps predicted, the 2024 crop will be off to a good start. Sugar makers throughout the state look forward to offering you a taste and sharing their craft!

With over 70 sugar makers and maple partners all around the state participating, Spring Maple Open House Weekend offers the perfect opportunity to celebrate Vermont’s sweetest season. Our popular event offers Vermont’s sugar makers a chance to welcome visitors into their sugarhouses to learn, taste, and explore firsthand why people should think of Vermont first when they think of maple syrup. Visitors will learn about the heritage and craft of sugar making, from tree to table!

The sap is running and there are plenty of ways to enjoy some traditional and not-so-traditional Open House activities — sugarhouse tours, sampling syrup, tours of the woods, pancake and waffle breakfasts, and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy and maple ice cream, and creemees! Find all the details and plan your weekend using our Maple Map at www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW.

Spring is also the time to participate in Vermont’s Maple Ambassador scholarship competition — a program of the Vermont Maple Festival, sponsored by the Franklin County Maple Sugarmakers’ Association and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers’ Association. Ambassadors receive a \$2500 scholarship while they help promote and educate folks in the region about the craft of sugar making, from participation in county fairs to the Big E in Massachusetts and much more! Applications are due by April 10, 2024; details and the full application on the Vermont Maple Festival website: <https://bit.ly/MapleAmbassador>.

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Think spring with GMP rebates

From Green Mountain Power

GMP offers rebates on electric yard care equipment, so you can really green things up. Ditch the dirty, noisy lawnmower, hedge trimmer, leaf blower and more — and go electric instead. Through Sunday, June 30, save \$100 on lawn tractors, \$50 on push mowers, and \$25 on electric chainsaws, leaf blowers, and trimmers. Buy a bundle of three items and save an additional \$50.

All GMP rebates are based on the carbon being offset by switching away from fossil fuel, and our programs are designed to reduce costs for all GMP customers. Learn more and apply for your rebate online at <http://www.greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/home-and-yard/>

United Way Volunteer Connection

GET CONNECTED TO VOLUNTEERING — United Way’s Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

SORT OUR SHELVES – Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity receives daily donations to the ReStore and needs volunteers to help sort, stock, and organize. Tools, training, safety equipment, and snacks provided! Email volunteer@vermonthabitat.org.

FINDING A FUTURE – The Governor’s Institutes of Vermont (GIV) helps young Vermonters discover their futures! This year, GIV is celebrating its 40th anniversary and is looking for volunteers to research online to discover alumni they have lost contact with over the years so they can join in the celebration. The project can be done remotely and requires a commitment of two to four hours a week. Contact tamira@giv.org.

THE BEGINNNNG OF THE RAINBOW – Northwest Counseling & Support Services is looking for Camp Rainbow volunteers with the following skills and attributes: child-friendly, patient, sense of humor, positive attitude, the ability to balance playfulness with maturity, and flexibility. Contact info@ncssinc.org.

VIDEO EDITOR NEEDED – The Janet S. Munt Family Room is in need of a video editor to do remote work on his or her own time. They have several videos in need of editing, including some short interviews they would like combined into one longer, compelling story video. Others need editing for time, lighting, or sound. There are “bonus points” for a volunteer who can add accurate multi-language sub-titles! Contact Laurie Keve, 802-440-0531 or laurie@thefamilyroomvt.org.

SHARE YOUR PASSION – Ethan Allen Residence is looking for talented volunteers who would love to share their talents and passions with a very receptive audience. Do you sing? Play an instrument? Tell stories? Do a magic act? Residents are just waiting to be entertained by your special talent! The Activities Team will work with you to coordinate a day and time that works for everyone. Reach out to Sue Wirth, swirth@livingwellgroup.org.

TAKE A HIKE! – COTS is gearing up for its annual COTS Walk to be held on Sunday, May 5 and is looking for volunteers to help with this year’s extra special event. The walk will begin and end in Battery Park with music, Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, and other fun activities. Volunteers can help guide walkers through downtown Burlington, visiting some of the shelters operated by COTS and experiencing the path a person experiencing homelessness might take when using COTS services. New and exciting this year is that construction will be complete on the new Main Street Family Housing which will provide 16 units of permanent, affordable housing for families who have experienced homelessness in the Burlington community. To join the fun, contact volunteer@cotsonline.org.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE – Sara Holbrook Community Center has numerous volunteer opportunities just waiting to be filled: spend time with and mentor children in afterschool programs, shoot hoops with middle-schoolers at the Teen Center, help with mailings and administrative work, collect food for their food pantry, help with special events, assist with website and desktop support, and more. Background check required. Contact Charlotte Broadbent, 802-862-634, Ext. 121, or cbroadbent@saraholbrookcc.org.

Take the chill off: save 75% on weatherization costs

From Efficiency Vermont

Comprehensive air sealing and insulation can keep your home warm and cozy, boost energy efficiency, and help you cut heating (and cooling) expenses, when you enlist the help of an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor, with 75% off project costs — up to \$9500.

It’s possible to make your home more comfortable and efficient for around \$50 a month with financing options that

Lamoille Fibernet 2024 focus: building your network

By Lisa Birmingham
Lamoille FiberNet Executive Director

February 19

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District had a very productive 2023 and is poised to make great progress in 2024. Our 2023 efforts and 2024 priorities are summarized below and on our website but first, I want to thank our remarkable Governing Board for their leadership; thank the Lamoille County Planning Commission, the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation, and the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) and their talented staff; and thank our Lamoille County legislative delegation and our federal delegation for their unwavering support.

2023 milestones:

Developed a two-phase Universal Service Plan to bring high-speed fiber broadband internet to all unserved and underserved addresses in Lamoille County.

Successfully applied for \$15.6 million in VCBB funding to build Phase 1 of our two-phase plan, to reach 86% (4170) of Lamoille County’s unserved and underserved addresses. Because our partner Consolidated Communications (CCI) is investing almost \$10 million, Phase 1 is fully funded and can begin this spring.

Raised \$225,800 in local ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) pledges, thanks to widespread community support, to support construction costs in Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Wolcott, and Waterville. The VCBB approved a 1:1 match, doubling the investments in these seven communities.

Negotiated a 20-year partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI) to operate and maintain the new fiber network. For current information on Fidium products and pricing visit <https://www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-locations> and scroll down the Vermont list to your town.

In 2023, we recruited several new board members, launched a new website, and completed audits for 2021 and 2022.

Turning to 2024, we have four major objectives:

Complete construction of Phase 1, which includes all unserved and underserved areas in Belvidere, Eden, Johnson, and Waterville, all of Lamoille FiberNet’s footprint in Elmore and Wolcott, most of Hyde Park, except the northeast corner, and all of Morristown except a few addresses on VT Rt. 15 east near the Wolcott border. We plan to build roughly two-thirds of Cambridge and Stowe, building to the ends of line in Sterling Valley and Nebraska Valley in Stowe, and North Cambridge to Fletcher in Cambridge. We will be sharing our construction plans with each community and publishing town-by-town details when they become available.

Develop a program, funded by the local ARPA grants, to subsidize installation or extraordinary construction costs for some premises.

Design and fund Phase 2, which will complete the universal service plan, ideally by December 2025.

Draft a long-term sustainability and governance plan, to ensure that our grant commitments are fulfilled, and our communities continue to benefit from digital equity initiatives.

Our 2024 plan is a manageable challenge. With the continued support and leadership from our Governing Board, our communities, and legislative leaders, I am confident we will be successful.

start at 0% interest with no money down. Or, add the monthly payment directly to your electric bill (for participating electric utilities) with the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP).

You could also be eligible for federal tax credits, further offsetting project costs. Low-income Vermonters may qualify for free weatherization services.

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

COLLEGE NEWS

Claire Ammirato of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Ammirato is a member of the Class of 2024.

Henry Ammirato of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Ammirato is a member of the Class of 2024.

Owen Bauman of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Bauman is in an individualized program.

Phoebe Doyle of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Emerson College, Boston, MA. Doyle is a member of the Class of 2026 majoring in Media Studies.

Nuala Dougherty of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Emerson College, Boston, MA. Dougherty, a member of the Class of 2027, has not yet declared a major.

Sophie J. Lee of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List, second honors, at Clark University, Worcester, MA.

Aedan Lahiff of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Lahiff is in the computing and information technologies program.

Isaac Medina of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Medina is a member of the Class of 2027.

Piper Parks of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Parks is in the physician assistant program.

Jens A. Peterson of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List, first honors, at Clark University, Worcester, MA.

Emmitt White of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. White is in the graphic design program.

Appalachian Spring

By Kimberly Madura

Hearing the melody,

needing the harmony,

just wanting to dance.

We have room for your ad.

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ART / MUSIC / THEATER

VT Arts Council virtual showcase of VSU student filmmakers: The Vermont Arts Council Spotlight Gallery announces its upcoming virtual exhibit, a showcase of student films from the Vermont State University (VTSU) Cinema Studies & Production program. The exhibit will be online through Tuesday, April 30, with a virtual artist talk with the student filmmakers on Friday, March 8, 5:00 – 6:00 PM. The exhibit, titled *Telling Stories Frame by Frame: A VTSU Student Film & Video Showcase*, will feature students from VTSU’s Castleton and Lyndon campuses, where Cinema Studies & Production is offered as a concentration within the Bachelor of Arts in Communications program. Students learn the craft and history of cinema as an art to ready themselves for careers in advertising, communications, television production, and independent filmmaking. The variety of student work showcased includes a video essay about Spanish cinema after the death of dictator Francisco Franco; a short film about an isolated young man with diabetes finding connection; experimental shorts about nostalgia, anxiety, and memory; and more. Winter 2023 VTSU graduate Jacob “Gonzo” Gonzalez notes, “The coursework in the Cinema Studies & Production concentration allowed me to build on the ideas I had for my films. I learned many different techniques, perspectives, and styles of filmmaking to convey the feelings I was trying to create. The faculty played a huge role in giving feedback and guidance to make the best possible content I can create.” The exhibit aligns with the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Creative Network’s advocacy in the Legislature for state investments into the film and creative media sector. The virtual exhibit, and more information about the Spotlight Gallery, can be viewed on the Vermont Arts Council website at vermontartscouncil.org/gallery, where registration for the virtual artist talk on March 8 is also available.

The Jericho Town Hall Art Committee is having an art reception for the artists participating in *Farms and Fields*. It will be on Saturday, March 9 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Coffee, tea, and juice as well as assorted finger foods will be served. Come see the varied interpretations of the theme including work utilizing mosses and lichens that can look like drone footage of fields.

Bluegrass at Higher Ground: Breakin’ Strings will be at Higher Ground (Williston Rd., S. Burlington) on Saturday, March 9 at 8:30 PM. *Breakin’ Strings* is a Nashville recording group based out of Maine and Vermont. The band’s five members bring some elements of jamgrass to traditional bluegrass in a fiery, up-tempo way. Cliff Gelina, leader and lead vocalist, has a soulful voice that heralds to that of Chris Stapleton. Cody Howe’s wildfire guitar picking has been compared to Tony Rice’s signature style. Sam Acus’ mandolin playing takes on a unique, refreshing tone due to his heavy jazz influences. Amanda Gelina holds down the bass like nobody else, and Steven Peterson rips it up on banjo. *Breakin’ Strings* was an IBMA Showcase band in 2022, featured in magazines including *Bluegrass Unlimited*, the *Bluegrass Standard*, and the *Nashville Voyager*. The articles agree this is show is not a show to miss. And they’re true to their name! Come to the show and count how many strings they break... Tickets available at <https://shorturl.at/ghjTl>.

Tour the Solar System with VT Symphonic Winds on March 13 — In anticipation of the coming solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, the Vermont Symphonic Winds (VSW), conducted by music director Lisa Jablow, will present *PRECLIPSE*, a complete performance of *The Planets* by English composer Gustav Holst. The concert will take place on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael’s College, Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester. The VSW will be joined by *Bella Voce*, under the direction of Dawn Willis. Each of the seven movements in the work paints a vivid musical portrait of a planet; in concert order: Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Interestingly, Earth is not represented because Holst created the work from an astrological perspective. Since the Earth has no astrological significance, he did not include it. Please join us for this unique musical and astronomical experience. Questions? Message us via Facebook or Instagram (search for “*vermontsymphonicwinds*” for both) or email vermontsymphonicwinds@gmail.com! Admission at the door: \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children. Cash and Venmo only, please.

Hinesburg Artist Series concerts on March 17: Join the South County Chorus and Hinesburg Artist Series Orchestra under the direction of Rufus Patrick for our 25th Anniversary Concert. The featured work will be Dan Forrest’s *Requiem for the Living*, along with selections by Hayes, Sibelius, Bernstein, and — in recognition of St. Patrick’s Day — Irish tunes! We will be joined by guest artists soprano Cristina Escobedo, tenor Cameron Brownell, baritone Gary Moreau, and cellist Jiwon Lee. Performances are at 2:00 and 4:30 PM on Sunday, March 17 at St. Jude’s Church in Hinesburg. Tickets are \$25 for adults; children under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hinesburg-artist-series-61153971083>

Vermont Youth Dancers (VYD) presents *The Impossible, A Telling of Cinderella’s Story* at Mount Mansfield Union High School, Browns Trace, Jericho on Saturday, April 13, 1:30 and 6:30 PM, and Sunday, April 14, 1:30 PM. VYD brings this classic tale to life with current music in a full-length stage production. Do not miss our signature blend of exciting hip hop and inspiring lyrical choreography, imaginative sets and beautiful costumes. Tickets (\$15) are on sale now at <http://vermontyouthdancers.org/>.

Weekly Burlington Literature Group meets on Tuesdays, via Zoom: Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads this weekly virtual book group and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group met for years meeting in person, but since the has met via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages to discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com. Our next author is Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison and we are reading *Song of Solomon* and Jazz, as follows: *Song of Solomon*: March 5: Chapter 11-end; *Jazz*: March 12, beginning through “the woman sitting by her ironing board in a hat in the morning;” March 19, chapter beginning with “The hat, pushed back on her forehead,” through “Golden Gray watched and he thought he was ready for those deer eyes to open;” March 26, chapter beginning with “A thing like that could harm you” to end. Upcoming authors

include László Krasznahorkai, Patrick Modiano, Iris Murdoch, David Foster Wallace, Colum McCann, Saul Bellow, and Thomas Pynchon.

Artistry in Underhill Town Hall — Again it happens that a fresh collection of varied and unique art is viewable throughout Underhill Town Hall! Come see the latest creative showing by your neighbors, friends, and fellow townspeople. Thanks to those who have freely offered their work. Thanks to community energy and the leadership of the Underhill Arts Council, which is committed to inspiring the community by highlighting local art and craft. Our goal is to bring forward all forms of creative expression. All ages are welcome! Have something you’d like to share? Please contact John Connell, jc6greenmont@gmail.com, or Mary Hill, maryhillstudios@gmail.com.

The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville celebrates the opening of their 40th season on Wednesday, March 6 with three unique exhibitions. The Legacy 2024 Collection [through December 22], features the works of 17 contemporary artists and includes selected works by Mary Bryan and Alden Bryan. The Legacy Collection continues to honor the tradition of artists who visit Vermont and New England specifically to paint. The Legacy Collection will be on display in the Main Gallery until May 15, after which the exhibit will be displayed in the East Gallery until December 22, 2024. An exhibition catalogue will be available. For the second year, the Gallery will exhibit the Small Members’ Group Show. [March 6-May 12]. Entirely artist-curated, this exhibition features works in a variety of styles and mediums, selected from the collections of the participating artists. Finally, the Gallery continues to collaborate with Lamoille Union School, displaying the most recent Student Art Exhibition in the Middle Gallery from March 6- 24. Always intriguing, this exhibit provides a glimpse into the work being created at the high school art level. Opening Reception for all three exhibits: Saturday, March 9, 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the Jeffersonville Gallery. The reception is free and open to the public. Please attend and bring a friend! Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org.

At Bryan Fine Art Gallery in Stowe through Sunday, July 14: *Evoking Vermont’s Landscape*. Six talented Vermont artists showcase their original interpretations of the state’s diverse scenery, celebrating Vermont’s natural surroundings in works that capture the spirit of Vermont, each artist bringing their own flair and interpretation. Participating artists: Ken Rush, Danby; David Pound, Stowe; Steve Clark, Vergennes; Kate Follett, Jacksonville; James Rauchman, Morrisville; Mathew Pardue, N. Ferrisburgh. Free admission. For more information about this and other upcoming exhibitions and events: www.bryangallery.org. Bryan Fine Art Gallery, 64 S. Main St., Stowe. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday, Saturday 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more information contact 802-760-6474 or info@bryangallery.org.

Monthly Essex Art League meeting on the first Thursdays — Artists and art lovers are welcome to join Essex Art League (EAL) and participate in our year-round, weekly en Plein Air gatherings. We meet each Thursday to paint in a different and beautiful location in the area. Joining EAL also avails you of opportunities for field trips to shows and galleries as well as participating in workshops. The Essex Art League has been open to artists and art lovers from throughout Vermont for 50+ years. We meet the first Thursday of each month from September-June. The topics for our upcoming meetings are as follows — March 7: nationally acclaimed VT artist Mark Boedges speaks about his work and composition; April 4: Annelein Boekenkamp, a Vermont watercolorist, speaks on her process and journey; May 2: metal artist Rebecca Nase Chomyn of Fairfield discusses her process; June 6: summer potluck kicks off EAL summer recess. Those looking for more information may go to our website <http://essexartleague.com/>.

SongFarmers, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (March 20), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments; no electronics except keyboard and bass. It’s a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just enjoy the gathering, are welcome. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Weekly Community Choir — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong*! We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on the second and fourth Thursdays (during the winter) of the month (March 13, 27), 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Just bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way works here, where our aim is to sing for the joy it (no performances except a short one for family and friends at the end of the season). Come as often as you are able. Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Doug Varney, 802-343-4513 or vthockeyman@gmail.com, or just show up!

The Westford Music Series concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. The lineup for the rest of the 2023-2024 season: March 24, *Dale and Darcy Trio*; April 7: *Heliand*; May 5, *Howling Waters*.

Animating Infrastructure Grants support community projects that integrate art with infrastructure improvements. The Council’s definition of infrastructure is broad. It includes community facilities and services such as buildings, trails, water or sewer systems, roads, power systems, parks, and more. Deadline: Monday, March 18, 2024. Learn more at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/organizations/animating-infrastructure/>.



Essex High School Theater Presents an original one act play: Ellie by Theo Herrin at the Essex High School, Essex Junction, on the Auditorium stage, Thursday-Saturday, March 14-16 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 PM. When a life-altering tragedy changes the course of Elliot’s life, his carefree youth comes to an end. Speaking to his once-friends becomes impossible; his parents understand nothing; his younger sibling infuriates him; and he is haunted by a terrifying group of escaped prisoners, who seem to want nothing more than to tell him that everything is his fault, and nothing will ever change. The question is not whether escape is possible — but whether Elliot is strong enough to find it. Selected seating tickets available at the door and online at ewsd.org/ehstheater. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

News from Burlington City Arts (BCA; <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/>): In the lower-level and first-floor galleries, *Here Now: Art and Migration* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/here-now-art-and-migration>) features a group of international and national artists exploring concepts of borders, movement, and migration across local urban centers and global geographies. Sajjad Abbas (Baghdad, Iraq), Teresa Baker (Los Angeles, CA), Lydia Nakashima Degarrod (Oakland, CA), Verónica Gaona (Houston, TX), Paula Higa (Burlington, VT), Matthew Schrader (Middlebury, VT), and Edra Soto (Chicago, IL) boldly reimagine borders as sites of historical investigation, social reckoning, and conduits of an emerging aesthetic. On the second floor, *Margaret Jacobs: Kinship* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/margaret-jacobs-kinship>) explores the tensions and harmonies between the man-made and natural worlds through steel sculptures and finely crafted jewelry. Jacobs is an enrolled member of the Akwesasne Mohawk tribe and cultural histories and identity inform her belief that materials have their own distinct narratives.

Calling all emerging artists! Apply by Friday, March 15 for the 2024 Diane Gabriel visual Artist Award (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/artist-resources#DGVA>) and get the support you need to grow your artistic practice in 2024 with a prize valued at \$6K. Established in 2021, this award honors Diane Gabriel (1947-2017), a celebrated artist and educator. Inspired by Gabriel’s often experimental creative practice, the award provides support to an up-and-coming artist to allow them to catalyze innovative ideas, experiment with media, and explore new horizons.

The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for its annual Creation Grant, which supports artists or artist groups in creating new work. Grant funds may be used to compensate artists for time spent creating new work, to purchase materials, or to rent equipment or space for the process. This highly competitive program is reviewed by an independent panel of practicing artists and arts professionals. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Examples of fundable projects: a multimedia artist creating a new video series; a writer completing the first draft of a novel; a dance ensemble developing choreography for a new piece; a visual artist creating art for exhibition that explores new subjects and techniques; and a musician composing music for a new album. Application deadline: Tuesday, April 9. Learn more and apply at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/find-a-grant/artists/creation/>.

We have room for your ad.
Call Brenda Boutin
at 802-453-6354
for more information
or email
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SENIOR NEWS

Cambridge Rec survey for seniors’ programming

The Cambridge Recreation Board is seeking input from residents age 55+ to help expand programming for the seniors in our community. If you are a Town of Cambridge resident, 55+ years of age, please share your preferences by completing an online survey at <https://bit.ly/CambridgeRecSeniorSurvey24>. If you need help accessing the survey, you may go to the Varnum Library during open hours. The survey is available through Friday, March 15. Thank you taking the time to share your thoughts and preferences. We value your input!

Westford Senior Luncheon March 11

How does a St. Patrick’s Day feast sound? Westford current and past residents are encouraged to join us on Monday, March 11 at the Red Brick Meeting House for our next luncheon. Doors open at 11:30 AM for socializing and the meal service should begin around 12:00 PM. Following the meal, we have a speaker lined up to give a fraud watch presentation. This is information we all could benefit from! As always, feel free to reach out with any questions to one of us — Mary Fay, 802-878-1215, or Cori Hill, 802-238-1018 —and if you are feeling poorly, please pass on lunch so we can avoid spreading any illness.

Check out a class or meal with CVCOA and partners

From the Central Vermont Council on Aging, Lamoille
We’re in the transition time of year, patiently waiting for spring to peek up from under the snow... or will it be a new snowfall that recovers the grassy spots that have shown up? While you wait, CVCOA has programs and initiatives you can get involved with: Have you heard of GetSetUp? This online platform offers a full range of live, online classes taught by and for older adults, and it’s free to all Vermonters. Sign up or sign in at <https://www.getsetup.io/partner/vermont>. Looking for something in person? CVCOA offers free wellness classes throughout the region, led by volunteer certified instructors. Check out all our offerings at <https://cvcoa.org/exercise-and-wellness-classes>. How about a meal with your neighbors? Twelve meal programs throughout Central Vermont offer community meals — in addition to delivering Meals on Wheels. Stop by for a home-cooked meal in your neighborhood, or venture out to a location you’ve never been. The details of each program can be found here: <https://cvcoa.org/meals-and-nutrition>. And, if you have a meal you think others would enjoy, share the recipe with us! We’re building a database for our meal providers to use that will feature your recipes. Email a picture of the recipe or the text to recipes@cvcoa.org. And as always, remember we are here to support you and your loved ones. Reach out to our Helpline at 802-477-1364. We staff the Helpline during business hours and can return a message left outside those times.

Age Well Grab’n’Go meals

Age Well provides services to individuals 60+ and their spouse or caregivers, and a disabled person(s) living with the senior, regardless of financial status. Suggested donation is \$5. Bolton will now have Age Well Grab’n’Go meals delivered to the Bolton Fire Station on the second Wednesday of each month — March 13 — pick up times between 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. To order a meal, please contact Robin Pecor-Brunell, 802-434-3042 or rpecor@hotmail.com, by the Friday before the meal is to be delivered. Jericho has a Grab’n’Go meal available for pickup at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center on Wednesday, March 13, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please register by Friday, March 8 by contacting Jen at ccjvermont@gmail.com or 802-274-4024. Underhill’s Grab’n’Go meal will be on Wednesday, March 27, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, at St. Thomas’s Church, Underhill Center. Please register by Friday, March 22 by contacting Teri at office@stthomasvt.com or 802-899-4632.

Informational offerings for seniors

High blood pressure management, Thursdays, March 14-May 9, 2024, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, online, presented by My Healthy Vermont and North Country Hospital. Learn the basics of controlling your high blood pressure in this nine-week class. Register online at https://www.myhealthyvt.org/workshop_dates/online-high-blood-pressure-2/.org/workshop_dates/online-high-blood-pressure-2/. **Everyday exposures to Parkinson’s Disease (PD): environmental connections to the disease**, Thursday, March 21, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, online. Hear an expert panel from the Michael J. Fox Foundation discuss emerging research that indicates environmental stressors can interact with a person’s genetics and contribute to developing PD. Find registration and information online at <https://www.michaeljfox.org/webinar/everyday-exposures-parkinsons-environmental-connections-disease>. **What the future holds: a long-term care discussion**, Friday, April 5, 1:00 – 2:30 PM, online. James Thaxton, Esq. of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, Aging Resource Center will lead the discussion on taking advantage of planning opportunities, including Medicaid. Register online at <https://events.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/event/virtual-what-the-future-holds-a-long-term-care-discussion/>.

Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net

SCHOOL NEWS

Learn more about the EWSD budget online

By Ben Dickie, Communications/Public Relations Coordinator, EWSD
Visit the new and improved Essex Westford School District (EWSD) budget website — it’s your one-stop shop for: presentations and videos from Board meetings; budget line item details; news stories on the school budgeting process in Vermont; annual meeting warning; budget archives and more. Check it out online at <http://www.ewsd.org/budget>.

What was it like to be a teacher in Underhill in the early 1800s

By Roger Frey, Underhill Historical Society
Simply stated, “It wasn’t easy.” Teachers were paid little and usually boarded with students’ families. Boarding during a three- to four-month session meant a teacher would have to move to another student’s home weekly or bi-weekly. Each District school committee was responsible to hire their teacher(s). School reports we have in our archives show parents were less concerned about the prospective teachers’ qualifications, than what she or he was going to be paid. Most of the teachers were female; during years in which boys only attended winter term, a male teacher was often hired. Teachers had to be strong disciplinarians and it was expected they would be. Teaching multiple grades was difficult to say the least. Can you imagine one teacher trying to teach grades 1-8? Some schools had a morning session for students in grades 5-8, and an afternoon session for students in grades 1-4. School terms were erratic. Sometimes there was a three-month winter session and a three-month summer session, or sessions were cancelled altogether. Many children did not attend school at all, or attended irregularly for no other reason than the indifference of the parents. Teachers dealt with poor lighting, poor heating, privies, lack of drinking water, and most importantly the lack of educational tools and supplies. Children had to provide their own books, but many families could not afford to buy them. Many of the teachers were teenagers themselves, having graduated from 8th grade. Only a few teachers had the equivalent of a high school education. Teacher turnover was constant. In those years teaching wasn’t looked at as a profession, as it is today.

JES Seed Sale benefits Farm to School program

Jericho Elementary Farm to School is partnering with High Mowing Seeds to fundraise for the Jericho Elementary School (JES) Farm to School program. If you order your seeds through this fundraiser, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to our JES Farm to School program. Please note — when an item is out of stock or on backorder, we will substitute it with a similar variety so that your order ships complete. Orders must be placed with JES and not with High Mowing directly. Orders are due by Thursday, March 28. Order online at <https://high-mowing-seed-fundraiser.cheddarup.com>. Seeds will be sent home with students before April break. If you do not have a student at JES, you will need to make arrangements to pick them up from the school. An email will be sent at a later date with pickup information. For growing information, please visit <http://highmowingseeds.com>. You may also order by sending the paper form and payment back to the school with your child.

Cambridge Elementary School preschool screening

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2024? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program invites families in Cambridge and Jeffersonville with eligible preschool students to call 802-521-5613 to make an appointment for a developmental screening. There will be two sessions held at Cambridge Elementary School/ Preschool on Thursday, March 14: 1:30 – 2:30 PM, and 2:30 – 3:30 PM. Please contact Erin Vaillancourt, 802-521-5613, no later than Monday, April 1 to reserve a time for your child. Screenings will take approximately 60 minutes. During this time, parents will fill out a brief developmental questionnaire about their child while educators interact with the children to gain information about each child’s development in the areas of speech and language, social/emotional, motor, and cognitive. This is also a time for parents to ask questions about their child’s skills and about our preschool program.

MMUUSD’s last day of school June 18

From John Alberghini, MMUUSD Superintendent
Planning for summer care and camps has become increasingly difficult for families over the past several years as school cancellations due to weather, flooding, and other emergencies have extended the school year. In an effort to support families in effectively planning for the summer, we are setting the last student day for this year on Tuesday, June 18. Based on the number of emergency school closures so far this year, we will meet our traditional number of 178 school days. The state requires 175 student days. Therefore, if we have additional school closures, MMUUSD will repurpose the student days for staff professional development and set the last student day on Tuesday, June 18. This is a practice that will continue in subsequent school years.

UVM-4H Showcase explores range of STEM topics

STEM Showcase 6.0, presented by University of Vermont (UVM) STEM Ambassadors, offers a fun, hands-on learning opportunity for students in grades 3-9 who are interested in exploring science, technology, and engineering. The Saturday, March 23 event will be held on the UVM campus in Burlington, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Although free, registration is required as space is limited. Registrations will be accepted until Wednesday, March 20 or until the showcase is filled. To register, go to <https://go.uvm.edu/stem6>. A confirmation email with address and parking information will be sent to all registered participants. Students may sign up for two workshops, which include: 3...2...1...Blast Off! Recyclable Rockets; Lift and Force: Paper-Plane Olympics; Biomimicry: Where Nature Inspires Invention; Robo Dance Off: Robots Groove; Slime Defenders: The Power of Antibodies; and Digestive Power and Medicine Coating: Exploring Engineering and Anatomy. The STEM Ambassadors program is a collaboration between the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and UVM Extension 4-H. UVM students majoring in sciences, technology, engineering, or math may apply to be an ambassador and receive training to lead hands-on, experiential learning activities for youths in Vermont.

2023-24 Westford Robotics recap

By Mark Drapa, Westford
As we reach the end of the Robotics season, I wanted to share the incredible student outcomes that have been realized by our kids. First, participation at Westford School grew again by almost 2x. We had 48 students (almost 65% of all 4-8 graders are on a robotics team, with gender parity no less). We started the next level program for our 7-8 graders. Over 350 hours of extracurricular STEM programming were provided by our volunteer mentors. We have so many reasons to be proud of our students. In a field of 65 teams statewide, all of our Westford Robotics FIRST LEGO League teams (grades 4-6) advanced past state qualifiers to the State Championships, where they all were impressive competitors. One of our teams will be advancing to a post-season international event in California! Our FIRST Tech Challenge team (grades 7-8) not only made it to the State Championships in their rookie year, they finished eighth overall in qualifiers and made it to the semifinals (against high school teams from across the state)! The team also earned a design award based on their engineering portfolio and technical presentation. They were gracious and polished and kind. At the same competition, our very own Hivemind Robotics from EHS earned top honors and will be advancing to the FTC World Championships in Houston. The core of this team include members who came up through the Westford Robotics program. Not only that, but two of those students have come back and mentored two teams at Westford all season. This was 40-50 hours of volunteer outreach. Additionally, one of these two kids was nominated to represent Vermont for the “Dean’s List” (for exemplifying the spirit of FIRST in all that they do), the only recognition given to individuals rather than teams. Finally, the varsity/traveling team level (FIRST Robotics Challenge) that operates out of Generator in Burlington started their season at an event in New Hampshire this past weekend. Again, several Westford students are honing their skills in CAD and 3-D modeling, precision manufacturing, designing and debugging complex electrical subsystems, precision motor control, autonomous and tele-op control systems programming, technical writing, public speaking, business development, and outreach. The season will see them travel around New England as they constantly engineer more advanced systems and strategies. They are building an amazing robot, but the student outcomes that get built are even more impressive.

Thank you to our community’s volunteer mentors — none of this would be possible without your tireless effort. Thank you to our sponsors (or potentially new sponsors?) who help keep this activity accessible to every Westford student at no cost. We hope to create some in-person outreach opportunities in the coming months to share our journey with the community. Until then, the next time you see a kid wearing their Westford Robotics t-shirt, make sure you ask them to “tell me about your robot...”

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities now open

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service. Three \$2000 scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher. Applications, due on Wednesday, May 1, can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails>. Students need to submit two essays (500 words), one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required, <https://bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec>. The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on Saturday, June 1. Last year, LWV scholarships were awarded to students from Thetford Academy, Windsor, Otter Valley Union, and Middlebury Union High Schools. Questions can be directed to Becky Miller, lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com.

School news continued from page 12

Saxon Hill School registration open for 2024-2025

Registration is now open to new families for the 2024-2025 school year! Come join Saxon Hill School (SHS), a family-cooperative preschool offering three NAEYC accredited programs, including kindergarten, for children ages 3-6. Our school is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy and is a unique and wonderful place for young children and their families. Saxon Hill is located in Jericho, where it has been serving Jericho and the surrounding communities since 1964.

Our mission: Saxon Hill School is committed to working in partnership with families and communities to educate and support children while heeding their individual needs for growth and development.

For more information please visit <https://saxonhillschool.org/registration.html> or email Registrar@SaxonHillSchool.org.

Help with child care costs in Vermont

From the Vermont Department for Children and Families
Does your family need help paying for child care, preschool, or afterschool services? The Child Care Financial Assistance Program helps Vermont children access quality child care by covering some or all child care costs for eligible families.
To be eligible for financial assistance, families must:
• have child(ren) age 6 weeks to 13 years (19 years for those with special needs);
• have an approved reason for needing child care, like work or training;
• meet Vermont’s income guidelines (even a family of four making \$105,000 qualifies);
• be a Vermont resident;
• have less than \$1 million in assets; and
• have child(ren) with an eligible citizenship status (not required starting Monday, July 1).
Does this sound like your family? Visit the program’s webpage (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap>) to learn more.
If you have questions, you can contact your local Community Child Care Support Agency (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/contacts/partners/cccsa>). Agency staff can also help you find child care, preschool, or afterschool services.
Change is coming! If you don’t meet the income guidelines now, you may on Sunday, April 7. New guidelines will expand eligibility based on family size and income. More families may qualify for assistance; for example, a family of four making \$124,800 will qualify. Subscribe to receive news/updates on our homepage at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>.
The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is a service of the Child Development Division, a part of the Vermont Department for Children and Families.



The Mountain Gazette is a hometown newspaper serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford; it has been doing so for the past 23 years.

The newspaper works to deliver information of interest to a wide variety of readers, including but not limited to news and news briefs, health information, legislative reports, letters to the editor, library news, obituaries, art/music/theater, senior citizens, school news, and sports. We present columns written by community members and others we deem interesting, such as one by Chittenden County Forester Ethan Trapper.

The paper is a vehicle where readers can submit poems, short stories, and photos for publication. Another column features college news and notes.

In June we print the photos of the graduating class from Mount Mansfield Unified Union High School.

We would like to invite you to join our advertising community.

Your ad would appear in our printed paper. We store-and business-drop (and place in libraries and town offices) printed papers in our core communities of Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, as well as in Essex, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, and Fairfax.

Each edition of the *Mountain Gazette* is loaded to the home page of our website www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com; the website also maintains an archive that preserves the entire paper including advertisers for every edition since 2008. For each edition, we post a link to the current edition on our website to our Facebook page.

Please contact Brenda Boutin,
publisher and advertising manager,
at 802-453-6354
or mtngazette@gmavt.net
for more information
or to discuss advertising.
Thank you.

Winners of 14th State of the Union Essay Contest for VT students

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has announced the winners of his 14th annual State of the Union Essay Contest, which gives Vermont high school students the opportunity to describe a major issue facing our country and propose what they would do to solve it. This year, 454 students from 27 Vermont high schools submitted essays. A panel of seven Vermont educators served as volunteer judges, ranking the essays and selecting 12 finalists and three winners.

Sanders will host the finalists at the Vermont State House on Saturday, March 9 for a roundtable discussion about their essays.

Since Sanders started the contest, more than 6100 students throughout Vermont have written essays about critically important issues, including climate change, racial justice, access to mental health care, immigration reform, disability rights, and political polarization.

“Each year, I am moved reading the many essays we receive,” said Sanders. “These young Vermonters are thinking critically about the many challenges we face and how we can address them. Young people are the future of our country and it is very heartening to see them actively engaged. Thank you to all the students who participated, to their teachers for encouraging these important conversations, and to our judges for volunteering their time to review hundreds of essays. I am looking forward to another excellent roundtable discussion with this year’s finalists.”

Sanders has entered the finalists’ essays into the Congressional Record, the official archive of the U.S. Congress. The contest is timed to coincide with the President’s annual address to a joint session of Congress, which will take place on Thursday, March 7.

Leah Frisbie, from Essex High School, won first place with an essay on attempts to ban books from school libraries: *“The banning of books in the United States is a pressing problem that deprives people across the country from perspectives, information, and freedom...Through attempts to ban books, marginalized groups’ stories and perspectives are silenced. The act of banning books diminishes the quality and purpose of education... Congress must pass the Fight Banned Books Act in order to protect the nation from the needless deprivation of information. The issues occurring in society, such as gender and race inequalities, deserve to be shared in libraries.”*

Abigail Curry, the second-place winner from Mount Mansfield Union High School, wrote about the lack of access to clean, drinkable water for many Native Americans: *“Research by the House Committee on Natural Resources showed that 48% of*

Native Americans living on reservations in the U.S. don’t have a reliable source of clean, drinkable water-a proportion 80x higher than the 0.6% of all Americans who don’t have access to drinking water...The indigenous water crisis is a complicated issue that will only get harder to solve as climate change continues to worsen droughts in the U.S. That being said, there is a path to a solution. First, the Supreme Court must overturn their decision in Arizona v. Navajo Nation.”

Leah Fitzgerald, the third-place winner from Bellows Free Academy Saint Albans, wrote about homelessness in America: *“The 2023 Point in Time (PIT) count conducted by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) revealed the disheartening truth that over 653,104 American citizens were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January of last year...Interning at a local emergency housing shelter during high school allowed me to witness these numbers in real life. Distributing gloves, hats, blankets, and food could not overshadow the fact many would be sleeping outside in the cold Vermont weather without a roof over their heads...By expanding programs such as HOME, PRO Housing, or TBRA will encourage land use and support the housing market. New units can specifically be sectioned off for homeless populations under PBRA. Upon entering such housing, citizens need to be connected with behavioral, mental, medical and financial services funded by programs like SSA and HHS. Programs under the HUD should also be adequately funded through the national budget.”*

The winners of this year’s contest are: first place, Leah Frisbie, Essex High School, Junior; second place: Abigail Curry, Mount Mansfield Union High School, Junior; third place: Leah Fitzgerald, Bellows Free Academy Saint Albans, Senior.

The finalists of this year’s contest (in alphabetical order by last name) are Liliana Dicks, Oxbow High School, Junior; Patterson Frazier, Champlain Valley Union High School, Junior; Jack French, Essex High School, Junior; Talia Gibbs, Vermont Commons School, Senior; Delia Gould, Brattleboro Union High School, Freshman; Olivia Gray, South Burlington High School, Freshman; Maddy McHale, Burlington High School, Freshman; Andres Miguez, Mount Mansfield Union High School, Junior; Oliver Nichols, Burlington High School, Freshman;. Thomas Scheetz, Mount Anthony Union High School, Senior; Magdalena Short, Bellows Free Academy Fairfax, Sophomore; and Jackson Wheaton, Northfield Middle High School, Freshman.

To read the essays of the winners and finalists, go online to <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/State-of-the-Union-Essay-Contest-Packet-2024.pdf>.

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2024

6558 VT RTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487
802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net
www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

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

We store deliver copies of the paper in Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Hinesburg,
Huntington, Richmond, Fairfax, Essex and Essex Junction.

Total regular circulation 3500

OPEN RATE

\$8.25 COLUMN INCH
Column width 1 7/16"

Listings below are measured width x height

Business card - \$33.00
3 1/4" x 2"

1/16 page - \$49.50
3 1/4" x 3"

1/12 page - \$66.00
3 1/4" x 4"

1/8 page
3 1/4" x 6" or 5" x4 - \$99.00

1/4 page - \$170.00
3 1/4" x 12"
5" x 8"
6 1/2" x 6"

1/2 page - \$290.00
10 1/4" x 8" or 5" x 15 1/2"

Full page - \$390.00
10 1/4" x 15 1/2"

Business directory ads: \$18 each, must buy 5 consecutive issues (\$90.00 pre-paid)
No changes. Size 3 1/4" x 1 1/2"

Classified ads: \$6.50 for 25 words, 10 cents for each additional word

Prepaid contracts available - Save up to 20%.
Purchase six ads of any size and run within 12 months.
Call Brenda Boutin, advertising manager at 802-453-6354 for details

Subscriptions \$35.00 per year - 24 issues

Inserts 1-4 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" Cost \$45.00 prepaid per 1000
Must purchase full circulation

Publicatin: First and Third Thursday/Month
Deadlines: Thursday before publication
Copy - 12:00 Noon
Advertising 5:00 PM

The *Mountain Gazette*, 6558 VT RTE 116, Starksboro, VT 05487
Phone: 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net
www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

LEGAL NOTICE

OFFICIAL WARNING
MOUNT MANSFIELD UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 2, 2024

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District comprising the voters of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill, are hereby notified and warned to meet at polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced towns on **April 2, 2024**, at 7:00 a.m. (Huntington at 6:30 a.m.) at which time the polls will open until 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close, to transact the following business involving voting by Australian ballot:

- Article 1: To elect the following officers:
a Moderator for one year,
a Clerk for one year,
a Treasurer for one year.
- Article 2: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?
- Article 3: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District approve the School Board to expend **\$60,123,048** which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the 2024-25 fiscal year?

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed, transported to, and opened at the Richmond Town Center in the Town of Richmond, the ballots commingled and publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill under the supervision of the Clerk of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District.

Informational Hearing

Said persons and voters are further notified and warned that Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Mount Mansfield Union High School, in Jericho, VT shall serve as an informational meeting to discuss Articles 3 which will be voted on by Australian ballot on April 2, 2024. A virtual option will be available at:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/epk-nuwn-ioy>
Or dial: (US) +1 765-329-3138 PIN: 349 034 792#

Polling Places

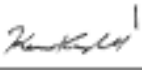

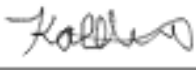
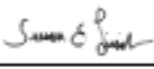
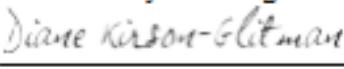

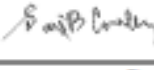
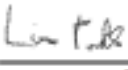
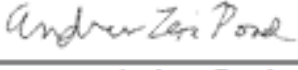
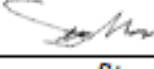
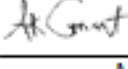
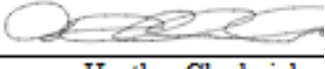
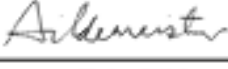


The voters residing in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union will cast their ballots in the polling places designated for their towns as follows:

Bolton	*	Smilie Memorial School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Huntington	*	Brewster-Pierce Memorial School	*	6:30 am -7 pm
Jericho	*	Mt. Mansfield Union High School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Richmond	*	Richmond Town Center	*	7 am - 7 pm
Underhill	*	Underhill Town Hall	*	7 am - 7 pm


This Official Warning is meant to and hereby does supersede the Official March 5, 2024 Warning dated 15, 2024 and previously posted.

Dated this 28th day of February, 2024.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

		
Kevin Campbell	Edye Graning	Katie Nelson
		
Susan Lillich	Diane Kirson-Glitman	Tara Arneson
		
Gail Conley	Lisa Pawlik	Andrew Pond
		
Stuart Morigeau	Alison Conant	Heather Chadwick
		
Eric Gildemeister	Ethan Maurer	Grace Batsie
		
Gabrielle O'Mally		

Received for record this 28th day of February, 2024, A.D.

 Clerk, Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain. Funding would be provided through the Vermont Agency of Transportation to the Town of Jericho to for the Mill Brook floodplain restoration and streambank stabilization project.

The action is located at the confluence of Mill Brook and Winooski River along VT Route 117 in Jericho, Vermont. The project is to reduce erosion and maintain the riverbank adjacent to Route 117 while enhancing floodplain function. A temporary access road would be established on the west side of Route 117. Construction would include the removal of failing riprap and historic armoring. A failing stone berm would also be removed. A ballasted engineered log jam using stacked logs with root wads would be installed. The west side of the brook would be excavated to widen it several feet. A flood bench would be created and restoration with trees, shrubs, and native planting would occur.

Work would occur within a mapped special flood hazard area, which could cause short-term adverse effects. However, the natural and beneficial floodplain functions would be restored at the site long-term. Sedimentation and erosion controls would be employed and staging areas would be on pre-disturbed ground to reduce impacts. The site could still be impacted by flooding; however, the adjacent roadway would no longer be at risk. A map of the area of available upon request.

The project must take place in a floodplain due to the nature of the risk being mitigated. Ten additional alternatives were considered, including "no action" and road relocation. No action would leave Route 117 at risk. Relocating the roadway is not practicable and could have adverse impacts on the community. The action would conform to applicable state and local floodplain protection standards. Grant conditions will also require compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

Kari Elkins,
Environmental
Protection Specialist

Federal Emergency
Management Agency,
Boston, MA

kari.elkins@fema.dhs.gov
(256) 343-3570

We have room for your ad.
Call Brenda Boutin
at 802-453-6354
for more information
or email
mtngazette
@gmavt.net.

