

NEWS BRIEFS

Cambridge Food Shelf seeks cat and dog food

The Cambridge Food Shelf is in need of donations of cat and/or dog food. When times are tight, four-legged family members need to eat, too! Of course, donations of food for humans are always in demand as well, and very much appreciated!

The Food Shelf is located in the basement of the Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville. Hours are Monday evenings 6:00 – 7:00 PM, and Tuesday afternoons 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Please drop donations off only during operating hours. Food Shelf phone number: 802-644-8911

Donations may also be dropped off at the Union Bank on VT Rt. 15 in Jeffersonville.

Registering your dog in Underhill

Vermont Statute (20 V.S.A. § 3581) dictates that all dogs in Vermont are licensed annually with the town the dogs are primarily kept in. \$4 of the fee collected by the town goes to the State of Vermont VSNIP program that provides financial assistance for dog and cat spaying and neutering. \$1 of the fee goes to the State of Vermont to help control the spread of rabies through funding bait drops, wildlife control and management and education, among other things. The balance of your fee goes to the Town of Underhill to help fund and support animal control and rabies control in Underhill.

At the town level, we use the Town Registration as an effective tool to help return lost or missing pets to their families. Dogs are required to have an identifying tag on them. In Underhill, we recommend that all dogs have a tag with the owner's phone number and address so that the dog can be returned home by anyone who may find the dog, not relying on a town employee or the Animal Control Officer to be available with the registry list on hand. However, the town registry list has a description that can help find owners when the dog does not have tags or has slipped his or her collar. Every year dozens of Underhill dogs get loose, just ask your neighbors.

Registering your dog is easy. Fees, until April 1 / after April 1:

- Spayed and neutered \$12 / \$17
- Non spayed and neutered \$17 / \$22
- Replacement tags \$1

Drop by Underhill Town Hall on Pleasant Valley Rd., just before Stevensville Rd., in Underhill Center, or mail a current rabies certificate and check to: Town of Underhill, P.O. Box 120, Underhill, VT 05489. (Check your rabies certificate, and don't forget to include a copy of it.)

Underhill Energy Committee seeks new member

The Underhill Energy Committee is looking for a new member to fill an open spot. Ideally, this would be someone with experience and interest in community outreach, including marketing, education, and/or writing. People skills are important, and familiarity with basic energy concepts – its use and conservation - is a plus.

If interested, please contact committee chair Peter Bennett, pbennett@alum.mit.edu, or come to one of our meetings: second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center. You can see how we work and we will answer any questions you may have.

The Energy Committee was created by the Underhill Selectboard in 2008. The mission of the Energy Committee is as follows:

- To study and make recommendations that reduce energy consumption in town assets: buildings, equipment, etc.;
- To provide public forums that educate Underhill citizens on how to reduce energy consumption in their homes, buildings, motorized equipment, and lifestyles;
- To encourage the community to move to clean sources of low carbon energy such as solar;
- To assist in analyzing and/or implementing energy projects as designated by Selectboard;
- To help in the development or revision of a town energy plan.

Westford notes

The third property tax installment is due Monday, March 16. Payments are considered timely if received by this date, have a March 16 postmark (USPS, FedEx, or UPS), or are in the drop box (left of the Town Office door) by 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 17. If you pay by generating a check online through your bank, please make sure to allow time for mailing, as these envelopes have no postmark and will be acknowledged by the date they are received at the Town Office, not by the date on the check.

Westford Town Common Ice Rink rules: Do not go on the ice if the rink is closed. Quiet hours are 10:00 PM – 8:00 AM. No food or drink of any kind on the ice. All activities are non-contact. Enter and exit the rink through the entrance door only. Helmets are strongly encouraged.

Dog licenses are due by Wednesday, April 1. A current rabies certificate is required; call if you're unsure whether the Town Office has a current certificate on file. If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let the Town know. You can mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and the dog license will be mailed to you. Fee until April 1: intact dogs \$13, neutered \$11. Late fee charged after April 1.

Easter Egg Hunt! On the Common, 10:00 AM sharp on Saturday, April 11. Free!

News briefs continued on page 3

Count them in! BRMS mathletes invited to state competition



BRMS math team 6th grader Henry Rogers with UVM Professor Joe Kudrle. Rogers earned an honorable mention at the MathCounts NW Regional Competition on Saturday, February 8.

On Saturday, February 8, four students from the Browns River Middle School (BRMS) Math Club participated in the Northwest Regional MathCounts Competition at the University of Vermont. They joined eleven other schools and over 70 talented grade 6, 7, and 8 students. They answered questions such as, "How many two-digit integers less than 25 have the property that they are divisible by each of their digits?" and were judged on their accuracy and speed. Based on their combined score, the team was invited to the



The BRMS math team (from left): Lauren Ritter, grade 6, Nathan Ellison, grade 8, Henry Rogers, grade 6, Cameron Brinegar, grade 7. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

state competition in March.

Two of our mathletes scored in the top 12 and progressed to the exciting countdown round. This is a head-to-head, buzzer-beating round, in front of all the regional mathletes, coaches, families, and friends. Nathan Ellison is no stranger to the countdown round. He is ending his fourth straight year of math club membership. Henry Rogers, who is a first year recruit, progressed to the semi-final round. His competitor became the eventual champion.

Congratulations to the team and to all of the supporting club members from Browns River Middle School.

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is growing

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) has been an economic boon for the town of Cambridge and the town's Trails Committee Chair, Laird MacDowell, hopes those benefits will increase as the trail grows. The Trails Committee is in charge of summer maintenance for the section of trail within the town, as well as a connecting trail called the Greenway Path, which connects the LVRT to Jeffersonville.

Phase 2A of the LVRT is designed to connect Sheldon Junction to Cambridge and four miles of that connection will be within the town of Cambridge. The Trails Committee, in conjunction with the Cambridge Rotary Club and Smugglers' Notch, held a bike-a-thon fundraiser last summer on the trail and were able to raise \$9500. They used that money to pay Summit Engineering to determine the cost of upgrading those four miles. The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) has been fundraising for the path and they estimated the cost at \$150,000 per mile, which would have amounted to a total expenditure of \$600,000. Because the existing rail bed was so well maintained, Summit Engineering determined that the cost would be half of that. The local snowmobile club had been mowing, brush-hogging, and thwarting the beavers who wanted to build a dam across the rail bed. They had also replaced a washed out culvert with a pressure-treated bridge, but there are other bridges that need to be decked over.

In addition to the bike-a-thon funding, MacDowell said the group was given a \$5000 grant from a private family foundation and that family, despite being based in Annapolis, MD, intends to donate additional funds. Another bike-a-thon is planned for June 6 of this year. Previously, VAST contributed \$3 million in money and in-

kind donations toward the trail, and VTrans provided \$75,000 in 2019.

Governor Phil Scott recently announced that he was designating \$2.8 million for an extension of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The governor intended to have the money come out of the capital budget but MacDowell said a group of southern Vermont legislators are pushing to have it moved to the transportation budget. MacDowell believes that move could delay the expenditure of funds for years and he is hoping that friends of the LVRT will contact their legislators to get them to ensure that the money remains in the capital fund.

MacDowell said the town of Cambridge has already seen the economic benefits of the trail. The Lamoille County Planning Commission did a user count, which found well over 100 people a day during the week and as many as 300 on weekends. "A lot of people come into Jeffersonville via the Greenway Path," MacDowell said. "They go to Bootlegger Bikes, they stop at the local farm store, eat at the restaurants, and visit the art galleries even though the town is a mile off the trail." Bootlegger Bikes has started a rental bike program at the trail head, and Smugglers' Notch uses those bikes to lead tours on the rail trail in the summer months. Bootlegger Bikes also organizes an evening ride along the trail to the summer concert series in Johnson.

A national organization called Rails to Trails Conservancy has been providing assistance with publicity about the trail and anecdotal evidence shows people visiting from as far as Montreal and southern Vermont. Based on that information, MacDowell is certain the state will be able to recoup the \$2.8 million through tourist expenditures. "The trail is a real attraction," MacDowell said. "It's flat and safe and popular with tourists and locals alike."

Underhill 2020 Town Plan public hearings set

By Andrew Strniste
Underhill Planning and Zoning Administrator

The Underhill Planning Commission has completed a proposed 2020 Town Plan to be adopted in the next few months. This plan is expected to replace the 2015 Town Plan, which is set to expire on Tuesday, June 23. The Commission has dedicated a large part of the last year to obtaining public feedback (the 2019 Town-wide survey and four public forums) and drafting the plan. As part of the adoption process, the Planning Commission will be hosting three public hearings to obtain additional feedback. Those hearings will be held during the following dates, times and locations:

- Thursday, March 26, 6:00 PM at Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center;
- Saturday, April 4, 10:00 AM at Deborah Rawson Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho;

MMCTV new channels and poll

If you watch Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) on Comcast Cable, note that we are migrating from our current channels 15 and 17 (Gov.) to channels 1076 and 1086 (Gov.). We are at both locations for a three-month transitional timeframe. For schedule information, see <http://mtmansfieldctv.org/schedule/>.

- Thursday, April 9, 6:00 PM at Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center.

We welcome any and all members of the public to attend one of these hearings to ask questions and provide feedback. For your preparation purposes, please visit the Town's website (www.underhillvt.gov) to view the proposed plan, which can be found by scrolling down on the homepage and clicking a link that will direct you to the Town Plan materials.

Should you wish to forgo attending the public hearings and still wish to participate, or if you have any general questions or comments, please feel free to email your comments to astrniste@underhillvt.gov, contacting Andrew Strniste by phone at 802-899-4434 ext. 106, or by writing and sending it by mail to Town of Underhill, Attn: Planning & Zoning, P.O. Box 120, Underhill, VT 05489.

Help us serve your viewing habits better by filling out our 2020 Viewer Poll at <http://bit.ly/MmctvViewers2020>. There is still a chance to score some great MMCTV/Stone Corral glasses by filling out our poll!

4-H NEWS

4-H'ers meet at UVM for Horse Quiz Bowl contest



Competitors in the Junior Division, ages 12 and 13, proudly show off their ribbons at the conclusion of the Chittenden County 4-H Invitational Horse Quiz Bowl held Thursday, February 20, in Burlington. They were: Haileigh Demers, Milton; Summer Le, Colchester; Allie Hoffman, Milton; Jillian Murdough and Madeline Tylenda, both from Essex Junction; Jenna Bennett, Swanton; Chloe Irish, Westford; and Kiera Newton, Milton.

Twenty-four 4-H'ers from Chittenden and Franklin Counties competed in the annual Chittenden County 4-H Invitational Horse Quiz Bowl on Thursday, February 20.

The event, designed to test the 4-H'ers on their knowledge of horse breeds, anatomy, nutrition and feeds, and related topics, was held on the University of Vermont (UVM) campus in Burlington. It was hosted by UVM Extension 4-H and Chittenden County 4-H.

Placements were as follows:

SENIOR DIVISION (14-18): Anna-Lise Cooleage, Westford (first); Allison Tourville, Georgia (second); Tucker Murdough, Essex Junction (third); Victoria Blaney, Richford (fourth)

JUNIOR DIVISION (12-13): Haileigh Demers, Milton (first); Summer Le, Colchester (second); Allie Hoffman, Milton (third); Jillian Murdough (fourth) and Madeline Tylenda (fifth), both from Essex Junction; Jenna Bennett, Swanton (sixth); Chloe Irish, Westford (seventh); Kiera Newton, Milton (eighth)



Vying for ribbons in the 10- and 11-year-olds division at the Chittenden County 4-H Invitational Horse Quiz Bowl, held on Thursday, February 20 in Burlington, were (from left) Adaline Ploof, Westford; Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; Patrick Jordan, Essex Junction; Madeline Langlois, Westford; Emma Sibley, Milton; Kate LaMantia, Richmond; Jakob Marinoff, Swanton; and Maya Lewis, Williston.

PHOTOS BY ROSE GARRITANO/UVM EXTENSION 4-H

JUNIOR DIVISION (10-11): Adaline Ploof, Westford (first); Kelsey Paradee, Swanton (second); Patrick Jordan, Essex Junction (third); Madeline Langlois, Westford (fourth); Emma Sibley, Milton (fifth); Kate LaMantia, Richmond (sixth); Jakob Marinoff, Swanton (seventh); Maya Lewis, Williston (eighth)

JUNIOR DIVISION (8-9): Chloe Lamarche, Starksboro (first); Paityn Paradee (second), Natalie Chevalier (third) and Kayden Marinoff (fourth), all from Swanton

4-H alumni who previously represented Vermont at national horse quiz bowl competitions served as moderators for the event. They were: Emma Cushman, Barre; Kaelyn Jenny, Essex Junction; Hannah Lang and Grace Parks, both from Essex; and Dyani Jones, Jericho.

To learn more about the 4-H horse program in Vermont, contact Wendy Sorrell, UVM 4-H livestock educator, at 802-651-8343, ext. 513, or wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.

SUMMER CAMPS

Saxon Hill summer camp registration open

Whether your child is a first time camper or a seasoned veteran, camps at Saxon Hill School provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature and adventure. Designed for children ages 3-9, Saxon Hill School camps engage children with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun!

Beyond the focus of each week's camp (options include Lego, art, music, Spanish immersion, and construction & design), summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. SHS follows a philosophy of learning through play, which each camper will experience no matter which camp they attend!

To learn more, see <https://www.saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp> or email Summercamp@saxonhillschool.org.

VT Trout Unlimited's 10th anniversary of fly fishing summer camp for teens

Vermont Trout Unlimited announces the tenth anniversary of their fly fishing camp for Vermont teens ages 13-16. Teens interested in either learning the art of fly-fishing, or improving their basic skill level alongside some of Vermont's most accomplished fly anglers, are invited to

apply. The 2020 camp is scheduled for Sunday-Thursday, June 21-25 at Jackson's Lodge in Canaan, VT.

Louis Porter, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, supports TU's educational efforts. "TU's Fly Fishing Camp for Teens is an incredible program dedicated to educating our next generation of fly fishermen and women to help ensure that our precious

Summer camps continued on page 3

LIMITED TIME

Get 50% off

weatherization projects, up to \$4,000

Efficiency
Vermont

efficiencyvermont.com/HP
(888) 921-5990

For a limited time, Efficiency Vermont is offering Vermonters increased incentives for comprehensive home air sealing and insulation projects:

- 50% off weatherization project costs, **up to \$2,000**
- Moderate income Vermonters get **up to \$4,000**

It's possible to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient for around \$60 a month with financing options that start at 0% interest and no money down.

Stay warmer and stop wasting the heat you've paid for!

Subject to availability and eligibility

COMING EVENTS

Pride Hike: forest management at the Hinesburg Town Forest

LGBTQA+ hikers will explore something a little different this month. On Sunday, March 8, 12:30 – 3:00 PM, we will meet at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) to tour an active timber harvest with Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester. We'll walk the timber harvest area, talk about forests, forest management, birds, and forest ecology. Gwendolyn Causer, Teacher/Naturalist with Audubon Vermont, and Anne Moyerbrailean, SafeSpace Anti-Violence Coordinator at the Pride Center of Vermont, will also co-lead the hike.

Throughout our lives, many of us have been inundated with negative information about logging — close your eyes and you can probably picture big clear cuts, mudslides, and more scenes of environmental devastation. However, modern forest management is worlds apart from the logging that most people have been exposed to. Done well, forest management can be restorative and regenerative, creating more diverse, vibrant, resilient forests with better bird and wildlife habitat while producing a local, renewable resource. It can also be a force for good in our local and global communities: by helping producing local resources and economic benefits (rather than displacing the impact of our resource production to other parts of the country or the world), and allowing landowners to making a little income from their land (helping keeps forests forested and making it more affordable to own land), forest management can be a force for social, economic and environmental justice and equity, both here in Vermont and across the world.

Pride Hikes are a collaboration between Audubon Vermont, the Pride Center of Vermont, and Outright Vermont. Pride Hikes have been happening every month since June of 2018 and go beyond being “welcoming to everyone” to creating a safe, affirming space for LGBTQ community members. All ages, allies, and families welcome! Youth under 18 years should be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Dogs are welcome as long as they are leashed.

Trail/accessibility information: The walk will happen “rain (snow, mud) or shine.” Folks should be ready to spend a couple hours outdoors walking over uneven and potentially slippery surfaces in whatever weather we find ourselves in, and also to spend periods of time standing and talking. Warm layers will be your friend, and perhaps a thermos of tea. Some of our travel will be off-trail. If you require accommodations or have questions about accessibility, please contact Audubon Vermont at gcauser@audubon.org.

We will meet up to CARPOOL in the parking lot at Shaw's/Starbucks at 570 Shelburne Road in South Burlington at 12:30 PM. If you'd like to meet us at the trailhead we should be there by 1:00 PM. We will meet at the plow turnaround at the end of Economou Road, Huntington. IF YOU PLUG “HINESBURG TOWN FOREST” INTO YOUR GPS IT WILL TAKE YOU TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION, so please instead use “Economou Road” and proceed to the cul de sac at the end of the road. Please let us know ahead of time if you plan to meet us at the trailhead: gcauser@audubon.org.

Co-hosted by Audubon Vermont, Pride Center of Vermont, Outright Vermont, and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

Summer camps continued from page 2

coldwater fisheries here in Vermont will be taken care of well into the future.”

Participants in the five day, four night comprehensive program will learn and practice casting, basic fly tying, knot craft, insect identification and imitation (entomology), fish identification and behavior (ichthyology), safe wading techniques, angling ethics, and coldwater conservation. Campers will hone their skills on local lakes, ponds, and streams, including the Connecticut River.

Our host Jackson's Lodge (www.JacksonsLodgeVT.net) is located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom on Wallace Pond and is a short five-minute drive from the Connecticut River.

Prospective campers are encouraged to apply no later than Wednesday, April 15, 2020 to secure a spot for this year's program. The cost for the five-day camp is \$450. Scholarships may be available on an “as-needed” basis.

Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 50 years to the conservation, protection and restoration of North America's cold-water fisheries and watersheds.

For complete information about the TU Fly Fishing Camp, an application form, and many videos of the camp, go to www.vermonttroutcamp.com or contact Kurt Budliger, camp director, at vermonttroutcamp@gmail.com.

News briefs continued from page 1

The annual meeting of the Essex-Westford School District (EWSD) will be Monday, April 13, with Australian ballot voting on Tuesday, April 14; polls will be open 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM in the Westford Library. The deadline is Monday, April 13 to request an absentee ballot. For more information, call the Town Office.

The next Senior Luncheon will be Monday, March 9, 11:30 AM at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common. In honor of St. Patrick's Day the meal will be corned beef and cabbage. If there's a major snowstorm or it's extremely cold, the luncheon will be canceled. For information contact Carol Howrigan, 878-3090.

Property owners who received a building permit for this past year, or have one from a prior year, can expect a visit from the Listers. This inspection is separate from the Zoning Administrator. Inspections on new homes and additions will be scheduled prior to coming. Smaller projects such as decks and sheds will not be scheduled but the Listers will leave a note that they were there. Change of Appraisal notices will be sent in May. Please contact lister@westfordvt.us with any questions.

The Selectboard is seeking town residents interested in serving as Westford's representatives to several regional organizations: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (alternate representative), meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM, see <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commissioncommissioners-alternates/>. Clean Water Advisory Committee, meets the first Tuesday of the months, see <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/> or contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490. Contact the Town Office, 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us.

Bolton History Group gathering March 7

Join this group on Saturday, March 7 at Smilie Memorial School Gymnasium to kick off the 2020 Bolton History Group! Bring your ideas, town knowledge, or just your curiosity of town history and the heritage that has sculpted Bolton over the years.

This year is the 250 year anniversary of the first meetings held in Connecticut and New Jersey to grant 100 acre lots to 71 grantees, which laid out the township in 1770. A special 4th of July float will display the town's history from the first meeting to now. Volunteers and ideas will be greatly appreciated!

A Green Up Day event and a BBQ will be supported again this year. Bring ideas and any other input to make 2020 a success.

The cemetery restoration project will continue this summer. Volunteers will be needed!

For any questions, comments, or input contact Bryan Farnsworth, bryan.farnsworth00@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 5
Free Community Soup and Bread Supper, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (off VT Rt. 15, across from John Leo's). Serving a variety of hearty soups and breads, plus a sweet dessert on the first Thursday of the month. Stay at the church to enjoy your meal with friends and family, or pick up to take home. Donations welcome, but not expected. For more information, call Pastor Jeannette Conner, 879-4313.

Saturday, March 7
An mtDNA Find Proves a Mayflower Line, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, VT Genealogy Library, Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. Knowing whom to ask for a specific DNA sample and which test to use makes a difference in analyzing results. Michael Dwyer will show how mtDNA solved the mystery of an ancestor married in 1776. Without DNA evidence, her identity would have been lost to history. He will also share other works in progress using other DNA test results. Michael Dwyer is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogist and editor of Vermont Genealogy. Open for research Tuesdays 3:00 – 9:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Parking and entrance are across from the State Police Building. Visit our website www.vtgenlib.org or call 802-350-1333 for more details.

NVU Veterans' Summit, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Davis Center, University of Vermont, Burlington. Free event open to all vets, their adult family members, and others interested in veterans' issues. Sessions will focus on career opportunities for veterans, yoga, the Abenaki warrior tradition, female veterans' issues, and homelessness. Representatives of Vermont's congressional delegation, the Vermont Governor's Veterans Advisory Council, and the Colchester-based veterans' nonprofit *Josh Pallotta Fund* will engage in panel discussions. The summit will include counseling resources, assistance for homeless veterans, and veteran-services organization vendors including Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and a veterans' employment network. Pre-registration for the summit is suggested. To register, visit www.NorthernVermont.edu/VeteransSummit. For more information, email Thomas.Anderson@NorthernVermont.edu.

Sunday, March 8
Sunday Brunch, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, VFW 9653, Pleasant St., Morrisville. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, Strata, fruit salad, pancakes, baked beans, sausage gravy w/biscuits,

RunVermont with Westford Rec, Smilie Elementary

RunVermont is a non-profit organization committed to the promotion of running as a lifelong activity through complementary programs that celebrate the athletic spirit, are recognized nationally, and embraced by the Vermont community. Through events like the People's United Bank Vermont City Marathon and Relays, *RunVermont* helps support the development of the next generation of runners. *RunVermont* believes that providing youth with opportunities to learn about healthy habits through their childhood and into their teen years is valuable to individual health and the health of our communities.

The *Mini Milers* program consists of a ten-week schedule that enables Vermont elementary school aged youth to learn and practice fitness, good nutrition, and community service, all while having fun. Children meet weekly with *Mini Milers* leaders to get motivated, interact with others, and track their mileage, while earning incentives as they strive towards the goal of reaching the marathon distance or beyond. In addition to mileage incentives and a program t-shirt, participants also receive a medal at the completion of the program. The cost is \$35 per participant and scholarships are need based. (If a child receives free lunch, they qualify for our program at no cost.)

Leader overview: The *Mini Milers* site programs are run by volunteer leaders and supported by *RunVermont*. Leader training is provided before the program starts, along with a leader manual. Mileage trackers, incentives, t-shirts, medals, and other supplies are provided for each site. Registration is done via the *RunVermont* website www.runvermont.org, and then rosters are sent out to leaders. All leaders undergo a background check prior to the start of the program, and the cost is covered by *RunVermont*.

Smilie Elementary in Bolton and the Westford Recreation Department are among the sites and organizations making this program available to elementary school age kids.

Interested in learning more? Interested in bringing a site to your community? Interested in becoming a leader? Please contact Michelle Dow, *RunVermont*'s Director of Youth Programs, at 802-863-8412 or michelle@runvermont.org.



Landscape Design for Pollinators will be offered, free and open to the public, at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, March 24 at the First Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington. As we domesticate the landscape, it is up to us domesticators to create habitat for pollinators in our own landscapes. Learn about what makes a good pollinator habitat and the various forms they can take, from meadows to formal gardens. Jane Sorensen will share her extensive list of habitat plants and suggest where you can find seeds, plants, and more information to empower you to enhance your pollinator landscape. Jane is a full-time farmer who teaches a UVM course on this topic, and is a retired landscape architect. Free and open to the public.



Mountain High Pizza Pie
 Monday 4:00 - 8:30 PM
 Tuesday - Thursday 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
 Friday - 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
 Saturday 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
 Sunday 4:00 - 8:30 PM
899-3718
 Route 15, Jeri-Hill Plaza
 Jericho

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

juice and coffee. Benefits VFW Auxiliary 9653. Adults, \$10; children under 10, \$5. Information: 888-4919

Exploring the Bible, course 3: the New Testament, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, meeting room, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho. Who was Jesus really? What do we actually know about

Coming events continued on page 5

The Mountain Gazette

6558 VT Rt 116 Starksboro, VT 05487
 (802) 453-6354 • mtngazette@gmavt.net

Deadline: March 12, Publication: March 19, 2020
 Brenda Boutin publisher/ad sales/delivery
 News writer - Phyl Newbeck, Editing - Sara Riley
Letters Policy: Maximum 450 words;
 one letter per writer, per calendar month.
 Must be signed for attribution
 with writer's address and phone number.

Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net • www.mtngazettevt.com

Area Worship Services

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message
 On the Green in Jericho Center, VT
 Senior Pastor David Coons and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter
 Sunday Services at 10:00 AM
 Nursery care provided
 Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages
 Fellowship at 9:30 AM
 Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building
 Lessons & Carols Service, Dec. 22 at 8:00 & 11:00 AM
 Sugar on Snow Party - March 14th
 Summer Bible Camp - August 3-7
 Signing for the deaf upon request
 899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

MOUNT MANSFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
 A liberal faith community standing on the side of love, as we explore truth and meaning, and work for social justice. All are welcome.
 Sunday Services at Mount Mansfield UU Fellowship Universalist Fellowship! To learn more: www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.
 The big red barn, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.
 Worship Services 9:30 AM, 2nd & 4th Sundays, September-June
 195 VT RT 15, Jericho VT (red barn across from Packard Rd)
 899-2558 www.mmuuf.org

ST. THOMAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 “Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass”
 On Green Street in Underhill Center Weekend Masses:
 Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:30 AM
 Pastor: Rev. Christopher Micale
 Deacon: Peter Brooks Religious Ed. Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells, 899-4770 Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras Phone: 802-899-4632, email: office@stthomasvt.com, Website: www.stthomasvt.com

UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL
 UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL
 “Welcoming, Worshipping, Working for God”
 At the Green on VT RT15 - Rev. Jennifer Mihok - 899-1722
www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com
 Worship 10:30 AM, 9:30 AM in July and August
 Home of the Clutter Barn and the Old Fashioned Harvest Market
 Local and global mission and service opportunities for everyone!

Awesome Fudge
 The perfect gift, or treat yourself...

Blue Mall, So. Burlington • 802-863-8306
 Factory Location Route 15, Jericho • 802-899-3373
www.snowflakechocolate.com

HEALTH NEWS

Disciplining children

Parents have been asking me for some advice on the best way to discipline their young children. Well, let me see if I can behave appropriately and provide some information on this topic.

Some best practices

- Parents, model the behaviors you want to see in your children to teach them right from wrong using calm words and actions.
- Set limits with clear and consistent rules in age-appropriate language they can understand.
- Once a child's language skills are in place, place consequences on their undesired behavior and follow through on those consequences.
- Listening is important. Listen to your children as to how and why they acted as they did and then talk about it with them rather than just inflict consequences. Giving them your undivided attention to reinforce the good behaviors and discourage others goes a long way to getting your kids to behave. Call more attention to what they do right rather than what they do wrong.
- Praise them for their successes rather than berate them for failures. If the bad behavior is not dangerous, but simply annoying, ignore that irritating behavior and the lack of attention will likely make it go away. If you think your children are going to act out because they are bored — then distract them into another activity before the bad behavior flares up.
- For younger children, time-outs may be useful to remove them from a safety situation and break the frenzy, but you can get further as your children get older by emphasizing the positive more than using time outs — unless an older child simply says they are taking a time out to calm themselves down, or you take one to calm yourself down.

What not to do

Whatever you do, please do not spank your child or use harsh words and yelling to discipline them. The American Academy of Pediatrics' recent policy statement on effective discipline provides evidence that spanking and other forms of corporal punishment do not work. The same is true for yelling or shaming a child, which can even lead to long-term damage to a child's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Berating and criticizing your children only increases their feelings of anger and aggression — and one thing our world doesn't need right now is more anger and aggression.

Hopefully, tips like these will hit the spot rather than result in a need to physically punish your children when it comes to helping them develop good behavior.

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

CPR/AED class April 4 in Jericho

Do you know how to respond if someone suddenly collapses from cardiac arrest? CPR and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can save lives! Let's make the hearts of Jericho safer by training more individuals!

A CPR/AED class is being offered at the Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center on Saturday, April 4, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (participants may finish by noon). You do not need any medical training to learn these important techniques. Richmond Rescue will provide instruction and certification. The cost is \$30 per participant. To register, contact debklyt@yahoo.com or call 899-4863. Please provide your full name, address, and phone number.

This is a great time to learn how to use an AED, as soon six AEDs will be placed in sites around Jericho. Thanks to all who contributed to this great cause!

Dog dung — pick it up!

(Generalized from specific FPF posts, because this is pretty clearly a universal problem — Editor)

To whomever has been leaving piles in the walkways around the post office. Please pick it up! Everyone hates coming home after work and having to step around that. Our walkways are quite small at the moment because of the winter. Whether you are a neighbor or a long-distance dog walker, just please pick it up. It's literally the easiest thing to do!

Another note: your dog can get giardia from just sniffing another dog's poop. Giardia occurs naturally in the environment and is shed in the poop of infected mammals. And you can contract giardia.

Business Directory Ad Rates

3.25"x1.5" \$90.00 for 5 issues

3.25"x3" \$115.00 for 5 issues

3.25"x4" \$175.00 for 5 issues

All ads must be prepaid prior to running.

Email: mtngazette@gmavt.net

for more information.

CHIROPRACTIC CARE

- Gentle Head to Toe Care
- Unhurried Appointments
- Flexible Scheduling
- Emergency Care
- Practicing Since 1989
- Former Registered Nurse
- Nutritional Counseling
- High Quality Supplements
- Orthotic/Foot Beds
- Spinal Support Products

Kintner Chiropractic Center



397 VT Route 15, Jericho

P.O. Box 63

Underhill, VT 05489

Phone (802) 899-5400

Fax (802) 899-5497

Email:

DrMaryDC@comcast.net

www.JerichoChiro.com



Dr. Mary H. Kintner

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Playing Safely with a Dog

With children and dogs out and about as spring approaches, something is bound to happen when the two groups encounter each other, particularly if a child provokes a dog resulting in a dog provoking a child.

Believe it or not, there are over 4.5 million dog bites that occur each year. If you want to take the bite out of a dog's bark and enable a child to play safely with a dog, let me provide a few suggestions:

- First, teach your child to be careful around pets. They should always ask permission from a dog's owner before petting the dog and never approach a strange dog they do not know.
- A child should not startle a dog, but instead offer an open palm a couple of inches away from the dog, allowing the dog to approach and sniff.
- Stroking a dog who has warmed up to a child under the chin is a smart way to pet the dog. The dog can see where the hand is, which makes the dog more comfortable.
- Teach your child to think like a dog — meaning asking them if they would like to be poked if they were eating or sleeping. Remind them never to bother a dog that's caring for puppies, and never leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.

How to protect your child

- Make sure your dog is vaccinated against rabies.
- If a dog appears threatening, teach your child to stay calm and avoid eye contact. They should stay still or back away slowly until the dog leaves, but never turn around and run.
- If a dog knocks a child down, they should curl into a ball and keep their hands over their face and neck.

Treating a bite

If a bite does occur, apply pressure to stop the bleeding and then wash the wound out under running water for several minutes, ideally using something with some pressure such as a sink hose. The wound should then be covered with sterile gauze or a clean cloth while you call your health care professional for further instructions.

Hopefully, tips like these will cover any pet-ticular issues you have when it comes to knowing more about what to do if you're worried about your child getting bitten by a dog.

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

A Gospel singing workshop, part 2
The Saturday night concert

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

This is the second of a four-part adventure when I was a visiting instructor in home health in Portland, Oregon, at least 25 years ago... (but it is still good, I think!) Part 1 was published in the February 20 Mountain Gazette. Part 3 will appear two weeks after this one. And a grand finale is Part 4.

There are announcements: this workshop will culminate in a concert Saturday night. Women are to wear red, with black stockings and black shoes. A discussion ensues about the size of earrings: "nothing bigger than a quarter, not dangling, no gold, at least the heavy kind." "Should we have gold or silver?" comes a question from the floor, but it is lost in a new motion which suggests that earrings no bigger than a nickel should be the rule. That is quickly shouted down. We sing some more... rather difficult lines, but for me that doesn't really matter, since I have found that there are three volumes: loud, louder, and ear-splitting, so I can sing anything in my delicate madrigal voice and no one will notice.

Three hours after starting we are dismissed into the cool night air... a relief after the sanctuary, made bearable only by cardboard fans, bearing legends for "Cox's Funeral Home: will fill your requirements" and the other side with a picture of MLK, or, in vivid contrast, a New England white clapboard church complete with steeple and red and gold autumn maples.

Friday night is much the same, except longer, and again I am politely ignored. I don't mind, since there is no malice in it... just the admitted fact that I am just a beginner to the micro-culture and the activity. I am learning and it is fun, even though exhausting.

Saturday is a day of contrasts. The University of Portland Community Chorus, to which I belong, is having a day-long retreat... to practice and to "bond." We start with some spirituals. They are sung the way the white community thinks *All My Trials*, *Lord and Hold On*, *Sister* should be sung. I stand out in this group; my old-age vibrato is not good for a blended chorus, so the director politely asks if I would mind singing tenor (a vibrato is less prominent in a lower register) and anyway, they need tenors. There are already three women with LOW voices. We are socially restrained in our singing as befits our training. There is little chatting, no clapping; certainly no *Amens* or even *Good-for-Yous*. I miss them!

The hours left to me before the 6:30 PM concert are devoted to my ensemble. I have no red in my reduced, travel-to-Oregon wardrobe, and red is not a color I wear often. I go to my favorite haunts. The Salvation Army in St. John's yields up a pair of red knit pants and a turtle neck top, and a pair of black patent leather shoes. I stop at the checkout counter and an elderly wizened woman, to whom I tell my tale, informs me that she used to sing gospel, play the steel guitar, sing country with a group. "But now I only pick at the piano. You should have fun! I used to love gospel! There, that will be \$2. I know that's not the real price, but I want you to have fun." Back home to shorten the pants, which must have been worn by a six-footer, I discover I have no needle and thread, so I dash the four blocks to the Goodwill and buy same for 15 cents.

I am finally dressed and already late ("Try and be here by 5:30. We need to get you lined up.") But I still need black stockings. I run lights on Martin Luther King Avenue and lurch into a small variety store. "Do you have any black stockings?" All they have is knee-highs, so I grab a pair. I notice the inevitable lopsided rack of second-hand dresses in a darkened corner... and being vividly attuned to red by now, I notice one that I pick out. Ah, this is it! It is my favorite Eddie Bauer knit, with an elasticized waistband and other easy-fit characteristics. And in my size: Large. I grab it for four bucks, refuse a bag, and run to the car. At the church, I find my way into the darkened basement and the ladies' room, redolent with perfumed lotions. I don my ensemble at a cost of \$4 for the dress, \$1 for the stockings, and 50 cents for the shoes. I join the rest of the choir, resplendent in fire engine reds, orange-reds, shimmering magenta, lacy reds, scarlet-reds with slashes of black, cardinal with gold trim. We join hands.



Old growth, carbon, and forest management at Hinesburg Town Forest

By Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

Join Dr. Tony D'Amato of the University of Vermont, and Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester, for a walk of an active timber harvest managed with an ecological forestry approach, at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) on Saturday, March 14, 1:00 – 3:00 PM (meet at the end of Economou Rd., Huntington).

"Old Growth" is a term that is familiar to many, although most have never seen it. The definition of "old growth" forest is somewhat contentious in the forestry world, generally applying to forests that have developed somewhat independent of human disturbance for a very long time. Studying our region's remnant old growth forests illustrates how forests grow, develop, and function over time. The emergent field of ecological forestry seeks to emulate forests' natural processes and to help our relatively young forests more closely resemble the old growth that covered the vast majority of Vermont's landscape prior to European settlement.

While looking back is helpful in understanding our forests, at the same time we must look forward, managing forests in reference to climate change and other modern threats. These factors challenge forest managers to incorporate carbon sequestration and storage and climate change resilience into their management strategies. Responsible forest management can be a climate change asset, encouraging the growth of healthy forests with massive carbon benefits while producing local renewable resources.

We will discuss old growth forests, carbon sequestration and storage, and how the management of the HTF seeks to actively create healthier forests through encouraging old growth forest attributes over time. Dr. D'Amato has been involved with research and outreach related to these topics for the past two decades, including working with students, foresters, and other partners to translate an understanding of old-growth forests into on-the-ground actions for attaining multiple benefits. This event is co-sponsored by Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Coverts.

The HTF is an 864-acre forest owned by the Town of Hinesburg and managed for wildlife, recreation, water, air, carbon sequestration and as a site for the demonstration of modern, responsible forest management.

To attend this walk, meet at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 14 at the plow turnaround at the end of Economou Rd., Huntington (if you put "Hinesburg Town Forest" into your GPS it will take you elsewhere). This walk will happen "rain (snow, mud) or shine." Participants should be ready to spend a couple of hours outdoors walking over uneven and potentially slippery surfaces in whatever weather we find ourselves in, and to spend extended periods of time standing and talking. Please bring an open mind, warm clothes, and all those questions you've never had a chance to ask about old growth, forest carbon, logging and forest management.

Heating with wood

By Ethan Tapper

In Vermont, we're "Forest Strong." Our 75% forested landscape constantly endows us with gifts: clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration and storage, to name a few. It also produces opportunities for forest-based recreation like skiing and mountain biking and supports local economies that thrive on these industries, all while making Vermont a beautiful place to live, work, and visit. At the same time, our forests can provide us with local, renewable resources that strengthen our communities and support a healthier environment. Such is the case with firewood.

In Vermont's long winters, heating with firewood is a tradition. Wood accounts for about 21% of our heating needs, with 43% of Vermonters heating wholly or partially with wood. Most of that wood comes from within 50 miles of where it's used, meaning that economic benefits stay local; by contrast, 78 cents of every dollar spent by Vermonters on fossil fuel heat leaves Vermont. Besides supporting our communities and local economies, using local wood (and local products in general) gives us more control over how our resources are extracted, rather than displacing the impacts of our consumption to elsewhere in the country or the world, where resources are produced under potentially more problematic social and environmental conditions.

The way we burn wood is as important as the resource itself; fireplaces, old woodstoves, and old wood boilers are inefficient, using an excess of wood and releasing particulates that can degrade air quality. "Advanced Wood Heat," modern woodstoves, pellet boilers, and chip boilers, burn more efficiently, producing emissions on par with propane and heating oil. Burning wood using advanced wood heat systems is critical to increasing usage of this resource while protecting our air quality.

The way that we harvest wood from our forests also matters. Forest management should be regenerative, not solely extractive, making the forest healthier and more resilient in the long term. On a responsible timber harvest, "low-grade" wood from smaller, less healthy trees usually accounts for the majority of the wood cut, but only a small portion of the overall value. Conversely, larger, healthier trees often account for a small portion of a timber harvest's volume and but most of its value. This is as it should be; cutting mostly unhealthy trees, which get turned into firewood, pulpwood, and chips, generally improves the overall health of the forest. "High-grading" is the disreputable practice of cutting only the healthiest, most valuable trees, leaving a less healthy forest behind. Having strong markets, like firewood, for low-grade wood provides an economic incentive for loggers and landowners to do the right thing.

As we think about how to craft a more sustainable future in light of climate change and other challenges, one of the most important things that we can do is to keep our forests intact. Vermont's forests are about 80% privately-owned, and so private landowners are ultimately responsible for most of the public benefits that forests provide, from the carbon that they store to how they define the culture and the character of our communities. Allowing landowners to harvest some wood or to make a little income from their forests offsets the costs of management and taxes, ultimately benefiting all of us by making it more affordable to own land and keeping forests as forests.

Wood pellets provide some interesting new opportunities. According to the Northern Forest Center, regionally-produced wood pellets reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 54% when replacing heating oil, and 59% when replacing natural gas. Pellets are made

Community columns continued on page 5

LIBRARY NEWS



At the Varnum Memorial Library's LEGO club, each meeting will feature themed and free build time, team exercises, and opportunities for collaboration and — most importantly — creativity and imagination. Open to all ages. Large, Duplo, and LEGOs provided. The Varnum in Jeffersonville holds LEGO club every other Wednesday (March 4, 18, April 1, 22), 3:30 – 5:00 PM. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

All events are free; some activities require advance registration. Adult Programs

Underhill Conservation Commission presents the third film in a series to inspire action in our community to combat the effects of the climate crisis. The third film entitled *Rivers and Tides*, an exploration of the environmental art of Andy Goldsworthy, will be shown at the Underhill Town Hall on Thursday, March 12, 7:00 PM.

Mah Jongg: Monday, March 2, 6:30 PM and Friday, March 27, 1:00 PM. 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!

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers: Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 PM. This month's selection is *Bowlaway* by Elizabeth McCracken. 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, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Scrabble: Thursday, March 12, 11:00 AM. Join us on the second Thursday of every month for the original wordplay game. Exercise your mind and improve your vocabulary (especially of two- and three-letter words).

Coming events continued from page 3

him and the time in which he lived? Where do the Christian beliefs and traditions about Jesus come from and how did Christian faith spread so far so quickly? Course 3 in the popular Exploring the Bible: The Dickenson Series gives you the opportunity to learn about Jesus and Christian faith without pressure to conform to a certain theology or point of view. This course is investigative and discussion, not a lecture series. Open to all. To register for the course or for more information, contact Bob Sargent, srgntrbt@netscape.net or 899-3093.

Teens Teaching Technology, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Varnum Library, Jeffersonville. Need tech help? We have the expert teens to answer your questions. Bring your charged devices and questions!

Monday, March 9

Westford Senior Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford Town Common. In honor of St. Patrick's Day the meal will be corned beef and cabbage. If there's a major snowstorm or it's extremely cold, the luncheon will be canceled. For information contact Carol Howrigan, 878-3090.

Senator Tim Ashe, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. The Jericho Democratic Committee is hosting Ashe, Senate President pro tem, for an update on the current legislative session and discussion of Senate redistricting for Chittenden County. Open to the public. Light refreshments provided. For more information, contact committee chair Mike Sweeney, 856-266-0781, or mike@thierrywriting.com.

Tuesday, March 10

Causes and Consequences of Vermont's Changing Demographics, 6:00 – 8:30 PM, Mount Mansfield Union High School library, Browns Trace, Jericho. The Underhill/Jericho Town GOP Committees have invited Arthur Woolf, Emeritus Associate Professor of Economics, UVM, to be the guest speaker at a potluck supper and talk. All are welcome! Wolf retired in 2019 from the UVM Economics Department, and is an engaging speaker who thrives on good questions from his audiences. He was State Economist under Madeleine Kunin from 1988-1991. He co-published *The Vermont Economy Newsletter* from 1991-2015 and wrote a weekly column on the Vermont economy for the Burlington Free Press from 2011-2018. In 2019 he began writing a regular column for *VT Digger.org*. In 1999 Dr. Woolf founded the Vermont Council on Economic Education, an organization that helps Vermont teachers to incorporate economics and personal finance into their classrooms, and since 2002 he has been on the teaching faculty of the Foundation for Teaching Economics. High school students and residents of surrounding communities are encouraged to attend. If you are able, please bring a salad, main dish, or dessert to share.

Researching your Irish ancestors, 7:00 PM, VT Genealogy Library, Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. The VT Genealogy Library and the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival are hosting this presentation by Ed McGuire. The talk includes a brief history of Irish immigration to North America and discussion of some of the major resources for Irish genealogy research online,

Climate Change, Polar Bears and the Arctic: Thursday, March 26, 7:00 PM. The Jericho Energy Task Force presents National Geographic author/photographer Kieran Mulvaney. He has traveled to Antarctica and the Arctic as a writer and as an activist for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Greenpeace, and SeaWeb. He spent seven years in Alaska before returning to the continental United States, settling in Bristol in 2014. Mulvaney's books include *The Whaling Season*, *At the Ends of the Earth*, and *The Great White Bear*. His presentation will include plenty of photos of this charismatic species and a discussion of how their lives are impacted by climate change. Light refreshments will be served but this is a waste-free event so please bring your own mugs and bowls. For more information, email phyl@together.net.

Youth Programs

Storytime returns! Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Come meet our new Youth Librarian Abbey, and join her for March themed stories, songs, crafts, and a nutritious snack! For pre-school.

Crafternoon — Tuesday, March 3, 2:45 – 4:00 PM. Drop in for make-and-take craft time. Create tissue paper and felt flowers, pipe cleaner people, and coloring creations. No registration required. For elementary, teen.

Game Time! Nintendo Switch — Thursday, March 5, 2:45 – 4:45 PM. We have Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Just Dance 2019, and more! You and up to three friends can sign up for a 30 minute slot to play on our new Nintendo Switch. Please visit the circulation desk or call 899-4962 to register. For elementary, teen.

Origami — Tuesday, March 10, 2:45 – 3:30 PM. Drop in to create origami animals, flowers, boxes, and more! No registration required. For elementary.

Storytime with Beth and David London: Fridays, March 13, 20, 27, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Music, movement, and stories.

Science Friday: Catapult Power — Friday, March 13, 2:45 – 4:30 PM. Join us to build a variety of catapults and then test their power, accuracy, and range with different projectiles. Please visit the circulation desk or call 899-4962 to register. For elementary, teen.

LEGO Time — Tuesday, March 17, 2:45 – 4:30 PM. Join us after school for LEGO construction time. Participate in LEGO building challenges and create, construct, and share your works with other LEGO builders. No registration required. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. For preschool, elementary.

Game Time! Nintendo Wii — Thursday, March 5, 2:45 – 4:45 PM. Play Wii Sports bowling, tennis, golf and more! You and up to three friends can sign up for a 30 minute slot to play on our new Nintendo Switch. Please visit the circulation desk or call 899-4962 to register. For elementary, teen.

Movie Matinee — Friday, March 20, 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Miles Morales becomes his universe's Spider-Man and crosses paths with Spider-people from other dimensions, and they all work to stop a threat against all realities. We will provide popcorn and lemonade just after the movie starts. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. For preschool, elementary, teen.

Bad Art — Tuesday, March 24, 2:45 – 4:00 PM. Go ahead and leave your talent and your taste at home. We have glitter, beads, specialty papers, pipe cleaners, and much more for you to go wild and make your Bad Art Creation! No registration required. For teens.

Card and Board Games — Thursday, March 26, 2:45 – 4:30 PM. Come play silly, fast-paced card games like Happy Salmon or Trash Pandas, and traditional board games like checkers, Pictureka, and many more! No registration required. For elementary, teen.

locally, and in Ireland. This talk 90-minute talk is free and open to the public. We will have refreshments. Feel free to stay after to start your research. Open for research Tuesdays 3:00 – 9:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Parking and entrance are across from the State Police Building. Visit our website www.vtgenlib.org or call 802-350-1333 for more details.

Wednesday, March 11

Craft Circle, 5:30 – 8:00 PM, Underhill Town Hall, upstairs, Underhill Center. Open to anyone who wants to socialize over any type of craft. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday each month. Questions? Contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com.

Embroiders' Guild of America meeting, 9:30 AM, Ascension Lutheran Church, 95 Allen Rd., S. Burlington. The Green Mountain Chapter of the Embroiders' Guild of America welcomes all abilities. This month we will be learning Pulled Thread. First meeting is complimentary. Bring a project to work on and a bag lunch. For more information: 8790198 or gmc.vt.ega@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 12

Learn to Cross-Country Ski, 3:30 – 5:00 PM, Westford Elementary School, Westford. Meet behind the school at the gazebo. Bring your own skis and gear and have a lesson with Dale Rodgers. Some equipment may be available; contact westfordcc@googlegroups.com.

Friday, March 13

Queen City Contra Dance, 8:00 – 11:00 PM, Shelburne Town Hall, VT Rt. 7 (5372 Shelburne Rd.), Shelburne. Music by Turning Stile; calling by Mary Wesley. All are welcome, all dances taught, no partner or experience necessary. Beginners' session at 7:45 PM. Admission: adults \$9; children 12 and under free. Pleaser bring clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. For information contact 802-877-3698 or info@queencitycontras.org; online at <http://www.queencitycontras.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/QueenCityContras/>.

Saturday, March 14

Sugar on Snow Party, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. Jericho Congregational Church invites parents and children ages pre-school to grade 6 for a free time of crafts, games, food, and fellowship. Come and stay as long as you want, and bring a friend.

33rd NW Model Railroad Train Show, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, I-89 Exit 19, St. Albans. The show will feature multiple operating HO, N, Z, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books. There will be a face painter and many hands-on train activities for children; educational clinics held throughout the day, free for attendees. A food stand will be available at the show. Admission \$6 adults, \$2 children 6-12, free for children under 6; special admission \$6 per family with active military ID.



No Strings Marionettes presents The Treasure Hunt at the Varnum Memorial Library, Jeffersonville on Saturday, March 21, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. All aboard this swashbuckling hunt for treasure, where Jim is lured out to sea in search of adventure and excitement. A wild ocean storm throws Jim overboard, where his underwater odyssey begins. With an enchanted kiss from Jewel, a young mermaid, Jim is able to breathe under water. Jewel and Jim encounter King Neptune and discover that his domain and all its underwater inhabitants are threatened by pollution poured into the water from above. Jim must find what is lost and convince his people to take better care of their lakes and oceans so that creatures above and below the water can live in harmony. Puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson lovingly handcraft the marionettes, props, and scenery. Shows begin with an interactive song featuring audience members, and finish with demonstrations sparked by the audiences' curious questions. Once the mind believes there are no strings... this realm becomes real... and the adventure begins! PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM; closed Monday. For information on any library programs, call 899-4962.

Library news continued on page 6

Community columns continued from page 4

of compressed sawdust, so they can be created from waste, and pellet systems can be automated and thermostat-controlled, with all of the hands-off benefits of propane or fuel oil. For people who are uncomfortable with traditional methods of burning firewood but still want to source their heat locally, this is an excellent option.

The State Clean Energy Plan set the ambitious goal of achieving 90% renewable energy by 2050, including sourcing 35% of our heat from wood by 2030. The environmental and economic benefits of this would be great, allowing us to displace the use of around 40 million gallons of fossil fuels annually and saving Vermonters about \$120 million a year. I would encourage you to think critically about switching to wood, and/or switching your old wood stove for a newer more efficient model. For a list of available incentives, check out <https://fpr.vermont.gov/woodenergy/rebates>.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, 802-585-9099, or at his office at 111 West St., Essex Junction.

Sunday, March 15

Ski, Snowshoe, and Après Ski, 12:30 – 5:00 PM, Bolton Valley Nordic Center, Sports Club Dr., off Bolton Valley Access Road, Bolton. VT Land Trust, Friends of Bolton Valley Nordic & Backcountry, and Catamount Trail Association sponsor this annual celebration of conserved Bolton Valley Nordic & Backcountry land. On-site backcountry ski and snowshoe tours, followed by a catered après ski. Arrive early to sign in and gear up. Register at vlt.org/event; for info including cost (under 12 free), see <https://www.vlt.org/event/bolton-valley-ski-snowshoe>.

Thursday, March 19

Meet State Reps Till and Squirrel, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. Meet with Chittenden-3 state representatives Trevor Squirrel and George Till to hear the latest from Montpelier and to let them know what you are thinking.

Saturday, March 21

Spring Concert and Bake Sale Fundraiser, 2:00 PM, Waterville Union Church, Church St., Waterville. These local performers will be there: *The Flats*, *Sibling Reverie*, the *Brown Family Singers*, Pastor Devon and Edna Lafountain and Friends. All sales and donations go to support the general operating expenses of the church.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper, servings at 5:00 and 6:00 PM, Binghamville Methodist Church, Fletcher. Menu: corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, homemade dessert. Cost: \$12 adults, \$5 children under 12, preschool children free. For reservations call Tara Sweet, 802-355-0768; Diane Dayvie, 802-849-6554; or Charles Tinker, 802-849-2120.

Boyden Maple Sugar Festival, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Boyden Valley Winery, Cambridge. Free samples of Boyden organic wood-fired maple syrup and bourbon-barrel aged maple liqueurs and wines. Stay for lunch with European style meat and veggie hand pies and pierogis. Maple everything! Maple sangria and maple milkshakes made with VT Ice Maple Crème (21+ only) or maple syrup (everyone), mini cupcakes. Free parking and admission; no reservations needed. For questions or more information, 802-644-8151 or info@boydenvalley.com.

Sunday, March 22

Exploring the Bible, course 3: the New Testament, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, meeting room, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho. Who was Jesus really? What do we actually know about him and the time in which he lived? Where do the Christian beliefs and traditions about Jesus come from and how did Christian faith spread so far so quickly? Course 3 in the popular Exploring the Bible: The Dickenson Series gives you the opportunity to learn about Jesus and Christian faith without pressure to conform to a certain theology or point of view. This course is investigative and discussion, not a lecture series. Open to all. To register for the course or for more information, contact Bob Sargent, srgntrbt@netscape.net or 899-3093.

Library news continued from page 5

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Open Play, Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Join us for an hour of play in our newly renovated Intergenerational Programming Space. The toys in the space focus on narrative play and include a puppet theatre, a grocery store, kitchen, dollhouse, barn, and more!

Story Time, Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Pop in for a casual hour of story time, smiles, songs, and laughter with Lisa! Recommended ages: 0-5 years.

Bucketlist Book Group, Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

JTL Board meetings are held the second Monday of every month (March 9), 5:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Jericho Town Library hours: Mondays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

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

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

No Strings Marionettes presents the *Treasure Hunt*, Saturday, March 21, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. All aboard this swashbuckling hunt for treasure, where Jim is lured out to sea in search of adventure and excitement. A wild ocean storm throws Jim overboard, where his underwater odyssey begins. With an enchanted kiss from Jewel, a young mermaid, Jim is able to breathe under water. Jewel and Jim encounter King Neptune and discover that his domain and all its underwater inhabitants are threatened by pollution poured into the water from above. Jim must find what is lost and convince his people to take better care of their lakes and oceans so that creatures above and below the water can live in harmony. Puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson have toured America together for over 16 years. Their traveling stage transforms any space into an intimate theater, where the seamless blend of movement, music, and masterful manipulation captivates young and old alike. With puppeteers in full view, the audience sees how the puppets are brought to life. These Vermont artisans lovingly handcraft the marionettes, props, and scenery, whether for an original tale or an adaptation of a classic. Shows begin with an interactive song featuring audience members, and finish with demonstrations sparked by the audiences' curious questions. *Once the mind believes there are no strings... this realm becomes real... and the adventure begins!*

Roald Dahl Youth Book Club: Mondays, 5:00 – 5:45 PM. The book club is recommended for ages 8-12 but is open to anyone, young and old. Younger kids are welcome to participate as well, as the chapters make a perfect amount to be read aloud. Those seven and under should be accompanied by an adult to the meetings. Each weekly meeting will feature a discussion and craft or activity, with snacks provided. We are now reading *The BFG*. It's not too late to join! Contact Youth Services Librarian Cari Varner, cjvarner@gmail.com, to be part of this lively group!

Varnum LEGO Club, every other Wednesday (March 4, 18, April 1, 22), 3:30 – 5:00 PM. Each meeting will feature themed and free build time, team exercises, and opportunities for collaboration and — most importantly — creativity and imagination. Open to all ages. Large, Duplo, and LEGOs provided.

Baby Got Books, 9:30 – 10:30 AM. A story time for the littlest patrons age 0-24 months, but all are welcome. We read age-appropriate books, sing songs, finger plays, use musical instruments, and have plenty of time for free play.

Children's Story Time and Crafts with LN, Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 AM. The library is a warm, cheery place for children to meet other children! Join us for stories read by people who enjoy sharing good books and a craft, too.

The first annual Climate Action Film Festival (CAFF) is a celebration of short films with a focus on solutions to the climate crisis. Solutions to the climate crisis are being implemented every day around the world, from rebuilding coastal estuaries to bringing solar power to remote communities. Join us for this community-focused event featuring a select few of our favorite films from the Festival, and be part of the discussion for local climate action in 2020. Raise your voice in the name of climate action! The screening will be held on Sunday evening, March 15, 5:00 PM, at the Varnum Memorial Library. Hosted by SunCommon; co-hosted by Cambridge Conservation Commission, in partnership with VPIRG, VT Youth Lobby, and VT Natural Resources Council (VNRC).

A Little Show in the Little Room: Art by Jayne Lukens and sounds by *Winter Woods* on Saturday, March 7, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Sponsored by the Cambridge Arts Council. Snacks by Gracie and Jen at The Farm Store.

Murder in the Vermont Woods: A Story About Race, Class, and Gender in the 19th Century. This presentation by Jill Mudgett on Sunday, March 22, 2:00 – 3:30 PM tells the story of an Indigenous man from southern New England who came to central Vermont during the late 19th century and was the victim of a murder. The story recreates community connections in a rural Vermont hill town. It is a story about poverty, racism, disability, and gendered violence against women, but is also a story about Indigenous movement and choice despite great obstacles. Jill Mudgett is a cultural historian with an interest in the connection between the people and the environment of northern New England. She holds a Ph.D. in American history and has experience in interdisciplinary studies and is engaged in collaborative scholarship with other Vermont researchers. She is an occasional commentator on Vermont Public Radio and is interested in public history outreach. Sponsored by the VT Humanities Council.

Trickster Animal Mimics, Thursday, March 12, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Is that a stick or a stick bug? A caterpillar or a pile of bird poop? In this program we will try not to be tricked by critters that imitate the traits of another organism to outsmart predators or prey. See how good you are at telling the difference between the real deal and its mimic. Then try your hand at the animal imitation game. Sponsored by the Cambridge Conservation Commission and the library, and presented by the Lamoille Valley Nature Center. It is designed for pre-school and elementary school kiddos, but all are welcome! Part of the 2019-20 Junior Naturalist Series.

Four trained and IRS-certified AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will be available in March at the Varnum. Free tax assistance will be provided to Americans age 50 and over. Appointments are available 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Fridays, March 6 and 13. Appointments require a reservation, and are available until filled. Taxpayers must bring a picture I.D., last year's return, income documents, a bank check or account information, and all other relevant documents. Call 644-2117 to sign-up! Started in 1968 by four volunteers, the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is now the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation program. In 2013, over 35,000 volunteers worked at nearly 5000 Tax-Aide community-based sites in all 50 states. The

AARP Foundation helped people navigate complicated tax codes, receive proper credits and deductions, and file their federal, state and local tax returns.

Crafting Circle, Thursdays, 5:30 PM. It's winter and that means that the Craft Circle is starting again! Bring your current W.I.P. (Work-in-Progress) or come to get ideas and learn something new. Be sure to take a gander at our growing collection of craft-related materials. All crafts welcome. No pre-registration required, just bring your supplies and join in!

Spanish Conversational Hour: Fridays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Join native Spanish speaker Milagro as she guides the group, helps with pronunciation, and plays a few games to help with vocabulary.

Crescendo Club Library Association — If you enjoy the Varnum's collection and programming, we would enjoy having you on our board! Join us for just a few hours each month and support the library.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198,194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; thevarnum@gmail.com; www.varnumlibrary.org. Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Story Time: Thursdays, 11:30 AM.

Fiber Arts Group: Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 4: Trustees meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Crazy 8's Math Club: Thursday, March 5: Crazy 8's Math Club begins. Crazy 8's is for grades K-2 and meets every Thursday through April 30 (no class on April 23), 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Those enrolled take Bus #3 from Westford School. Class ends at 4:30 PM. The class is full, but there is a waitlist.

Celtic Coloring: Friday, March 13, after school to 5:00 PM.

Census Saturdays: Saturday, March 14, 28, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The library will help you navigate your online census taking, from available computers, help reading forms, and help filling out forms online. Plus coffee and doughnuts!

Travel Talk: Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 – 8:30 PM. *Destination: Japan* presented by Jason and Michaela Crooks.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Friday, March 20: Drop off your furry friend any time March 18-20 but by 7:00 PM on March 20! The animal will have a fun sleepover. Pick them up and have breakfast with them the next morning. Bree will have a slideshow ready of all the fun things they did overnight.

Breakfast with your Animal after the Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Saturday, March 21, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. All animals must be picked up by 2:00 PM.

Adult Book Group: Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. *The Lake House* by Kate Morton.

Art with Janet Weaving: Friday, March 27, after school to 5:00 PM. Signup required.

CookBook Club: Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 – 8:30 PM. *Tapas and Other Spanish Plates to Share*. Bring an authentic taste of Spain to your table with this collection of over 60 recipes for small plates to share. Come in to get a recipe, cook it, and bring it in with you. The library will take care of the dishes!

Library Hours: Wednesday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook. 878-5639; Bree Drapa, Librarian.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

AARP Volunteer Tax Preparers are returning! If you intend on using the volunteers' services please gather the following documents: Social Security card (or photocopy), government issued photo I.D., W-2 (if received), any 1099s, current and prior year property tax bill, Landlord Certificate (if applicable), Health Care Form 1095 (from ACA) if applicable, Social Security statements, and any other financial documents relevant to your return (e.g., phone bills if using Lifeline). If in doubt of a document's value, bring it. Keep in mind, if filing jointly, both individuals must be present. Call the library if you need an appointment.

Seeking Artists and Collectors: We are currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2020. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, contact us to choose your month. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of Beanie Babies, bird nests, little cars, old books or anything else that would fit in our case that you would be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Call or email the library.

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 PM: *The Nightmare* by Lars Kepler. Kepler delivers another nail-biting, hair-raising thriller, pulled straight from your darkest nightmares. Copies for book groups are made available by the circulation desk.

Weekly children's programs at the Library run September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

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

Playgroup with Stories and Songs: The good times kick off with songs and shakers around the colorful alphabet rug. Next up is storytime and snacks (bring your own). Then, the toys and art supplies come out for free play and crafts. Co-sponsored by the Lund Center. Kids from infant to age five and their caregivers are invited to join us in the community room on Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Preschool Storytime: This special storytime is for children ages 3-5. We will share picture books, songs, and activities, with a focus on the six pre-reading skills that form a child's early literacy experience and help set them up for a lifelong love of books and reading. Join us on Fridays, 10:30 AM.

Free Coffee and Tea: Warm yourself with a hot cup of coffee or tea during the cold winter season. The beverage table is to the left of the circulation desk on the ground floor. Help yourself and sip while you browse, read, work, or gather with friends.

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

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

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLISTON

Read to a Dog: Wednesday, March 4, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Read to Honey, a registered therapy dog. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session. All ages.

Meditation Program: Friday, March 6 and 20, 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Lower your stress level and unlock calm at our bi-monthly meditation program. Learn about the different types of meditation through practice, breath work, and balancing Chakras. All levels are welcome.

Cook the Book: Wednesday, March 11, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Join our monthly cooking program. We've set aside a cookbook in the library for you to photocopy a recipe of your choice. Prepare the dish and bring it and the recipe to our potluck meeting. This month: *Pioneer Woman Cooks the New Frontier* by Ree Drummond. Pre-register.

Mah Jongg: Wednesday, March 11 and 25, 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Learn how to play, revisit the game, or just enjoy the game of Mah Jongg. Come alone or bring a friend and play with members of our community. All experience levels are welcome.

Technology Night: Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Ken Bernard of Vermont Tech offers a monthly learning technology series. This session will focus on browser extensions (dictionary, ad blocker, etc.). Bring your own device if you would like. All ages.

Notable Figures in Williston History: Sunday, March 15, 2:00 PM. Richard Allen of the Williston Historical Society will share an illustrated talk on people who have left their mark on Williston's history: inventors, travelers, storytellers, businessmen, educators, blacksmiths, and a politician.

Brown Bag Book Club: Tuesday, March 17, 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Meet others who love to talk about books. This month we will discuss *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. Books are available at the front desk. Beverages and dessert provided.

Current Events Conversation: Wednesday, March 18, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Gather with others interested in discussing newsworthy topics.

Movie: Wednesday, March 18, 5:30 PM. New release. Billi's family returns to China under the guise of a fake wedding to stealthily say goodbye to their beloved matriarch, the one person who doesn't know she only has a few weeks to live. Snack provided. Rated: PG (141 minutes).

Read to a Cat: Thursday, March 19, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Read to Edgar, a therapy cat in training. Pre-register for a one-on-one reading session. All ages.

Tech Tutor: Friday, March 20, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. One-on-one technology help from a teen. Guarantee a time by making a 30 minute appointment, 878-4918. Drop-ins are welcome if space is available.

Classical Music Encounters: Monday March 23, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. The Wu Brothers introduce audiences to classical music through performance and commentary.

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston; 878-4918 or www.williston.lib.vt.us.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration encouraged.

Youth Events

Wednesday, March 4, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Shamrock Sun Catchers. Make a pretty shamrock-shaped sun catcher, just in time for St. Patrick's Day! Ages 6 and up. Please register.

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 3:15 – 4:00 PM: Chess Club. Learning chess has been proven to have many benefits such as building creativity, problem solving and concentration! Please register. Ages 7 and up. Limit of 20.

Tuesday, March 10, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Leprechaun Traps. Flex your creative engineering skills and craft a trap that is sure to catch a leprechaun. Ages 7 and up. Please register.

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Hour. Join us for themed stories, songs, and activities for ages 0-6. On March 24, we are happy to welcome a pediatric dental hygienist program to our Storytime! No registration necessary for Story Hour.

Wednesday, March 11, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Kids ages 6 and up. enjoy themed Lego play after school. Please register

Thursday, March 12, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: PJ Story Hour. Kids age 0-6 listen to themed stories, followed by a craft and a snack.

Thursdays, March 12, 26, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Read to a Dog. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read McKenzie, a big friendly Newfoundland dog!

Adult Events

All Month Long: Tournament of Books. 32 books go head-to-head March Madness style. Vote each week (in person or online at <https://forms.gle/yNhbQVAiZbhZqxUz6>) for your winners, and by the end of the month one book will come out on top!

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Book Club. We will discuss the book *Faithful Place* by Tana French. All are welcome!

Thursday, March 12, 6:00 – 7:45 PM: Arts and Crafts for Adults. Join us to learn and share skills in paper making, paper marbling, paper mache, printmaking, and other crafts. Open studio drop-in sessions. During the session, Sarah will be available to assist anyone on an individual basis.

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Take Your Child to the Library Day. Celebrate the day with us! We will have a storybook themed scavenger hunt and some small prizes!

Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Knitwits. Want to learn to knit? Or do you just want to spend time knitting with others? Knitwits is the new knitting group at the library and is open to all skill levels. Please register.

Saturday, March 21, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Puzzle Swap. Have some old puzzles you'd like to switch for new ones? Bring the puzzles you no longer want and swap them with new (to you) puzzles. Bring something to swap something. No puzzles with missing pieces please!

Wednesday, March 25, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: DIY Puzzle Jewelry. Turn old puzzles into new jewelry! Bring a puzzle you'd like to get rid of, or just bring your creativity, and make something new from old puzzle pieces.

Saturday, March 28, 10:00 – 11:45 AM: Welcome Baby Social. The Fairfax Community Library invites you to choose a library book dedicated to your young child! Was your child born or adopted between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019? Families who have returned their form to the library by February 29 can choose a book in the library during the Book Dedication Social. If you can't attend, we would be happy to choose a book for you.

Saturday, March 28, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Cabin Fever Café. Winter in Vermont is LONG. Get out and enjoy live music from great local talent. This month we are featuring Tom Jamison, playing some throwback singalongs. No registration needed. Just come out and enjoy the music!

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM;

Libraries continued on page 7

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

The Jericho Town Hall art project *Quiet Time* is available for viewing during regular Town Hall hours. The exhibition is a lively mix of different ideas of “quiet time,” from photos to fabric. The exhibit will run through April.

DRML is extending an invitation for local artists to display their art at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. We traditionally hang on first of month and take down at the end of the month, but displaying for two months is also an option. You cannot display prices but if you are interested in selling you can leave a price list at the circulation desk and the staff can notify you of interest. Contact DRML (899-4962) for information, or with suggestions of other artists who may wish to display their art. Now scheduling March-September.

Essex Art League meeting and speaker Harald Aksdal — The accolades needed to describe the beauty of his watercolor portraits of Vermont trees and landscapes do not exist. Treat your eyes to his gallery on his site at www.visionsofvermont.com.

Dianne Shullenberger Gallery, 228 Nashville Rd., Jericho; 899-4993 or vtidiane@hotmail.com.

Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho; gallery hours Thursday-Sunday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment, 899-3211.

Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St., Stowe. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and by appointment; 802-253-8359, www.helenday.com.

River Arts of Morrisville Inc., 74 Pleasant Rd., Morrisville; 802-888-1261, <http://www.riverartsvt.org>.

Milton Artists' Guild Art Center & Gallery, 199 U.S. Rt. 7 South, Milton; open Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sundays, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM (closed Monday and Tuesday); <https://www.miltonartistsguild.org>.

HAVOC Gallery, 27 Sears Lane, Burlington; www.HAVOCGallery.com; HAVOC@havocgallery.com or 800-639-1868. Hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and every first Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 PM.

Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; 802-644-5100; www.bryangallery.org. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and by appointment.

MUSIC

The Westford Music Series 2020 is held Sundays at the White Church on the Common, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (usually). Open to the public; refreshments will be served. March 15: Christine Malcolm, a singer songwriter offering country style music. April 5: Patrick Fitzsimmons. May 3: Paul Asbell. For information, 802-279-4028.

On Saturday, March 21, 2:00 PM, the Waterville Union Church (Church St., Waterville) will present a concert followed by a bake sale. These local performers will be there: *The Flats*, *Sibling Reverie*, the *Brown Family Singers*, Pastor Devon and Edna Lafountain and Friends. All sales and donations go to support the general operating expenses of the church.

The Charlotte Grange, 2898 Spear St., Charlotte, hosts occasional musical events: On Sunday, March 8 at 4:00 PM, Pete Sutherland and Oliver Scanlon of *Pete's Posse* will be presenting *Fiddlers of the Next Generation*, a showcase of their current students. As well as being popular and in-demand as performers, Pete and Oliver are passionate educators and this event will provide an opportunity for some of their current students to share their talents and tunes with a wider audience. Hope to see you there! Suggested donation \$10.

THEATER/FILM

The Underhill Conservation Commission has presented a series of films that share hope and inspiration for our natural world. The third and final film, to be shown Thursday, March 12, 7:00 PM at the Underhill Town Hall, is *Rivers and Tides*, by Andy Goldsworthy — a visual delight that is filled with wonder and beauty. Free and open to all. Bring a friend! For questions or more information, please contact Betsy Chapek, 899-4576 or echapek4@myfairpoint.net.

Headliners Comedy Club — Mondays, March 2 and 23, 9:00 – 11:00 PM at Bootleggers' Lounge, Smugglers' Notch Resort. Top flight adult entertainment that is open to the public. See two of Boston and New York's funniest comics live! Each show hosted

by either Rob Steen or Jody Sloane. \$15 cover charge includes one draft beer or house wine. Age 21 and older. Valid ID required.

Vermont Youth Dancers presents *As You Are, The Story of Belle and the Beast*, a dance theatre production of the classic fairy tale. A selfish young prince and his castle staff fall under a spell of a mysterious enchantress who turns him into a frightful beast, until he can learn to love and be loved in return. The misunderstood and determined Belle may be their only hope, as she takes her mother's place as prisoner at the castle. But time is running out... Will the spell be broken? This wonderful story of community, sacrifice and identity is told by VYD through exciting hip hop and poignant lyrical choreography, along with stunning sets, lighting and costumes. Do not miss this unique performance — the choreography, song lyrics, and the acting and emotion the dancers put on the stage is something unusual and beautiful. Please help VYD raise funds and awareness for the VT Alzheimer's Association. VYD brings this show to two locations this spring — Mount Mansfield Union High School, Jericho on Friday, April 17, 6:30 PM and Saturday, April 18, 1:00 and 7:00 PM; and to South Burlington High School on Saturday, May 30, 6:30 PM and Sunday, May 31, 2:00 PM. Tickets on sale for all performances Tuesday, March 10.

Rosie's Girls Camp registration is open

Rosie's Girls is a one-week career exploration day camp for girls and gender non-conforming youth entering grades 6-8, where they explore hands-on STEM and trades activities. It's a safe and supportive environment for campers that emphasizes connection, creativity, and personal development — with tons of fun and games woven in! A place where they can get their hands dirty, take positive risks, and try something new. Financial assistance is available. Visit our website for more details and camp registration: <https://www.vtworksforwomen.org/programs/middle-school-girls/rosies-girls/2020-camp-information>.

Library news continued from page 6

Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, 802-849-2420. Call or email libraryprograms@fwsu.org. For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 and Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 AM and 12:15 PM: Free Tax Help. For taxpayers with low and middle incomes (annual gross income less than \$60,000), with special attention to those 60 or over. However, if a patron's tax return is relatively complex s/he will be advised to seek professional tax assistance. Volunteer AARP foundation certified tax preparers Tak and Dorothy Ng will help. Qualified patrons who wish to avail themselves of the Ngs' expertise will need to call (878-6955) or visit the library to make a one-hour appointment with one of them. Please come in 10 minutes before your appointment to fill out a required intake and interview form. If married, both spouses should (but do not have to) be present during an income tax counseling session. Taxpayers must have available during their meeting with the tax-aide counselor all information and documents that have been received that apply to their 2019 income taxes. Appointments are available until Thursday, April 9. Reserve your place for tax-preparation.

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 12:00 and 1:00 PM: Tech Help with Cliff. Offering one-on-one technology help. Bring in your new gadget or gizmo and Cliff will sit with you to help you learn its ways! Reservation required. Please call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

Monday, March 2, 3:00 – 4:45 PM: Monday matinee Abominable. After discovering a Yeti on the roof of her apartment building, teenage Yi and her two friends embark on an epic quest to reunite the magical creature with his family. DreamWorks Animation. 97 minutes. Rated PG. Free popcorn and drinks!

Monday, March 2, 7:30 – 9:00 PM: Vermont Astronomical Society: Sketching Celestial Objects by Keith Lawrence. Keith will present a short talk on recording your observations, including sketching, for future reference. He will feature recommendations from the Astronomical League and talk about how to be recognized for your efforts.

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: Story Time. We will engage kids with picture book stories, songs, puppets and rhymes in the picture book room. Come read and play with us. For ages 0-5.

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and Monday, March 23, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Current Events Discussion Group. A forum for lively and courteous expression of views about current events, news, and issues. Come to share or just to listen. Moderated by Sandy Baird.

Tuesday, March 3, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Game Day. Come play a game with a librarian or each other. Games to be played will be chosen by attendees. Young and old welcome.

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Wonder Wednesdays: Weather. Make, experiment, collaborate, and explore your curiosity. Best for ages 6 and up. March 4: Weather — look at the library's weather station, and make a tornado in a bottle and a cloud in a jar. March 11: Celebrate the Festival of Colors, Holi, with stories, special food and color art. March 18: Paper bag Stars — design and make your own. March 25: make puffy paint out of materials you can find around your house and then create with it! Best for ages 6 and up.

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Read with Daisy. Daisy loves to listen to kids read every Wednesday. She is certified by Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Daisy's owner is Maddie Nash, a retired school counselor. For all ages.

Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: First Wednesday Lecture: The Poetics of Protest in Nina Simone's Mississippi Goddam! In 1964, Nina Simone performed the protest song Mississippi Goddam! at Carnegie Hall in front of mostly white audiences. When the live recording was released, many radio stations destroyed the albums. Middlebury professor Matthew Evan Taylor discusses how Simone's protest is found not only in her words, but also in the musical structure.

Friday, March 6, 9:30 – 10:00 AM: Preschool Yoga. Come do simple yoga poses, hear stories, and sing songs with Danielle! Best for children 2-5 years old.

Friday, March 6, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Red Clover Story Time. This month we'll read Hawk Rising and Girl Running: Bobbi Gibb and

the Boston Marathon. Best for ages 5-10.

Fridays, March 6, 13, 27, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Chess Club. Come play chess for an hour! We provide the chess sets and you provide the strategy. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Fridays, March 6, 20, 5:30 – 8:30 PM: Dungeons & Dragons: Campaign Mode. Gather with fellow D&D players and embark on adventures of your own design. This game is for seasoned players who want a faster paced and more serious game. There is no designated Dungeon Master, rather participants have creative control, and players are invited to take the lead as DM. Come at 5:30 PM to talk about the game or hang out with fellow players. Game starts at 6:30 PM. All ages welcome.

Friday, March 6, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: First Friday Knit Night. Sit by the fireplace and bring a knitting project to work on! For adult knitters and related crafters.

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Art Lab. Explore a rotating selection of art materials. This program is about process not product; there are no samples, no right or wrong way to play with the materials. This month we will paint 3D recycled cereal boxes with tempura paint. Recommended for children under 6 and their families, but anyone is welcome!

Monday, March 9, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Must Read Mondays! Read a mystery of your choice to discuss! Suggestions welcome.

Tuesday, March 10, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Teen Writers Club. Teens will play collaborative and independent writing games to stretch their imagination and encourage creativity. They will also be able to connect with other teen writers in a supportive, stress-free environment. All teens welcome.

Thursday, March 12, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: First Wednesday Encore: The Opioid Crisis: A Historical Perspective. Today's opioid epidemic is usually portrayed as a new and shocking development. Yet it is only the most recent crisis in more than a century of widespread addiction to pharmaceuticals. Historian David Herzberg tells the story of past epidemics of addiction and draws lessons from America's long history of drug policy failures and occasional successes. This video was recorded at the Norwich Congregational Church on March 6, 2019.

Fridays, March 13, 27, 9:30 – 10:15 AM: Music with Raph. Come sing and play with Raph. For all ages.

Friday, March 13, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: TAB. Join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) for a craft and a snack! All 9-12 graders welcome.

Fridays, March 13, 27, 5:30 – 8:30 PM: Dungeons & Dragons: Family Night. Learn to play D&D and embark upon imaginary adventures. This is an open play game for new/returning players and families, a Dungeon Master serves as this role playing game's referee and storyteller. New players should arrive at 5:30 PM for help making characters. Game starts at 6:30 PM. All ages encouraged.

Saturday, March 14, 2:00 – 3:45 PM: Saturday Matinee: Night at the Museum. A newly recruited night security guard at the Museum of Natural History discovers that an ancient curse causes the animals and exhibits on display to come to life and wreak havoc. Twentieth Century Fox 2006. 108 minutes. Rated PG. Free popcorn and drinks!

Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Crafternoon. Come craft with us. We provide the materials, you create!

Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Brownell Library Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Red Clover Group for Homeschooled Students. This month is the voting party for students who participated this season. Please bring a snack to share and celebrate!

Wednesday, March 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Dorothy's List Group for Homeschooled Students. This month is the voting party for students who participated this season. Please bring a snack to share and celebrate!

Wednesday, March 18, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: GMB Book Discussion for Homeschooled Students. This month is the voting party for students who participated this season. Please bring a snack to share and celebrate!

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 PM: Beginner's Beekeeping. Come join local, long time beekeeper Hugh Gibson to learn how to get started with beekeeping. Hugh will do a show-and-tell using an actual hive (less bees of course) for a hands-on experience, as well as entertain all your stinging questions. Everyone will leave with a comprehensive handout of information, a beneficial-for-bees flower

seed packet, beekeeping magazine, and an equipment catalog. Buzz on over and meet Hugh for this sweet topic.

Friday, March 20, 9:30 – 10:30 AM: Play Time for Little Ones. Active play time for kids 0-5 years old. Build with our new blocks, build social skills and community connections.

Saturday, March 21, 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Lego Fun! Come build creatively with Legos and see what others build. For all ages; children under 9 years old must bring a responsible caregiver.

Tuesday, March 24, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEEP (Library Elementary Event Planners). Come eat a snack, hang out with fellow LEEPers, and do a project or experiment! All 6-8 graders welcome.

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 – 8:30 PM: The Trump Administration and NATO. Stan Sloan, an internationally-recognized expert on NATO, will lead a discussion on the current relationship of NATO and the Trump administration, and share his experience last December of being removed by the U.S. Embassy as a keynote speaker for a conference on NATO in Copenhagen, Denmark. Stan, a native Vermonter, is a visiting scholar in political science at Middlebury College and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States.

Tuesday, March 31, 2:30 – 4:20 PM: Tuesday Movie Dora and the Lost City of Gold. A teen moves from the jungle to high school but soon begins an adventure for the lost city of gold along with a motley crew of characters. Paramount Pictures 2019. Rated PG. 102 min. Free popcorn and drinks!

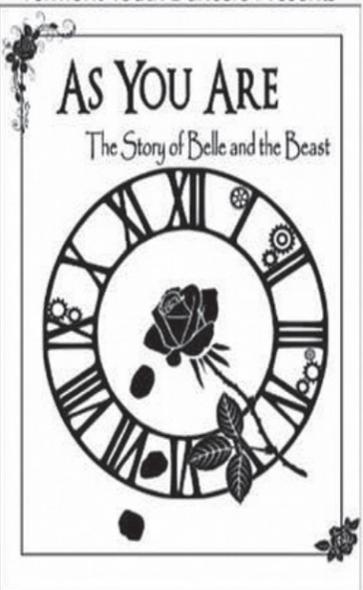
Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Contact Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

Vermont Youth Dancers Presents

AS YOU ARE
The Story of Belle and the Beast



A dance theatre production of the classic story of Beauty & the Beast

Mount Mansfield Union High School
Apr. 17, 6:30 pm Apr. 18, 1pm & 7 pm

South Burlington High School
May 30, 6:30 pm May 31, 2 pm

Ticket information at vermontyouthdancers.org

FROM MONTEPELIER

Act 250 update

Lucy Rogers

State Representative, Lamoille-3

The VT House has passed a bill pertaining to changes to Act 250, which will now go to the Senate for consideration. Below is the explanation that I read to my colleagues after I voted:

“I voted yes out of appreciation for the additional exemptions from Act 250 for trails, village centers, and the forest products industry. However, I speak directly for my constituents and many other Vermonters when I share a deep concern that this current bill does not substantively address the length of time or level of expense required to go through the Act 250 process, or the inconsistency with which Act 250 is applied in different regions of the state. I sincerely hope that we will follow through with addressing these issues within the current legislative biennium.”

Chittenden 8-3 legislative report

Robert Bancroft

State Representative, Chittenden 8-3

House floor time was fairly short on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Two bills were addressed. They were H.674 and H.922. H.674 dealt with technical changes to use value appraisals and H.922 dealt with technical changes to the VT State Employee's Retirement System. Both were passed on unanimous voice votes.

Floor activity picked up considerably on Thursday and Friday. Three bills were addressed. They were H.568, H.688 and H.760. The first two generated considerable debate. The question before the House on H.760, which is the 2020 Budget Adjustment Act, was whether to approval an amendment proposed by the Senate. The House voted to concur. H.760 is ready to be sent to the Governor for his signature.

H.568 “... proposes to provide limited immunity from criminal prosecution to a person if he or she reports to law enforcement that he or she is a victim of or a witness to a crime that arose from his or her involvement in prostitution or human trafficking and to create a Sex Work Study Committee for the purpose of examining and modernizing the State's prostitution laws.” The vote of the bill was divided. The first part of the bill dealing with limited immunity passed on a nearly unanimous voice vote. (I voted for it.) The second part, which called for the creation of a study committee, passed on a roll call vote of 136 yeas and 19 nays. With some trepidation on the need for another study committee, I did vote in favor of it.

H.688, the Global Warming Solutions Act, came up for debate on Thursday. The bill calls for the creation of a 22-member Climate Council, which will be responsible for coming up with a Vermont Climate Action Plan (VCAP) by December 1, 2021. The Climate Council's plan will lay out how to achieve the following reductions in greenhouse gases: 26% below 2005 levels by 2025, 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Once the Council adopts a plan, the Agency of Natural Resource (ANR) will have a year to set forth rules to achieve these reductions.

While I support the need to reduce greenhouse gases and immediately address climate change, I, along with others, felt H.688 had some very serious flaws in three areas: 1) the right to sue if ANR does not promulgate its rules by December 1, 2022 and achieve the required greenhouse gas reduction by 2025. The reasoning behind this is the recognition that ANR is going to be given a monumental task in these early years. The right to sue if benchmarks are not achieved in 2030 and 2050 would remain. This part of the amendment was defeated on a voice vote. The second part of my amendment, which called for a financial analysis of the proposed VCAP, was agreed to on a near unanimous voice vote.

The third area of concern is the failure of the bill to allow the legislature to review and approve the Climate Council's VCAP. Rep. Anne Donahue offered an amendment that would require legislative approval before ANR begins the rule making process. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated on a vote of 44 to 99.

The vote on the H.688, which included the second part of my amendment, passed the House on a vote of 105 to 39. I voted no. There is a good deal of optimism that the Senate will require legislative oversight of the VCAO once it comes. If the bill comes back from the Senate without any significant changes other than a provision for legislative oversight of the Plan, I will support this important legislation.

It was a busy week for my committee, Commerce & Economic Development Committee. We spent the week going over many of the budget requests that have come before the committee. They range from additional tourism and marketing funding, a variety of business incentives and workforce expansion proposals, funding for downtown and village infrastructure projects, and housing incentives. Next week promises to be even busier. We will be receiving additional testimony on a variety of budget requests, including hearing again from individuals from *Let's Grow Kids* regarding funding to encourage more people to enter the child care/early education field. By the end of the week the committee will have sent on its recommendation to the House Appropriations and/or Ways and Means committees.

Where to find information about land enrolled in Current Use

A question was raised regarding the amount of land and number of parcels enrolled in Current Use. Please see pages 18-32 of the Tax Department's Annual Report for answers to these questions: <https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/PVR%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>.

Lucy Rogers
State Representative, Lamoille-3
lr Rogers@leg.state.vt.us

A good consumer protection law gets even better

Senator Michael Sirotkin

Chittenden County

Several months ago I wrote about a new VT consumer protection law that was heralded by many experts as the strongest law of its kind in the country. I am proud to say it came out of the Senate Committee I chair and deals with what had been the very non-transparent practice of automatically renewing tens of thousands of contracts on consumer goods and services.

Because of our Vermont law, you will now see nationwide (see, for example, Amazon or Apple sign ups) that the words “auto renewal,” or the like, appear prominently as opposed to formerly being buried in the fine print of the terms of service.

Moreover, the second part of our law was equally, if not more, important. All contracts for a year or more for consumer goods and services will now require a notice of the contract being extended and right to cancel 30 to 60 days before the end of the contract period.

And just this month we made the law even better. For those who subscribed online (which is most of us), they now must be given an easy mechanism to simply click and cancel the auto renewal.

No longer will consumers have to search for the appropriate page or field, write in, affirm multiple times that they are sure they want to cancel, or give over sensitive or additional information in order to unsubscribe.

No longer will people unwittingly find their contracts extended on products or services they no longer want because they were not aware they were being auto-renewed, or can't figure out how to cancel.

As with all new laws, implementation and compliance can be sketchy at first. However, over time we are already seeing stronger compliance by the larger vendors. Smaller companies may take longer to learn and follow the law, but they are subject to it nevertheless.

Please feel free to contact me at sirotkin.senate@gmail.com if you get renewed without warning or are not afforded a simple way to cancel your contract when it is ending. We should be able to get that rectified and in some instances seek additional relief.

VT House update

By Theresa Wood

State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

Here's a brief update of the bills that moved through the House in the last two weeks:

H.1 — An act relating to Agreements Not to Compete; Prohibition; Exceptions — this bill provides specific guidance on the parameters for certain “non-compete” agreements with regard to salaries, trade information, etc.

H.83 — An act relating to prohibiting female genital cutting — this bill passed the House last year and was taken up by the Senate and returned to the House. It prohibits the act of female genital cutting and mutilation, with exceptions for medical purposes.

H.568 — An act relating to human trafficking and prostitution — this bill sets up a process to modernize Vermont's prostitution and human trafficking laws and enables a person engaging in prostitution to be immune from charges if reporting another crime.

H.608 — An act relating to incompatible offices — this bill adds Assistant Town Treasurer to list of public offices a school director can hold simultaneously.

H.674 — An act clarifying the definition of development used for value use appraisal — this bill changes the definition to enable more than one dwelling unit on a two acre parcel to be considered part of a “house site” for the purpose of use value appraisals.

H.668 — Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act — This bill proposes to create a legally enforceable system by which Vermont will reduce its statewide greenhouse gas emissions and establish strategies to mitigate climate risks and build resiliency to climate change.

H.722 — An act relating to Updates to the State Libraries Statute— this bill does exactly as the title suggests, as well as updating requirements for certain state documents.

H.793 — An act relating to the powers and duties of the Auditor of Accounts — this bill adds “financial” to the State auditor's role in compliance audits and updates other responsibilities for the office of auditor.

H.922 — An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to Vermont State Employees retirement system — this was a technical bill that did not change any benefits.

S.23 — An act relating to raising the minimum wage; action on the Governor's veto — action on this bill was postponed until February 25, 2020.

S.110 — An act relating to data privacy and consumer protection — this bill was in conference committee at the end of last session and requires an inventory of data privacy protections in all three branches of state government (administrative, judicial and legislative).

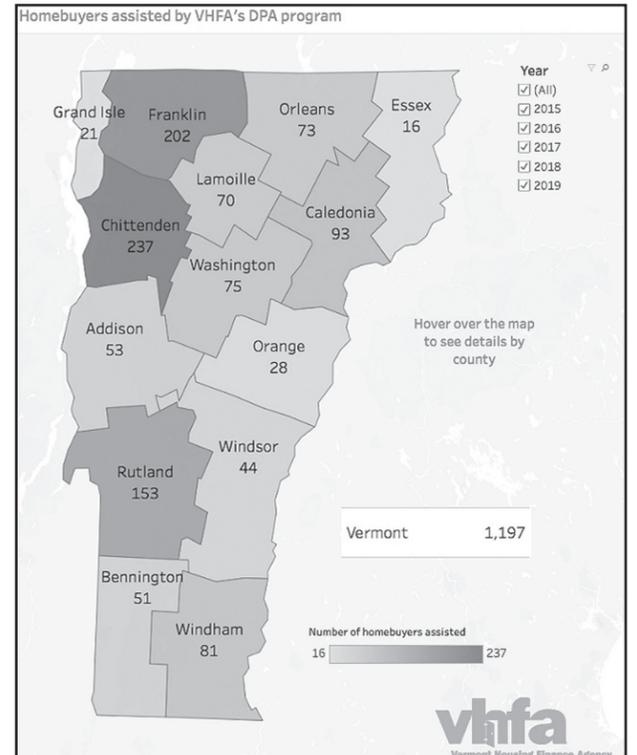
Additional details on these bill can be found at the legislative website by searching for the bill number. See <https://legislature.vermont.gov/house/overview/2020>. Please note I have been out of state this week for family responsibilities, my apologies for delayed responses to email.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Land use program**

To the Editor,

I've seen some discussion on forum about the land use program and how it affects taxpayers. I myself am no expert but deal with this program a lot being that I own a logging company. There are up sides and down to this program like many things in this world. An upside in my opinion would be that most these properties in this program are managed and overseen by private and county foresters that keep the land well managed and maintained. A giant downside to this program is anyone with 25 acres or more can join this program save a boatload on their land taxes and still post their property. No hunting, fishing, or any recreational activity without permission allowed. This makes absolutely no sense to me everyone has to pitch in to pay the taxes on this land but no one is allowed to enjoy it. I personally would love to see this change in my opinion if you don't want to share and let everyone enjoy the land pay your own taxes.

Jordan Pratt
Jeffersonville

**Helping first-time homeowners**

Tim Ashe, Chittenden County Senator

It's no secret that like many northeastern states, Vermont faces difficult demographic challenges. In a state with an aging population, we'll need more younger workers in the coming years to have a healthy tax base and to provide the services many older Vermonters rely upon.

There is no silver bullet that will fundamentally shift our demographic trends. However, there are tools to help bend the curve, and using them to address affordability barriers facing younger Vermonters makes good sense.

An area we've made some progress in this regard is in the cost of first-time homeownership.

In 2015, when I chaired the VT Senate's Finance Committee, my committee members and I worked with the House and the Vermont Housing Finance Agency to establish a Down Payment Assistance program to help young families buy their first homes. The program provides up to \$5000 for down payment or closing costs in the form of a 0% loan, with no payments due. The money is repaid when the home is refinanced or sold.

Thanks to the great work of VHFA, the program has now helped 1197 households purchase their first homes. The program has resulted in home purchases in 174 different towns in every county in Vermont! In the *Gazette's* circulation area, 32 young families have benefited by this housing affordability initiative, while 275 other young families have used it to buy their first homes elsewhere in Chittenden and Lamoille counties.

We know young people face economic pressure in the form of student loan debt and high housing costs. The Down Payment Assistance initiative is an example of the progress we can make when we bring concrete strategies to the affordability challenges facing younger Vermonters.

Vermont's demographic challenges

By Rich Westman, State Senator, Lamoille District

Vermont's demographic challenges are, over time, negatively affecting the state in a myriad of ways. They're affecting our schools, our businesses, our ability to maintain state programs, and a host of other issues. Almost every conversation affecting the state now has a demographic component. Migration in and out of the state and our loss of population in every county except Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille comes up all the time. The consequences of our demographic issues are enormous and, anecdotally, we all have assumptions about the situation... What we don't have is a lot of well thought-out facts about the situation.

The Legislative Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) “Issue Brief” on “Taxpayer Migration by Age and Income” which came out late last summer offers some interesting insight into the situation:

<https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/Issue-Briefs/3bed2c98d0/Age-and-Income-Issue-Brief-Final.pdf>

The Joint Fiscal Office used IRS tax information from 2011-2016 to come up with some of the following insights. We know that on average, 8000-10,000 taxpayers move in and out of the state each year.

- Over the 5-year period from 2011-2016, Vermont lost 4167 taxpayers. That amounts to a loss of about 1.56% of all Vermont taxpayers or about .31% per year during the five years.

- During that period the state lost 4099 taxpayers with incomes below \$100,000. Thus, the bulk of the loss was among lower and middle-income taxpayers.

What was surprising to me was that we gained 126 higher income taxpayers with incomes over \$200,000. The increase was almost entirely younger taxpayers between the ages of 26-44.

The Briefing asserts: “As incomes rise, Vermont tends to perform better relative to other states” in relationship to keeping those individuals.

- Vermont struggles the most with the narrow cohort of taxpayers aged 45-64 with incomes between \$25,000 to \$75,000. The Briefing asserts that this narrow group lost 720 taxpayers.

- Amongst migrating taxpayers with incomes between \$100,000-\$200,000, Vermont lost 194 taxpayers.

- Looking at those migrating taxpayers with over \$200,000 in income, Vermont gained 126 taxpayers over the period.

I have to say that even though the numbers and percentages are small I was a bit surprised by the numbers...

What did strike me about this, when I thought about it, was how it fits with what I'm seeing and hearing from business. In almost every small business paying middle-income wages and below, we're seeing “Help Wanted” signs. You can't go out in any of our communities without seeing help wanted signs. Almost every small business is feeling the difficulty of finding employees and the data in this Briefing speaks to that situation.

SPORTS NEWS

Browns River Little League registration information

Registration for Browns River Little League baseball is happening now! Join our great baseball program! Browns River Little League (BRL) is available to boys and girls in Jericho and Underhill, ages 4-12 (must be 12 on August 31; if turning 13 anytime prior to August 31, not eligible for Little League). Register online at www.brownsriverlittleleague.com. Deadline is Friday, March 20!

BRL will be tentatively holding free Spring Training open gyms at Mount Mansfield Union High School on Saturdays, March 7 and 14, for 4-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds.

Follow us on Facebook or our website to keep up with upcoming events and announcements. BRL partners with Richmond Little League for youth softball: <https://www.richmondarealittleleague.com>.

Chittenden County Soccer School

Registration is now open for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2020! The school will be held Monday-Friday, July 13-17 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!

New this year: full day camp option for all ages! Age groups range from 4 and up.

Please email barkereric15@gmail.com with any questions, or visit our website www.chittendencountysoccerschool.org to register.

Happenings at Westford Rec: LAX, futsal, and soccer camps

Summer soccer camps: Voltage Summer Soccer camp registration is now open. The camp is located at the Westford School fields. This year there will be two sessions offered: Monday-Friday, June 22-26, 5:00 – 8:00 PM for grades 6-8; and Monday-Friday, July 13-17, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM for grades 3-5. Registration fee \$125. For more information, see <https://westfordvt.us/recreation>.

CoEd Futsal: Tuesday nights, 7:30 – 8:30 PM, March 4-April 25. Located at the Westford School Gym. Registration \$50 for each session. Please send all registrations to the Town Office. We will need a point person for the Co-Ed Futsal, and at least ten registrations. Please email westfordrecdept@gmail.com if interested.

Lacrosse: 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8 preseason clinic, Wednesdays in March, 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the Westford School gym. Registration \$25. For information, see <https://westfordvt.us/recreation>. Please note, LAX clinic is open to all age groups.

Lacrosse: Spring Season Registration. Tiny Cats, K-2, mid April-

early June, Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM; registration \$35. 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, early April-mid June, Monday-Thursday practices dependent on team, three nights a week. Games are Saturdays starting in May. Players need their own sticks, padding, and helmets. A limited number of helmets and pads are available as loaners through the Recreation Department, first come first serve. Registration fees: 3/4 \$55, 5/6 \$75, 7/8 \$85. Players will also need to register with the US Lacrosse association, previous seasons this was \$30. For more information, see <https://westfordvt.us/recreation>.

If you have questions about the game of lacrosse, or wish to speak to the coach contact Brent Carpenter, brent.carpenter29@gmail.com.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Tonya Calley, Recreation Department Coordinator, 802-324-7132 or recreation@westfordvt.us.

Girls on the Run at Richmond Elementary needs volunteers

Girls on the Run (GOTR) serves girls in grades 3-4 with a fun, experience-based curriculum that integrates running (jog/speed walk). Social, psychological, and physical skills are developed and reinforced with running to nurture their emotional health.

Activate their limitless potential and pursue their dreams. Embrace differences and connect!

If you can share joy and optimism, you can help! You must be 18 or older, any gender; no coaching or running experience is needed to be an assistant coach — with no administrative responsibilities!

You will be needed to volunteer on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays,

2:45 – 4:15 PM beginning March 23 and continuing through Saturday, June 6. Commit to one or both days at Richmond Elementary.

For more information, contact Jessica Green, 871-5664 or jessica@girlsontherunvermont.org.

Sports news continued on page 10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plot Road sugarhouse fire

To the Editor,

Thank you to all the firefighters that extinguished the sugarhouse fire on Plot Road early Friday morning.

Volunteer firefighters are true heroes in my book. They got that call at 1:00 AM in minus degree weather (minus eight degrees to be exact) and they rushed to get there. My partner and I got out of our house because we didn't know what to expect from being so close to the fire. We waited in the car with our animals and watched the whole orchestra of trucks, hauling up water and working together as they do. I am truly grateful for these dedicated firefighters that put their sleep on hold and put forth to helping out the community.

Thank you for the Cambridge Town truck for not only dumping sand and salt on the road, but also in our driveway.

Thank you again. I am grateful for your volunteering services.

Natasha Horak
Johnson

Thanking Marc Maheux for 36 years as Chief Operator

To the Editor,

I was reading the Underhill Town Report and read that Marc Maheux is no longer the Chief Operator of the Jericho-Underhill Water District. Marc started working for the JUWD in 1984 and has worked for 36 years, doing all that is required as the Chief Operator. The report says, "He has kept the system functioning well and meeting all state and federal regulations." This to me is one of those jobs that no one thinks about until their water stops running or a boil water order is in place. It is a job that after 36 years deserves a HUGE THANK YOU from ALL of us for a job well done.

Please join me in recognizing Marc

Thank you Marc... you are a good man and we appreciate your 36 years of service.

Randy Clark
Underhill

Lions thanks to diners, businesses at Pancake Breakfast

To the Editor,

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club wishes to thank all that attended our 34th annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 22. We had fun serving you and hope you enjoyed the meal.

We would also like to thank the following local businesses for their very generous support: Jericho Market, Maple Crest, Chittenden Mills Beverage, Matt's Wash and Wax, Gert's Beauty Shop, Autosmith, Dunkling and Penney Dentistry, Clark's Truck Center, Mane Street Stylist, Spafford and Sons Water Wells, Transitions Physical Therapy, Palmer Lane Maple Products, Mount Mansfield Animal Hospital, and Wells Corner Store.

All the proceeds from this fund raiser will be used to fund a scholarship that will be awarded later this spring to a local college student.

Jericho-Underhill Lions Club

Local Amnesty International group mindful of women's inequality

To the Editor,

Sunday, March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day. As the nation celebrates the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women, we are fortunate to witness these achievements in many areas of our life. However, it is important to not lose sight of the discrimination which prevails throughout the world, including our own country.

Our local Champlain Valley Amnesty International group is committed to the unconditional release of Yassaman Aryani and other women in Iran who have been unjustly sentenced to lengthy prison sentences. It is easy to forget how fortunate we are in the United States. The evidence of these women's crime is a video that went viral on social media, showing them without their headscarves, distributing flowers to female passengers on a women's only train, and discussing their hopes for a future where they might be free to choose whether or not to be veiled. This is in opposition to Iran's forced veiling laws. For this non-violent action, they were sentenced to between 16 and 24 years in prison.

As we support, encourage, and celebrate women's advancements, let us be mindful that not all are treated equally. Our Champlain Valley Amnesty International group meets on the third Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM, at the Brownell Library in Essex Junction. All are welcome.

Tina Scanlon
Westford

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2020

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

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

TOTAL CIRCULATION – 4500 COPIES

The *Mountain Gazette* is owned and operated by Brenda Boutin.

Boutin has a B.A. in Graphic Design and is the Graphic Designer. Ads are designed for you at no added cost.

OPEN RATE

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

Listings below are measured width x height

Business Card

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

1/16 page

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

1/12 page

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

1/8 page

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

1/4 page

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

1/2 page

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

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

Prepaid Contracts available – Save up to 20%. Purchase six ads, any size and run within 12 months. Call Brenda for details, 453-6354.

Subscriptions \$35.00 per year

Publication: First & Third Thursday/Month

Deadlines: Thursday before publication:

Copy – 12:00 Noon

Advertising – 5:00 PM

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

Contract rates available, More sizes available

Classifieds: \$6.50 for 25 words, 10¢ each additional word

INSERTS: 1 – 4 PAGES, 8-1/2" X 11" COST: \$45.00 PREPAID PER 1000
MUST PURCHASE FULL 4500 CIRCULATION

The *Mountain Gazette*, 6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487 • Phone: 802-453-6354

mtngazette@gmavt.net • www.mtngazettevt.com



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Lifeguard certification course

Are you interested in becoming a lifeguard?

American Red Cross lifeguard students must be at least 15 years old and pass a pre-course swimming skills test. Once students are registered, they'll receive the latest science-based training from experienced instructors, and develop skills they'll use for a lifetime. This course is a blended learning experience that combines online coursework with in-person skills sessions.

Online coursework can be completed at your own pace and takes about seven hours of time for completion. The in-person portion will take place at Courtside Pool at Smugglers' Notch on the following dates and times:

Friday, April 17, 5:00 – 8:00 PM;

Saturday, April 18, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM;

Sunday, April 19, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM,

The fee for this course is \$300. (If you are considering employment at Smugglers' Notch Resort this summer, the fee for this program could be waived with a successful interview and summer employment commitment.)

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

When he thinks of you, he thinks of family

At four years old, Tyler's biggest worry is who he's going to play with at daycare. Normal childhood worries are amplified by difficult family circumstances, and trauma.

That's a lot for a little boy to handle, and chances are caring for him won't be easy for you as his new caregiver.

But that's the stuff foster parents are made of. You are resilient, patient, compassionate, understanding, and a good listener. You know how to set boundaries and you have a healthy support system that will help you in taking this next step forward to say "yes" to fostering a child like Tyler.

Can you provide a safe, stable and nurturing home for a child in need? Can you commit 100% to that child? Do you promise to not give up, even if they push you away? Can you do this AND support reunification?

If so, we'd love to hear from you. It will be challenging, but it will also be one of the most meaningful decisions you'll ever make.

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

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

2020 waterfowl season public hearing March 12

A public hearing on the status of waterfowl populations and proposed waterfowl hunting seasons for the State of Vermont and Lake Champlain zone in New York will be held Thursday, March 12 in Winooski. The annual hearing will be held from 6:30 – 9:00 PM at Winooski High School, 60 Normand St. A similar hearing will be held in Whitehall, NY on Tuesday, March 10.

Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to attend and share their preferences and opinions about the proposed seasons.

Under Federal regulations, waterfowl seasons, bag limits, and shooting hours in the Lake Champlain Zone must be uniform throughout the entire zone. Waterfowl seasons in New York's portion of the Lake Champlain Zone must be identical to the waterfowl season in Vermont's portion of the Zone.

The proposed 2020 migratory bird hunting seasons and related regulations are available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Comments can be sent to ANR.FWPUBLICCOMMENT@Vermont.Gov.

Comments received, as well as input and recommendations from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, will be reviewed by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available on request at the Vermont meetings. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Requests should be made as early as possible; for example, an interpreter must be requested at least two weeks in advance. Please send an email to David.Sausville@vermont.gov or call the office staff at 802-878-1564 (voice), 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

Group swim lessons for preschoolers

Group swim lessons for preschoolers are offered at Smugglers' Notch Resort at the Courtside Pool, where children ages 3-5 will be introduced to a group lesson with their peers. Our instructor will work with the children to teach independence and confidence in the water through basic swim skills and safety. The cost is \$80 per session, per child. Space is limited to six children per session, and registration is first come, first served.

There are four sessions, as follows:

Session 1: Wednesdays, March 4-April 1, 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM;

Session 2: Wednesdays, March 4-April 1, 1:30 – 2:00 PM;

Session 3: Mondays, April 20-May 18, 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM;

Session 4: Mondays, April 20-May 18, 1:30 – 2:00 PM.

To register or for more information, contact Emily Boek, Aquatic Personnel and Program Manager, eboek@smuggs.com or 802-644-1062.

Calling women who care about Vermont's forests

Women are a large and growing part of America's landowner population. The percentage of family forests where women were the primary decision makers doubled from 2006-2013. This nationwide trend of more women owning and operating forestland is also happening in Vermont's woods.

According to the 2013 National Woodland Owner Survey, women are now the primary owners of 20% of Vermont's available woodlands, meaning there are 475,000 acres of forestland in Vermont that are solely owned by women, with another 1.1 million acres that have women as co-owners.

According to Caitlin Cusack, a forester with Vermont Land Trust, "These statistics prove that women are certainly shaping up to be an emerging force in Vermont woodlands."

To serve this growing demographic of landowners, the national Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) initiative was formed in 2012 and has been working to support women woodland owners and others interested in woodlands across the country. A collaborative group of Vermont organizations recently came together to create the same network on a local level.

Vermont's WOW initiative — made up of staff from VT Department of Fish and Wildlife; VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, VT Woodlands Association, Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Coverts, and UVM Extension — is working to bring women together to secure a safe, informed, and accessible future for those interested in the ownership of Vermont's woodlands.

The WOW team invites the public to participate in a survey designed to solicit answers to important questions about women owning Vermont's forests. The team is looking for feedback from women who love Vermont's woodlands, or own Vermont's woodlands, to help the group develop programming, provide better technical assistance, and build a women's network to reach out and share information about our forests.

Members of the public may take the survey online at: http://middlebury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_23Nm1LA9IMaRI33. It will take less than 15 minutes to complete and will be available until March 6, 2020.

People are also encouraged to mark their calendars for Saturday, June 6, 2020 to join Vermont WOW for an all-day summit packed full of learning and networking opportunities. For more information on national WOW resources, events, workshops, blogs, news articles, and personal stories, visit their website <http://www.womenowningwoodlands.net/>.

Sports news

continued from page 9

Yoga at the White Church in Westford

A yoga class is being offered at the White Church on the Common in Westford on Wednesday afternoons, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. This will be an all-levels vinyasa/flow yoga class that includes warm-up, flow sequences, balance, and floor poses. Modifications offered for various levels.

Please bring your own mat, though a few extra will be available. If you have a block and/or strap, bring that as well. Cost: \$10 per one-hour class; your first class is free! It may be a bit cool in the church, so you might want to dress in layers.

Underhill ice rink update: Lights! Hockey! Broomball!

The Underhill ice rink in Moore Park in Underhill Center now has lights! They are on nightly until about 7:30 PM and are on an automatic timer: they come on at dusk and turn off automatically after two hours. Come on down for an evening skate!

Also, if folks want to gather a group of folks and play some evening hockey or broomball, please do! Be respectful of use, but an evening of some pickup hockey would be fun to see happening.

Feel free to gather some friends and head down to the rink. And, as always, thanks to any and all shovelers who are helping to keep the rink free of snow.

Vermont Hoopsters AAU annual fundraiser

This is always such a fun (and for some, lucrative) event!

Secure your tickets, grab your crew, drive to Lamoille Union High School on Saturday, March 21, 5:30 – 8:00 PM, and enjoy:

- a delicious spaghetti dinner,
- a silent auction, and
- a raffle with fantastic prizes (like the \$1000 and \$2000 cash prizes). You do not need to be present to win.

The boys and girls, parents, and coaches of the Vermont Hoopsters AAU basketball club thank you in advance. This event sells out every year, and tickets are only \$15 each. Only 800 tickets will be sold — each player gets a limited number.

For information, contact Jolene Ciosek, jolene811@gmail.com.

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE**Publication & Deadline Dates 2020**

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month .

The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at noon.

The advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin

Publisher of the Mountain Gazette

6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

Phone: 453-6354 • mtngazette@gmavt.net

On the web at www.mtngazettevt.com

PUBLICATION DATES:

THURSDAY

January 9

January 23

February 6

February 20

March 5

March 19

April 2

April 16

May 7

May 21

June 4

June 18

July 2

July 16

August 6

August 20

September 3

September 17

October 1

October 15

November 5

November 19

December 3

December 17

DEADLINE DATES:

THURSDAY

January 3

January 16

January 30

February 13

February 27

March 12

March 26

April 9

April 30

May 14

May 28

June 11

June 25

July 9

July 30

August 13

August 27

September 10

September 24

October 8

October 29

November 12

November 26

December 10

mtngazette@gmavt.net • www.mtngazettevt.com

For information Brenda Boutin • 802-453-6354

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

LRSWMD announcements

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District's (<https://www.lrswwd.org/>) Outreach and Education Coordinator Elly Ventura (outreach@lrswwd.org) offers the following tips and information to Lamoille County residents:

RECYCLING INFORMATION: While we can't list every possible item you are looking to recycle, we think we have a pretty start here. Check out our A-Z list for answers on what to do with lots of household items. If it isn't listed here, give us a call (888-7317) or ask a friendly site attendant at one of our six drop-off locations! <https://lrswwd.org/index.php/facilities>

COMPOST LITERACY BOOK DISCUSSIONS: It may be winter (still!), but it's time to start thinking about the Universal Recycling Composting Law (Act 148) and its upcoming July 1 food scrap ban. To celebrate, LRSWMD and some of your local libraries have teamed up to facilitate community book discussions about the amazing power of soil and composting! The Book Club is a partnership between LRSWMD and some of the Lamoille County libraries with support from Concept2. You can participate in one, two, three, or all four of the book discussions that will take place in the various libraries in our area. Here is the schedule; all discussions take place on Thursdays and begin at 6:00 PM:

March 26 — Lanpher Memorial Library: [Kiss the Ground](#) by Josh Tickell;

April 16 — Morristown Centennial Library: [Growing a Revolution](#) by David R. Montgomery;

May 7 — Johnson Public Library: [Cows Save the Planet](#) by Judith D. Schwartz, who will Skype in for this discussion;

May 21 — Stowe Free Library, [Kiss the Ground](#) by Josh Tickell.

Two door prizes will be raffled off at each library on the evening of each of the four book discussions... and the names of all book discussion participants will be entered to win one of two grand prizes at the final discussion. We'll be giving away a Backyard Soil Saver and a Green Cone! You don't have to be present to win one of the two grand prizes, but the more discussions you participate in, the better your chances of winning the big prizes!

SITE-TO-SITE CHALLENGE: It is the Year of Organics here at LRSWMD. One way we are celebrating is by hosting a little intra-site Bucket Challenge. We have been accepting food scraps at all six of our transfer stations since July 1, 2017. This year, we are going to challenge our customers to increase the number of buckets they bring to each site each month. Here are the number of buckets of food scraps that were brought to each site in January:

- 66 buckets – Craftsbury (open 1 day a week);
- 6 buckets – Eden (open 1 day a week);
- 82 buckets – Johnson (open 2 days a week);
- 116 buckets – Morrisville (open 1 day a week);
- 330 buckets – Stowe (open 6 days a week);
- 39 buckets – Worcester (open 1 day a week).

This represented about 7% of total customers who brought food scraps to us in January. Let's see what happens as we get closer to July 1, 2020!

MAKING HEADLINES: Did you read this in the paper last week? https://www.vtcng.com/news_and_citizen/opinion/opinion_columns/as-of-july-food-scraps-no-longer-go-in-trash/article_ee4df56-48ff-11ea-b53f-0bd4ea3a9c28.html

Public deer, moose hearings in March

Hunters, landowners and anyone else interested in deer and moose should plan on attending the Vermont Fish and Wildlife public hearings being held in March.

The hearings will include results of Vermont's 2019 deer seasons and prospects for hunting next fall, as well as an opportunity for people to provide their observations and opinions regarding deer. The hearings held will also include information about the proposed moose hunt to improve the health of moose in Wildlife Management Unit E in the northeastern corner of Vermont.

The hearings are scheduled for 6:00 – 9:00 PM, as follows:

Thursday, March 19 — on deer and moose, at St. Johnsbury Academy, Black Box Theater, 1000 Main St., St. Johnsbury;

Monday, March 23 — on deer and moose, at Middlebury Union Middle School, 48 Deerfield Lane, Middlebury;

Tuesday, March 24 — on deer and moose, at Williamstown Middle High School, 120 Hebert Rd., Williamstown; and

Thursday, March 26 — on deer, Putney Central School, 182 Westminster Rd., Putney.

Seeking host families for exchange students

FLAG is looking for host families for exchange students for the 2020-21 school year. If you are curious about what's involved, please contact me epaula@flag-intl.org for more information.

Below are descriptions of a few of the available students. FLAG will be happy to help you find a great match!

Our exchange students have their own spending money and health insurance. We ask host families to provide three meals per day, a place to store their things (dresser and/or closet), a non-portable bed, and to treat the student like one of your own.

Jorge is a friendly 16 year old boy from Spain who is always eager to learn new things. He enjoys swimming, soccer, tennis, horseback riding, and sailing. He plays the guitar and loves listening to music. He loves pets and can't wait to learn who his host family will be!

Emma is an ambitious girl from Germany. She will be a sophomore next school year. She plays field hockey, takes ballet and oboe lessons, and loves to swim. She also enjoys crafting, skiing, rock climbing, and reading. She likes younger children and hopes to be an *au pair* in the future!

Paula is a 15 year old girl from Spain who enjoys playing volleyball, skiing, swimming, baking, painting, kayaking, reading, and listening to music. She also enjoys all types of STEM projects. Her teachers describe her as polite and hardworking. She is looking forward to meeting her American family!

We will also have exchange students from the following countries this year. Feel free to reach out with interest in a student from a certain country!

Belgium, Brazil, Serbia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Azerbaijan, Finland, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and maybe Mongolia and Italy!

United Way of Northwest Vermont — Volunteer Connection Listings

By Sue Alenick, United Way Volunteer Columnist

United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection connects you to hundreds of local volunteer needs. Search by age, date, county, interests or causes that are important to you. Stay connected to community needs. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact us, volctr@unitedwaynwvt.org or 860-1677.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME – Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is recruiting volunteer individuals and groups for their summer and fall build dates. They build weekdays from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM and ask that volunteers stay for the full day. All tools and training are provided. No experience necessary, though it is appreciated. Contact Allison DeVoe, 318-7533 or adevoe@vermonthabitat.org.

LOVE CATS & DOGS? Franklin County Animal Rescue is engaged in its annual board member renewal and outreach effort. Franklin County Animal Rescue is the humane shelter serving more than 900 square miles of northwestern Vermont. We impact about 1000 animals annually and exceeded the national no kill standard with a 99% live save rate in 2018. Board members attend a monthly meeting and perform "other duties as required." For more information, contact the shelter, info@fcarpets.org or 524-9650.

TECH ED — Technology for Tomorrow is looking for volunteers to provide technology presentations and workshops for senior citizens. Volunteers should have solid technology skills and enjoy working with older adults. Contact Bjorn Norstrom, 448-0595 or t4torg@gmail.com.

A DRIVING NEED — Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired has an ongoing need for volunteer drivers, age 21 and older, in the Chittenden County area to drive folks where they need to go. Clients with vision loss need help to get to vital medical appointments, shopping, and other important errands. Drivers are reimbursed for mileage and may drive as often as they wish. Background check required. Contact Vicki Vest, 800-639-5861, Ext. 243, or vvest@vabvi.org.

SORTING BOOKS — Fletcher Free Library is in need of volunteers to sort children's books by reading level. The books have been withdrawn from library shelves due to wear and will be distributed to schools, pre-schools, camps, etc. A great volunteers opportunity for a parent, teacher, or retired teacher familiar with children's reading levels, four to ten hours a month. Contact Fanny Seguin, 734-1778 or fletcherfriends@gmail.com.

HOMEWORK HELPERS — City of Winooski under the direction of the Winooski Memorial Library, helps young people by offering homework help support and mentorship in the library.

In addition to homework, volunteers might engage in a pick-up basketball game, board/card games, or craft projects. Contact Olivia Miller, volunteer@winooski.vt.gov.

IN THE KITCHEN — Martha's Kitchen needs volunteers to help with prepping, serving and cleaning and just taking time to sit and share moments with guests. Volunteers are needed on Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM. To help in the kitchen contact Bob Begley, 343-5411. If you're interested in general volunteering, contact 524-9749 or Marthas802@yahoo.com.

EXERCISE LEADERS – United Way of Northwest Vermont's RSVP program is looking for volunteers to lead weekly Bone Builders classes to help participants prevent or reverse the negative effects of osteoporosis. The program consists of a warm-up, balance exercises, arm and leg exercises, and a cool down with stretching. Teaching a one-hour class just twice a week will increase your muscular strength, balance, and bone density while also introducing you to some great new people. One-day certification. There is a specific need for leaders at Williston Woods in Williston and Allenwood Senior Living in S. Burlington. Contact Danielle Williams, 861-7821 or daniellew@unitedwaynwvt.org.

SOUND THE ALARM – American Red Cross is rallying thousands of volunteers, age 15 and older, nationwide to install 100,000 free smoke alarms to cut in half the risk of death in fires. They are looking for volunteers to participate in this effort and to help share safety information in at-risk communities. On Saturday, April 25 there will be an event in Colchester from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Register to volunteer at SoundTheAlarm.org/nhvt.

IN THE MAIL – Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired is in need of volunteers to help with bulk mailings four or five times a year. Mailings are done at the S. Burlington office and may require one or two mornings for each mailing. Contact Vicki Vest, 800-639-5861, Ext. 243 or Vickiatvest@vabvi.org.

GREEN IT UP – Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is gearing up for Green Up Day on Friday, May 1 and is looking for volunteers, age 16 and older, to help with river cleanup using refuge boats. Volunteers will be walking along various shorelines, so boots or waders are advised. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Contact Ken Sturm, 868-4781 or ken_sturm@fws.gov.

BOOK LOVER'S DREAM – ReSOURCE is seeking volunteers to sort through and organize their tremendous number of book donations. Volunteers should have some knowledge of book genres and be able to commit to at least four hours a week. Shifts available Monday-Saturday between 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sunday between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Contact Nicole Clements, 658-4143, Ext. 352 or volunteer@resourcevt.org.

College news

Emily S. Anderson of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Husson University, Bangor, ME. Anderson is a sophomore enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Accounting/ Master of Business Administration program.

Tyne Bechtoldt of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Bechtoldt is in the industrial design program.

Xander Bueti of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Curry College, Milton, MA.

Zachary Burns of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 President's List at the University of Hartford, Hartford, CT.

Aidan Costello of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Bryant University, Smithfield, RI.

Justin DeRuyck of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. DeRuyck is in the 3D digital design program.

William Harvey of Jericho, VT has been named to the Headmaster's List at Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA. Harvey is a member of the class of 2023.

Jacob Lamoureux of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 President's List at the University of Hartford, Hartford, CT.

Camerond Marcus of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Marcus is in the computer science program.

Isabelle Pilo of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Pilo is in the biochemistry program.

CJ Roberts of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Roberts is in the electrical design program.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Award Winning Homes

- Period Design Build
- Additions
- Remodeling
- Sun Rooms
- Porches • Garages
- Bath & Kitchen Remodels
- Roofing • Siding
- Flooring: Hardwood & Tile
- Window & Door Replacement
- Electrical & Plumbing
- Light Painting
- Handyman Services



23 Kristie Lane
Jericho, VT 05465
www.thurgateconstructionvt.com

LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE

All Phase Property Maintenance, LLC

Sanding & Salting Services



24 HR Service

Lawn Care & Gardens, Fence Installation/Repair, Pressure Washing, Stone-Concrete Walkways, Walls and Patios, Firewood, Light Trucking, Driveway Installation & Repair, York raking, Brush hogging, Snow Plowing, Sanding & Salting, Electrical & much more...

Office: 899-2919 - Cell: 734-8247

Stephan Griffiths Jr. - Owner

Fully Insured

allphase87@gmail.com

Essex, VT 05452

Business Directory Ad Rates

3.25" x 1.5" \$90.00

for 5 issues

3.25" x 3" \$115.00

for 5 issues

3.25" x 4" \$175.00

for 5 issues

All ads must be prepaid prior to running.

Email: mtngazette@gmail.com

gmavt.net

for more

information.

PEOPLE - OBITUARY

William Moore of Jericho, VT passed away on Monday, February 24, 2020 at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington, VT, surrounded by his loving family. He was 75 years old. William was born in Burlington, VT on February 9, 1945 to Gordon and Gladys Moore. William started working at IBM in August of 1965 and retired in 2010. He also served his country with honor in Vietnam from 1968 until 1969, and joined the National Guard in 1964. He married Donna (Mobbs) Moore on July 3, 1965 at Holy Family Church in Essex Junction, VT. William loved spending time with his family,

he enjoyed races, the casino, and camping. He is survived by his wife Donna Moore, his children Susan Moore, William Moore Jr., and Thomas Moore; his grandchildren Jessica Moore and her partner Derek Martin, Kayla Moore, and Lydia Larocque; and his great-grandchildren Addison Martin and Alex Martin. He is also survived by his beloved sister Patricia Simmonds-Allen and husband



Bill Allen; brother Gordon Moore and his wife Colleen Moore; sisters-in-law Mary Mobbs and Alice Young; as well as many nieces and nephews and special nephew Rick Parizo. He was predeceased by his parents and two sisters, brother Terry Moore, and many dear friends. Visiting hours were held on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at the Ready Funeral Home Mountain View Chapel, 68 Pinecrest Dr., Essex Junction. A funeral service took place on Monday, March 2, 2020 at the Ready Funeral Home in Essex Junction. Burial will take place in the spring at the Pleasantview Cemetery in Jericho. Please place online condolences at www.readyfuneral.com.

SCHOOL NEWS



Diana Dunn, local author and illustrator, visited Underhill Central School on Monday, February 17 to kick off I Love to Read and Write Week. Diana read her book Pipsqueak's Adventure, shared ideas for writing and illustrating, and showed students handmade books inspired by Pipsqueak's true story. 100% of the profits were used to provide books to at risk youth, children's literacy programs, and underfunded libraries.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SCHOOL NEWS

High school travel opportunity to Thailand, February 2021

From the bustling metropolis of Bangkok to the serenity of Saiyoke National Park, you will gain a broad understanding of this spectacular kingdom. Navigate the Chao Phraya River canals and battle for bargains at busy markets. Experience the warmth of the Thai people and test your spice threshold with their flavorful cuisine. Visit an elephant nature preserve!

The group leader is Gregory Martin, school counselor at Browns River Middle School. This is my thirteenth year safely providing international travel experiences for high school students and parents. There will be an informational meeting in the KIVA at Mount Mansfield Union High School Thursday, March 19, 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

More information and registration details are also available at <https://www.eftours.com/tour-website/2278121NF> or greg.martin@mmuusd.org.

VSAC workshops focus on managing college costs

Learn about financial aid resources that help families pay for education after high school — Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC) is hosting free workshops at local high schools to help sophomores, juniors, and their parents learn about the financial aid resources for education and training programs.

Financial Aid & Managing College Costs will provide an overview of how families pay for college costs, and the different types of financial aid available. VSAC will also share several resources and websites that can help families get ready to file financial aid forms.

The program will be presented at these area high schools:
BFA Fairfax, Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 PM, multi-purpose room

S. Burlington High School, Thursday, March 26, 6:30 PM
Vermont Commons School, Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Lamoille Union High School, Thursday, April 2, 6:00 PM, library
Champlain Valley Union High School, Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 PM, auditorium

Burlington High School, Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 PM
Essex High School, Thursday, April 9, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, auditorium
Milton High School, Thursday, April 16, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

For questions or more information, or to schedule an appointment to talk with our counselors between 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at our resource center in Winooski, contact VSAC Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, 888-943-7301.

“SPRING AHEAD” with the Best Prices of the Year for the most efficient heating and cooling options on the market.

Up to \$1,550 off a heat pump*

Up to \$1,150 off a heat pump hot water heater*



Call us at 802-860-4090 for a free site visit and estimate.



ENERGY CO-OP OF VERMONT

Use less. Save more.

802-860-4090 info@ecvt.net ecvt.net

*Discounts include Efficiency Vermont and utility rebates. Offer ends March 31, 2020. Not valid with other offers.

COLON HEALTH: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Join Copley general surgeon, Dr. Courtney Olmsted, for a candid and informational discussion about hemorrhoids, polyps, and colon health. You'll learn:

- What causes hemorrhoids
- If polyps are dangerous
- Treatment options
- What to do to reduce your colon cancer risk

Courtney Olmsted, MD, MSCI, has extensive surgical experience involving the gastrointestinal tract, liver, colon, breasts, thyroid and other major parts of the human body.

This event is part of Copley Hospital's Health & Wellness Seminar Series.



Wednesday, March 18
12:00 - 1:00pm
Copley Health Center Building
2nd floor

Free Seminar.
Refreshments served.
RSVP required by March 17.

Call 802-888-8302 or go online:

www.copleyvt.org/event/colon-health-need-know

A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS!

 <p>Westford - \$389,900 New construction in beautiful new subdivision with over 24 acres of common land. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with open design, spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings to welcome you in. Large kitchen adjoins family room and beautiful great room. Full basement, 2 car garage, full deck and covered porch with sunrise views.</p>	 <p>Westford - \$385,000 New home being built on 1.39 wooded acres in new subdivision on over 24 acres of common land. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with open design and spacious rooms. Full basement, 2 car garage, extra family room and master suite mean room to spread out. Enjoy privacy and beautiful views from your deck or 36' covered porch!</p>
 <p>Fairfax - \$354,900 To be built! Contemporary ranch on wooded lot on over 6+ acres of common land. 1st floor master suite w/ large walk-in closet and separate guest wing w/ 2 beds and full bath. Sunlit dining room looks onto front porch and opens into great room. 2 car garage opens into large mudroom w/ half bath and laundry. A Vermonter's dream!</p>	 <p>Fairfax - \$259,000 Brand new & ready for occupancy! Large two-car garage! Rear deck to enjoy morning coffee! One-level living! Kitchen w/ granite countertops & stainless-steel appliances. Large master bedroom with walk-in closet & full bath. 2nd bath & bedroom for guests! Room for you to finish a family room in the full basement!</p>

CALL NANCY TODAY!
Nancy Jenkins Real Estate
140 Kennedy Dr, Suite 102
South Burlington, VT 05403
802-846-4888 - 888-567-4049