

Jennifer Murray: Bringing Jericho’s Town Plan to Life

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Monday after Thanksgiving, her turkey fully digested, Jennifer Murray settled into her new role as the Planning and Development Coordinator for the Town of Jericho. Jumping in feet first, Murray has been attending meetings of groups beyond those she is responsible for. In her first month, she has already visited with the Jericho Energy Task Force, the Jericho Conservation Commission and the Jericho Underhill Land Trust, as well as staffing meetings of the Development Review Board and Planning Commission.

Murray grew up in rural Schoharie County, New York. She got her Bachelor’s degree in geology at Colgate and worked as an environmental consultant before returning to school to get her Master’s in regional planning at the University of Albany. Since moving to Vermont she has been working on the installation of a water distribution system in Starksboro. Although she has spent her life on the other side of the Almost Great Lake, Murray was excited to move to Vermont. She and her partner Owen enjoy hiking, canoeing and camping, and love the fact that the state has great natural resources. “I wanted to practice rural planning,” she said “and this is a great state for it. You have strong local governments, vital communities and really involved

townspeople.”

When the Jericho position opened up, Murray jumped at the chance to apply. “Jericho is special,” she said, “because it’s within commuting distance of Burlington which creates a lot of opportunities and challenges.” So far she has been impressed with what she has seen. Murray sees “making people love the place where they live” as an important goal of planning. “I like the fact that people in Jericho are already in love with their town and want to make it a better place,” she said. “So many people don’t love where they live and want to be somewhere else.”

Prior to obtaining her Master’s degree, much of Murray’s employment involved fieldwork, particularly on Superfund sites where she collected groundwater samples. “I wasn’t using my people skills,” she said, “and I was spending my time cleaning up other people’s messes.” Murray considered a number of options including law school for environmental law or a Master’s in hydrogeology, but decided a graduate degree in planning would be the best career choice. “I felt like I could make more of an impact as a planner,” she said.

Murray believes that by working as a planner she will be able to combine her people skills and technical skills. Much of the work she did in New York dealt with watershed issues. Working in the Catskills, she found that the moun-

tain communities were trying to find a balance between economic development and protecting natural resources. Murray wrote a grant application to provide a wastewater system for a small rural town but discovered she needed more detailed income information than the census provided. She ended up going door to door in a community that had a high percentage of elderly widows; some 90 and over. “I ate more cookies during that project than ever before,” she said. “I sat at every kitchen table and learned what these women liked about the place they called home. That’s what planning is about: helping people and interacting on a personal basis.”

Although Murray would like to eventually buy some land in the country, she and Owen are currently living in Burlington, in part because he feels strongly about commuting by bicycle to his job with the South Burlington School District. “I get to enjoy the countryside during the day,” she said “and the city at night.”

Murray is excited about working in Jericho. She is pleased that the Town Plan is a recent document and looks forward to implementing some of the listed goals. Murray sees some of the rural agricultural community she grew up in reflected in Jericho. Her family goes back five generations and she remembers her mother pointing out certain areas and reminiscing about the old farms that used to be there. Murray sees



Jennifer Murray

similar issues in Jericho and hopes that she can help with the transition. “The stage is set to do some very interesting things,” she said.



Roy Haynes of Save Our Strays, enjoys playing Santa at Birchwood nursing home. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Underhill Awarded Better Backroads Grant

The Town of Underhill was a recipient of a grant from the Better Back Roads program this past summer. The grant enabled the Town to improve drainage along a section of Stevensville Road. This drainage project will reduce the road erosion problem that has been ongoing for years. With the aid of grant funds, both sides of the road were cleared and sloped and new stone lined drainage ditches installed. In addition, a cross culvert and a driveway culvert were added. The project was delayed due to the April flooding; however, The Better Backroads program graciously extended the October 2011

completion deadline to December 2011. This project was completed the first of December by Our Town Highway Department and should reduce the annual Town Highway maintenance costs.

The Better Backroads program works with towns, planning commissions, nonprofits and lake and watershed associations to correct road-related erosion problems to save towns money on road maintenance and reduce the impact that road-related erosion has on water quality through financial and technical assistance.

Underhill Jericho Fire Department safety message

By Kitty Clark

During this past week there have been many house fires in our area, some claiming the lives of children and adults.

This is a very important message: When cleaning out wood ashes from fireplaces or stoves, place these ashes in a metal container with a lid and store them well away from the house. Live embers in ashes can stay active for up to three days and if put into cardboard boxes or paper bags they could start a fire and spread to other combustible materials.

Other fire safety tips: Never use a kitchen range or an oven as a supplemental heating source. If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit, if an extension cord is used make sure it has the necessary rating to carry an amp load. Frozen water pipes, never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, use hot water or a laboratory tested

device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.

Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have new batteries and test them monthly. Have a family plan in place for escaping your house in case of fire. If windows are used as emergency exits in your home and practice using them in the event fire should strike and make sure these windows open easily. If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located. Also, never park a vehicle in front of a fire hydrant.

Please practice fire safety everyday and remember if you have an emergency or think you might have an emergency, Call 911.

From all the members on the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department, “Have a Happy Fire Safe 2012”

Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

The second half of this two-year biennium began last Tuesday January 3, 2012. In part, because of Tropical Storm Irene, many committees had meetings in November and December to address problems and to prepare for the session. The House Human Services Committee, which I serve on, met jointly with the House Natural Resources and Energy committee and the House Ways and Means Committee to understand the impact of the reduced Federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Vermont is going to receive about \$8 million less than last year and we hope to supplement the fund with \$5.1 million the Legislature set aside in anticipation of federal cuts, and \$1 million from a projected year-end carry-forward in the non-ARRA funded weatherization program. The state’s \$6.1 million will be added to the federal \$19.5 million and other available funds, increasing the average annual benefit per household to about \$935.

This year will be challenging, but each year that I have been in the legislature has had its own challenges. First, of course, the legislature must focus on the recovery efforts after Tropical Storm Irene. Although the state has come far since the storm, there is still much to be done. Irene has shown us both that we are resilient, and that we must make sure we value our resiliency and work toward policies that keep us strong. But there are other issues that cannot be ignored – a clean energy future, a strong economy and health care reform. Last year we took a very important step in health care reform enacting legislation that created the Green Mountain Care Board, created the Health Insurance Exchange and the outlines for Green Mountain Care. This year we need to pass legislation that finalizes the implementation of Green Mountain Care and other strategic plan issues.

I have been working with the Department of Health and the Attorney General’s Office on bills dealing with tobacco issues and changes to the Prescription Drug Monitoring System. I’m also working to get a bill relating to parental rights and responsibilities taken up in committee. Vermont law does not allow judges to grant joint custody on their own when parents divorce. If you are interested in learning more about this issue, Jericho resident Chris Weinberg has created a web site jointcustodyvt.org to support the passage of this bill, H.354.

I will again have a series of evenings at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library to answer questions and have discussion on anything going on in the legislature. The first evening will be Tuesday January 10, 6:30-8:00 pPM. Please join me and George Till next Tuesday at the library.

As always I like to hear from you, either by email: Bill@RepBillFrank.com, phone: 899-3136 or mail: 19 Poker Hill Rd, Underhill, 05489.

Cambridge students ski/snowboard for free

Height of Land Publications Circulation and Marketing Manager Jessica Steel presented a check for \$4,100 to Cambridge Area Rotary President Sherrill Pigeon for Rotary’s Winter Wellness Days (WWD) WWD gets all fourth fifth and sixth graders three full days of skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing or cross country skiing totally free of charge. Height of Land organizes its annual Barn Bash to raise money for Rotary’s continued effort to keep kids active in both mind and body. If you would like to volunteer to work with the students on Winter Wellness Days please email Sam Lotto at sw/vt@together.net or reach him at 793-5509.

IBM Awards more than \$525,000 in grants

IBM announced it has awarded \$525,540 in grants, ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, to more than 100 Vermont not-for-profit organizations and schools throughout the state. The grants were awarded as part of IBM’s celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2011, and made to organizations where IBM employees are volunteers. The grants fund organizations throughout the state supporting the arts, education, disaster and emergency response, the environment, health and youth services, and libraries.

These grants bring the approximate value of IThe Centennial grants include 20 IBM Community Impact grants for \$10,000 each that support IBM employees’ involvement in local projects that link IBM’s community priorities with a school or not-for-profit organization. In addition, earlier this year IBM announced a \$10,000 grant to the DREAM mentoring program and a \$100,000 corporate Centennial Grant – one of only 11 awarded worldwide – for an energy efficiency project for HowardCenter and the Vermont State Colleges. IBM is providing nearly \$12 million in grants worldwide to schools and not-for-profit organizations this year in recognition of its 100th anniversary.

“Every one of these IBM grants came to Vermont based on the personal commitment and involvement of IBM employees to community organizations, both as individuals and teams,” said Janette Bombardier, senior location executive for IBM in Vermont. “IBM’s combined community support reached nearly every corner of the state and is representative of the positive impact made by IBM and its employees in Vermont every year, and particularly during this IBM Centennial year.”

The grants support organizations providing services both regionally and statewide. Organizations based in Jericho and Underhill receiving grants are:

Browns River Middle School	\$3,000
Friends of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library Inc.	\$1,000
Good Shepherd Preschool	\$1,500
Jericho Town Library	\$1,500
Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Ministry	\$3,000
Underhill Jericho Fire Department Inc	\$1,000.

FIRE SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT,
 contact the Underhill Jericho Fire Department with questions.

COURT REPORTS

November 9

April Williams, 37, Huntington, VT, charged with prescription fraud, felony, in Williston on August 20; amended to depressant/stimulant/narcotic possession, misdemeanor; pleaded guilty; sentence deferred for one year.

Todd Baribault, 24, Jericho, VT, charged with DUI, first offense, in Shelburne on October 1; pleaded guilty; fined \$600.

November 10

Eric J. Larson, 19, Richmond, VT, charged with marijuana possession less than two ounces in Williston on April 30; pleaded guilty; sentenced to six to 12 months, suspended but 58 days, probation; charged with vehicle operation — reckless or gross negligence in Williston on April 30; amended to vehicle operation — careless or negligent; pleaded guilty; sentenced to six to 12 months, concurrent, suspended but

58 days, probation.

Amanda Wolcott, 30, Cambridge, VT, charged with vehicle operation — license suspended in Milton on June 25; pleaded guilty; sentenced to 19 to 20 days; charged with vehicle operation — license suspended on August 23; pleaded guilty; sentenced to 19 to 20 days, concurrent.

November 14

Matthew J. Yarbenet, 48, Richmond, VT, charged with domestic assault in Richmond on July 18; pleaded guilty; sentenced to four to 12 months, suspended, probation.

November 16

Robert L. Hintze, 37, Richmond, VT, charged with DUI, first offense, in Richmond on September 2; pleaded guilty; fined \$300, sentenced to one to three months, suspended, probation.

POLICE REPORTS

On December 11, 2011 the Richmond Police Department was notified of a **forced burglary** into the home of Roger Grant and Karola Batchelder where a brick was used to smash out a rear bedroom window of the home to gain access. It appears an initial attempt was made to enter the home by forcing open a door but when that failed the window was smashed. Once inside the home the suspects then stole a laptop computer along with the carry case. The laptop was password protected but it contained photographs of the victim’s recently deceased mother in which there were no additional copies. Richmond officers working in conjunction with the Chittenden County Sheriff’s S.R.O. assigned to Mt. Mansfield High School as well as being assisted by the St. Albans State Police Barracks were able to solve this case in which one confession was obtained. The location of the stolen laptop was provided and we are hopeful it will be recovered today. Cited into court to answer burglary charges were a 16 year old male from Richmond and a 17 year old male from Georgia, Vermont. Juvenile defendant was cited to appear in Chittenden County District Court on February 14, 2012. Case #:11RM01138

On December 20, 2011 State Police responded to a report of a **burglary of a residence** on Orr Rd. in Jericho, VT. The unoccupied residence was burglarized during the daytime hours. Anyone observing suspicious persons or vehicles in the area is asked to contact Vermont State Police at 878-7111. Case #: 11A105160

On December 20, 2011 at approximately 4:30 PM, Vermont State Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on **Eric Ovitt**, 30, of Jeffersonville, VT, for a moving violation on Lower Pleasant Valley Rd in Cambridge, VT. A check of Ovitt’s driving record showed him to be under Criminal Suspension for five prior Operating under Suspension violations. Ovitt was taken into custody and transported to the Lamoille Outpost without incident. Ovitt was then processed and cited into Lamoille courts at a later date. Case #: 11A105157

On December 11, 2011 at approximately 11:40 PM, Trooper Fox of the State Police was contacted by the victim, Peter Horvath, 43, Underhill, VT, advising his ex-wife, **Victoria Morrison**, 43, Winooski, VT, had contacted him via telephone. Peter advised he had a Final Relief from Abuse Order in place. Upon further investigation it was learned that Morrison had violated the protection order by contacting Horvath. Morrison was arrested and charged with violating Title 13 VSA 1030. Morrison was cited o appear at Chittenden County District Court - Criminal Division on January 24, 2012 at 8:15 AM. Case #: 11A105049

On December 16, 2011 at approximately 11:00 PM Richmond Police were traveling East on US Route 2 in Richmond, VT when an officer observed a vehicle cross the center line and then travel at varying speeds. The officer followed the vehicle onto Bridge Street and then Huntington Road; the vehicle crossed the center line on several more occasions. A traffic stop was initiated and the operator was identified as **Marc Heath**, 56 of Huntington, VT. Alcohol was detected and field sobriety tests were conducted along with an alcohol screening device which registered above the legal limit of .08 percent. Heath who has no prior DUI conviction in the state of Vermont was processed for suspicion of DUI and registered a breath test of .096 percent. Heath was cited to appear at Chittenden Superior Court on January 5, 2012 for Driving under the influence. Case #: 11RM01150

Huntington Town Hall Notes

Town Meeting Day is just around the corner and the ballot will have a long list of openings for local office. Thinking about getting involved in our town? Want to run for local office on Town Meeting Day? Want to volunteer, but don’t know what’s out there? Here is a chance to learn about all the Boards and Committees and find out what might work for you.

You are invited to come to the Huntington Town Fair at the Huntington Public Library on Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, to meet members of the town’s Boards and Committees and ask them in an informal setting about what they do, their goals, the time commitment, meeting nights and more. Tables will be set up at the Library for you to do the rounds. Participants will include representatives to discuss elected positions, appointed positions, and volunteer opportunities, like the fire department, response services, and library volunteers.

If you get really inspired, you can get a petition for office on January 10 (due on January 30, 5:00 PM, at the Town Clerk’s Office with signatures from 14 Huntington registered voters) and get your community service on the way.

Cambridge Literacy Committee makes donation

Katherine Quimby Johnson, Chair of the Cambridge Area Rotary Literacy Committee, presents Johnson Public Library’s children and youth librarian, Sarah Snow and story hour mascot Clancy, with a check to support its participation in the Early Literacy Initiative (ELI). Co-sponsored by the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Vermont Center for the Book, ELI introduces very young children, their parents and caregivers to best practices for early literacy. The program combines the principles of the American Library Association’s Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library initiative and the Mother Goose Programs of the Vermont Center for the Book.




PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The season of giving shouldn’t end with the New Year

Because the season of giving shouldn’t end with the New Year, are residents and visitors alike are encouraged to give blood on Wednesday January 11, 2012 at the United Christian Assembly on Raceway Road, Jericho, VT. Donor hours are 1:00 - 6:00 PM and anyone who is at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 lbs. may be eligible to donate.

All presenting donor will receive a coupon for a free one pound bag of coffee from Dunkin Donuts.

For more information or to make an appointment, please call the blood center at 1-800-RED Cross or log onto the Red Cross web site at www.redcrossblood.com.

Button Up W\orkshop at the DBRL

On January 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, the Jericho Energy Task Force and the Underhill Energy Committee will present a Button Up workshop at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Button Up is a free informational session designed to help Vermonters learn how to improve energy efficiency in their homes and businesses.

Button Up was developed in 2008 by the Central Vermont Community Action Council and is offered in partnership with Efficiency Vermont. The presentation includes an overview of why building efficiency is so important in Vermont, illustrates how homes lose energy, and outlines clear steps that homeowners can take to address this energy loss. The presenter will be Russ Flanigan, an Energy Specialist Project Manager with Perkins Smith Design Build in Shelburne.

Owners of homes and businesses in Jericho, Underhill and beyond are invited to attend the two-hour session to learn about actions they can take to lower energy bills and make their homes and businesses more comfortable and affordable.

Vermont Women’s Mentoring Program continues to help women succeed after incarceration

January is the national Mentoring Awareness Month, a nationally recognized awareness campaign begun in 2002 by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership. Mentoring is an effective strategy not only for children, but also for adult women who are returning to community after incarceration.

The Vermont Women’s Mentoring Program (VWMP), collaboration between Mercy Connections, Vermont Works for Women and the Vermont Department of Corrections has experienced tremendous success for the past nine years. The program matches women coming out of the prison system with volunteer women mentors in the community. Statistics demonstrate that women who have benefitted from a mentor are significantly less likely to return to jail. VWMP differs from some other post-incarceration programs in that it is a voluntary program, resulting in more positive outcomes than mandatory mentoring programs.

Gearing up for the newest Mentor Training, beginning in February, Program Coordinator Pam Greene of Mercy Connections says that the continued success of the program is determined by dedicated mentor volunteers. Greene states that the program welcomes all types of women from diverse backgrounds interested in giving back. “Be a mentor” she says, “Become a part of a community of caring women. The rewards are great for both the mentor and the mentee.”

Mercy Connections’ number is 802-846-7063, and the website is www.mercyconnections.org.

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Community Columns

Remember?

By Suzanne Kusserow
Senior Guest Columnists

This week I have been visiting with my son and his family in Louisville, Kentucky. Yesterday, since this area is thoroughbreds, racing, huge horse farms, rolling green country, we did the traditional and spent an afternoon at Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby. I don’t know anything about racing, win/place/show, tip sheets for betting, etc. So I decided to create my own agenda. It was a beautiful fall day, with temperatures in the southern luxury of the 60’s and since I wanted to see these handsome creatures at close range, I ended up in the Paddock area. Handlers trotted the mounts around a small track, so the betting public could get a better view, and euphemistically, make a more-informed decision on which horse was destined to win. What I was interested in was the carriage of the horses, the glossy coats of the bays, the polished copper of the chestnuts, and even a few speckled dapple greys. The tiny pancakes called saddles were then strapped on, the entry numbers affixed to the saddle pads, the chain bits and bridles checked for optimum control. The jockeys appeared, sprung on the saddles like small agile monkeys....and off they went to the main track. Even though the comparison was far from perfect, the astounding views of the horses brought back memories of my years riding through the Vermont woods, on a horse who was an old-style Lippitt Morgan: sturdy, with arched neck, gentle eyes and rocking-chair gaits. “Towne Ayr Traveler”, or “Travie” was my friend and companion on many a fall day, the leaves dripping red from the topmost branches, the ground still soft and pliable to both hoof and foot. He was the fulfillment of all my young- girl yearnings for a horse, which finally, in my thirties, was one of my blessings. He stood alone during his last winter, missing his equine friends, nodding his old head to the snow and wind, until I couldn’t stand to see him and finally gave him the blessing of a merciful death.

Seeing these beautiful animals, close enough to touch, brought back nostalgia..... the emotional label of what could otherwise simply be called memories. I wished those days were back; the pull of envisioning “Travie”, vis-a-vis this crowd of unknown faces, made both the sameness and the disparities of this memory combine with the reminder of joys that have faded now. I stood there, leaning on the Paddock fence, but hearing the crunch of fallen Maple leaves on a Vermont trail to nowhere-important, riding bareback and feeling the slow gait of my old horse beneath me.

Next, I took my grandchild, Chessie, to the showing of a film about Lewis and Clark. The choices they made, without the guidance of much else except the swift currents of the rivers, going no-one-knew-where, were both heroic and impossible. No one deserted the small expedition, because the wilderness surrounding them was unknown, unmapped, invisible. The only choice was between death among your comrades, or death among the towering trees, the snow fields of the mountains, the drowning rapids. The photography – with all of these possibilities – was stupendous, realistic and emotionally charged. It was also familiar. I have lived in these areas, have canoed some of these rivers, have walked some of the trails they established through pure disbelief and ignorance of their future paths. I could see these places, not only on film, but in my memory: Mandan, Pompei’s Pillar, Yellowstone River, John Colter’s Hell, Marias River, Fort Clatsop. I know the histories of this expedition, collecting stories and vistas over years of time. And thus it becomes nostalgia, with the smell of sagebrush, the pond where Sacagawea drank and cured her deadly illness, the deafening rush of the Great Falls of the Missouri. This portage took almost a month; the small crew broke their feet on the rocks and cacti.

And I was back again; I was hiking by myself, remembering the botanical journals of Merriwether Lewis, the Latin names of Bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva) and the deep pink to red Monkeyflower (Mimulus lewisii); York, the black slave whose skin faded into equality after the crew truly banded together to save their lives. And of course, the only warm creature during the winter: Toby, the huge furry Newfoundland of Captain Clark.

Today, after the chatter of Thanksgiving, Nonnie left for the continuation of her freshman year at college. How many times have I sent kids off.....with last-minute rushing to the car, throwing in items that would be sadly missed once there.....and would require a mailing of an emergency package. The silence is haunting after the goodbyes. And again, memory has its associated emotions and becomes a throat-catching nostalgia. There is a blending of sights, sounds, smells and feelings that take me back, sometimes a long ways!

Now, we are leaving for a movie. Remember when Jay, at age 8, stood up in the theatre and shouted for glee when Jiminy Cricket first appeared? We will come home to add celery, onions carrots to the leftover turkey bones of Thanksgiving, and have a hot bowl

of soup. Remember picking out all the meat from the carcass, and persuading the kids that it would really be delicious.....much better than it looked?

Walking in the adjoining city park, I remember paths of my life that have been through woods, with my Dad identifying each plan t and tree, and giving me the ways to tell it from its neighbor, and what the Latin names meant. “Clintonia borealis.... he was the governor of New York state. And Linnea borealis was the only plant that Linneaus, the great Swedish botanist, named after himself. It’s called Twinflower; sometimes you’ll see an old photo of him, with this tiny little flower in his buttonhole”. And we would both bend down, and count the arrangement of leaves, the bark of a special tree, the lacy, delicate Maiden hair fern growing by Mill Brook. Remember?

I am flying home now, sitting in the airport having a typically overpriced hamburger, although the elderly woman who was behind the garish counter, was pleasant, despite a long line of people behind me. I found a table, and drank my lukewarm coffee and observed the stumbling flow of travelers.....dragging small suitcases, hefting backpacks which slouched their shoulders forward, managing strollers through incoming traffic. Then I noticed one person: a man of about 50, with an antiquated, but to me, soothing and familiar way of dressing: a pleasantly-worn Harris Tweed sport coat, a button-down shirt and a silk-rep tie. It was Bert’s style of dressing, and this man was a slightly fuzzy image of his old classmate, Peter. Peter helped me get through Bert’s death: “Sue, get off the phone, go find a mundane job to do and keep at it until you are finished. Push your kids out the door; they have to learn to finish their own jobs, their own lives, just as you need to do. Now go!” He was notorious for being alone in his life, for his lack of sympathy, and also for his few, but sincere and lasting friendships. Until he died, many years later, I was one of those privileged few. I sat quietly at my table, not wanting to let go of this stranger who represented directness and tolerance at a beleaguered time in my life.

Remember?
We have built our personalities on those people who have come into our lives. ‘Bouncing off’ others’ styles, beliefs, ideas, discipline, mistakes, is how we form our early years. Some people add important influences; some chisel away at the inconsistencies in our actions; some teach by traveling a path that seems a good one to follow, although they are so absorbed in their own travels that their enthusiasm alone is what carries us. It is not always easy to look backwards, but these memories are the photos of our past lives.....which deserve a smile, and probably a few tears, also. Remember to keep packing them in a quiet corner of your mind, so you can pull them out when you need them.
Remember.

Sonshine

By Pat Richmond
Correspondent United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is located at the park on Route 15 in Underhill Flats. We worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM and offer Sunday School at the same time for children in grades K - 12, with a nursery available for younger children. Visit us at www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com.

The United Church celebrated Advent and Christmas with Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy, with the hope that peace, love and joy will be a part of everyone’s life during the coming year. The children of the Church presented a Christmas pageant on Dec. 18, and on Christmas Eve the Church was filled with people anticipating the coming of the Christ Child through readings and carols. This year, Christmas was on a Sunday, and the United Church of Underhill and the Jericho United Methodist Church shared morning worship led by the pastors of both churches. It was a perfect time to reflect on the true nature of Christmas and thank God for the gift of his Son.

The next “Food for All” Community Dinner at the United Church will be on Thursday, January 12, 2012, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. The dinner is open to everyone in the community at no cost (offerings will be accepted to benefit the food shelf). Please come -- on your way home from work, with the family, with a neighbor or friend.

The United Church is in the process of establishing a “Green Church” ministry. A group of people in the Church will guide our church to operate in a way that is friendly to God’s creation, the earth and all her systems. Stewardship of the church is admirable and necessary, and so is the stewardship of our living space for us and our future generations.

The Underhill-Jericho-Essex Ecumenical Ministry is composed of many of the churches in the area, including the United Church of Underhill. One of its very important missions is the food shelf. At this time of year, when low-income people are facing increased heating expenses, the availability of food through the food shelf is vital. Your donation of even one item can make a difference -- things like canned tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, cereal, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, peanut butter, and pasta. Donations may be left at any church in the area or in the food shelf bin at Hanaford’s in Essex Center.

The Mountain Gazette

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6:15 Pm Youth Group in the old school building

899-4911, officeejcc@comcast.net, www.jccvt.org

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Rev. Patrice Goodwin, 899-4288

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Children’s Sunday School, 9:00 AM

Men’s breakfast - third Sunday, 7:00 PM

jerichoumc@jumvt.org www.jumcvt.org

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ART / MUSIC / THEATER

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY
Young Visions, an exhibit of photographic works by students from Champlain Valley and Mount Mansfield Union High Schools, will be offered at Gallery 160 in Richmond, VT from January 7 through February 15. Open House Hours are 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, January 13 and 14. The Artists’ Reception will be held Friday, January 13 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Gallery 160 is located at 160 East Main Street, Richmond. Hours are by chance or appointment. Contact Scott & Kelly Funk at 434-6434.

Vermont Watercolor Society Burlington/ St. Albans Hub Winter Show, UVM Davis Center, 4th Floor Fireplace Lounge January 20 – February 19, 2012, Opening Reception Friday, January 20, 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

First Friday Art Walk, January 6, 2012, 5:00 to 8:00 PM, City-wide, Burlington, VT. Start the New Year with Art, come inside and warm up at the over 30 galleries and art venues throughout the city staying open late to welcome walkers and share our incredible art scene.

Pick up your copy of Art Map Burlington, First Friday Art Walk’s official publication, and your guide to art in Burlington or visit www.artmapburlington.com to see a list of participating venues. First Friday Art Walk and Art Map Burlington is sponsored by Burlington City Arts, the Fleming Museum of Art, Kasini House, Main Street Landing, Opportunities Credit Union. Questions? Call 802-264-4839 or send email to info@artmapburlington.com.

The Art on Burton presented by Helen Day Art Center, January 20 – April 15, 2012. *The Art on Burton* examines the profound role of art and design on the culture of snowboarding by exhibiting work from artists who have contributed to the design and image of Vermont’s own Burton Snowboards. Snowboarding’s imagery and products have consistently re-enforced its position as a counter-culture lifestyle.

Because of this counter-culture lifestyle, snowboarding companies like Burton have been able to visually push the envelope, inviting artists to collaborate with product design, thus simultaneously supporting the artist by increasing their visibility and positively impacting the experience of the rider. There are few other examples where fine artists’ work reaches the public so directly and prolifically.

This exhibition focuses on artists who have contributed to the design and image of Burton, highlighting significant moments and innovations. It includes original artwork, boards, board graphics, and videos, representing both individual artists and the process of design. Please visit helenday.com for details.

Helen Day Art Center is a member supported community art and education non-profit organization in Stowe, VT.

River Arts is pleased to host *The Music of Poetry*, a Vermont Humanities Council program with Michael Arnowitt, January 18, 7:00 PM at the River Arts Center, 74 Pleasant Street, Morrisville. Donations accepted.

The Music of Poetry is a talk by pianist Michael Arnowitt exploring the musical aspects of poetry, song lyrics, and literature. The presentation offers a musician’s insights on the elements of sound and time in literary composition and the parallels Arnowitt hears between the creations of great writers and the music of past and present classical composers and jazz and pop songwriters.

River Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the community through the arts, is located in Morrisville, VT. For more information, call 888-1261, or visit their website at www.riverartsvt.org.

MUSIC/DANCE

The **Vermont Symphony Orchestra** will perform the Fauré and Mozart Requiems in its third 2011/2012 Masterworks Series

concert to be held at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington on Saturday January 28. The concert features the VSO Chorus conducted by Robert De Cormier with Jonita Lattimore, soprano; Susan Platts, alto; Richard Clement, tenor; and Kevin Deas, bass. The concert begins at 8:00 PM. Single tickets for the January concert start at \$16. Student tickets are available for \$9. For additional information or tickets, please visit the FlynnTix Regional Box Office website at www.flynnitix.org, telephone (802) 86-FLYNN (863-5966), or visit the VSO website at www.vso.org. Information for VSO concerts is also available for smartphone users through a QR code The QR code links directly to the VSO website.

Westford Winter Music Series presents Carol Ann Jones and Will Patton, Sunday January 8, 2012, UCW White Church, Westford, 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Carol Ann Jones is a singer/songwriter. She’s been a vocalist since early childhood and guitarist since 2006. She has two full-length albums to her credit. Carol performs regularly around the state demonstrating her diverse talent in many musical configurations. Will Patton, a multi-instrumentalist and composer, have played a wide variety of music for the past 30 years, including Celtic, jazz, rock and roll, bluegrass and Brazilian choro. The concert is free and open to all ages of the public. Refreshments will be served.

Queen City Contrás will hold its regular dance on Friday, January 13 at 8:00 PM at Edmunds Middle School, 299 Main Street, Burlington VT. Chris Weiler will call. Music will be provided by the Contra indicators: Thomas Brenneur, Sean McCutcheon and Richard Lupien. All are welcome, all dances taught, no partner or experience necessary. Beginners’ session at 7:45 PM. Admission is \$8.00 adults. Under 12 free. Please bring

clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Dance Info: 802-371-9492 or 802-343-7165.

THEATER/FILM

Essex Community Players (ECP) to Hold Open Auditions for *Our Evening with Durang*. Essex Community Players continues its 2011-2012 season with “Our Evening with Durang” ~ four one-act plays by Christopher Durang. This production contains adult language and controversial theological themes, and is not intended for children under the age of 16. *Our Evening with Durang* is being co-produced by Cindy MacKechnie and Kris Johnson and directed by Adam Cunningham and Bob Fishel. ECP’s one-act festival has traditionally been a venue for both directors and actors to get involved with Community Theater in a more relaxed, less elaborate setting. This environment is part of producing a first-class theater experience for our cast, crew, and audience.

The following one acts are being produced: *The Actor’s Nightmare* has parts for 2 men and 3 women; *The Book of Leviticus Show* has parts for 2 men and 3 women; *Desire, Desire, Desire* has parts for 5 men and 3 women; and *Medea* has parts for 2 men and 4 women.

Auditions will be held on Sunday and Monday, January 8 and 9, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, at Memorial Hall in Essex Center (at the intersection of Routes 15, 128, and Towers Road). Callbacks will be in the same location on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. You do not need to prepare anything for the audition; however, reading the plays would be helpful. The production will be presented for one weekend only (Thursday through Sunday, March 1 to 4, 2012) with a total of five performances. For in-depth character descriptions and stage age requirements, please visit the Essex Community Players website at www.essexplayers.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON LIBRARY, UNDERHILL

Art for the month of January features photography by Suzanne Calhoun. Music Sunday is January 8 at 2:00 PM. MMU alumni will be performing both songs and spoken pieces.

The annual Deborah Rawson Memorial Library meeting will take place Thursday January 19 at 7:00 PM. All registered voters in Jericho and Underhill are encouraged to attend. The annual report was mailed to all households in December. If you need another copy the library does have them available.

The silent auction item for January is a photograph on canvas of the Monitor barn in Richmond taken by Stu Hall. Bids will be taken from January 3 to January 31 at 8:00 PM. Stop by the library to bid.

The Friends of DRML will meet Wednesday January 11 at 10:00 AM. Please join us.

Do you love to play Scrabble? Come to the library on Sunday January 22 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM to play Scrabble with fellow enthusiasts. Bring a friend and a Scrabble board or just join a table with others. Please call to register 899-4962.

The Mystery Group is reading *The Blessing Way* by Tony Hillerman. They will meet to discuss it on Tuesday January 24 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Lynn Ann Powers’ paintings are on display for the month of December. Of special interest are her paintings of trout flies that are framed with the actual trout flies.

The board of Trustees will meet Thursday December 15 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

The mystery book group is reading *The Narrows* by Michael Connelly and will discuss it Tuesday December 27 at 7:00 PM. This group is open to anyone.

Evening Story Time for Families Thursday, January 5 at 6:30 PM; parents with older preschoolers and children in kindergarten through second grade are invited to join us for stories, related craft and light refreshments. To register call, 899-4962.

Preschool Story Times - Stories, songs,

fingerplays, snack and craft for preschoolers and their caregiver. Drop in, no registration needed: Wednesday at 10:30 AM: January 11, 18 and 25; Thursday at 10:00 AM: January 5, 12, 19 and 26.

On January 12 - Grandma Sue will sing songs with the children. Following the singing we will read a story or two then have craft and refreshments.

Cancellations for snow- If Chittenden East School District is closed we will cancel story time for that day. If there is a delay of two hours or less we will have story time as scheduled.

After School Wii Fun Thursday, January 19 at 2:45 PM.

Students in grade 2 through 4 are invited to join us to play Wii Resort Sports. Light refreshments provided. Advance registration required. Call: 899-4962

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 of the library’s programs, call 899-4962.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

PJ Story Hour on Thursday January 5 at 6:30 PM with Success by Six, Come to the library in your PJs for a story. On Saturday January 7 from 10:00 – 11:00 AM the Fairfax Community Library will be hosting a Breastfeeding Clinic and Support group for those who are thinking about breastfeeding, are currently breastfeeding, or those who have wisdom to share with others. The clinic will be led by Mari Stuart-Bullock from the Home Health Agency of Franklin County. Child care will be provided at the library for older siblings.

Homeschoolers Event - Wednesday January 11 from 3:30-4:45 PM, Geek the Library; come get a personalized tour of our library and learn about digital resources that can be accessed at the library or at home.

Thursday January 12 at 6:30 PM is the book discussion for *The Last Chinese Chef* by Nicole Mones. The discussion will be led by Bill Biddle. Be sure to bring a cultural dish to share and an appetite for our Gastronomy Pot Luck.

Feeling creative? On Tuesday January 24 come to the library from 6:30-8:00 PM for a fun filled evening of beaded jewelry making. The workshop will be lead by Eva Fronhofer and each participant will be able to make a jewelry set; either earrings and a necklace or earrings and a bracelet. Registration and a materials fee of \$15 are required. Call 849-2420 with questions or to register. How much do you know about Health and Nutrition? On Saturday January 28 at 10:00 AM, CVAA’s AmeriCorp member Liz Dana will host a Nutrition Trivia game for Seniors Prizes and refreshments will be provided. Nutrition trivia is free, although donations are gladly accepted.

Fairfax Community Library Story Hour; Tuesdays from 9:30 - 10:30 AM, join us for stories, crafts and activities: January 3 - Clap, Tam and Drum; January 10 – Yoga; January 17 – Blankets; January 24 - Bath Time; January 31 - Stars and Sky

Library News: <http://www.bfafairfax.com/pages/communitylibrarynews.html>. Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Fairfax-Community-Library>.

School Year Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

JERICHO CENTER, LIBRARY

Library hours are Monday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Friday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. For more information, call the library at 899-4686, email Jerichotownlibrary@gmail.com, or visit the library website at www.jerichotownlibrary.org.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY, JEFFERSONVILLE

Varnum Memorial Library Hours: Monday and Tuesday Noon to 7:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday 3:00 to 7:00 PM; Thursday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM to Noon. Preschool Story Hour every Monday 11:00 AM to Noon. Check our website for cancellations <https://sites.google.com/site/thevarnum/> or call the library 644-2117 during open hours.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming Events:

Thursday January 5, 11:00 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Bedtime Stories.

Thursday January 5, 6:00-8:00 PM: A World of Health Discussion Course. A six-session discussion course which “explores the human health and the environment and how we can sustain both. The course discusses limitations of the current medical model and its approach to health, and then addresses the places where our personal health intersects with the environment - from our food and homes, to our communities and society. Throughout the course you will find individual actions that promote good health and, in turn, promote a healthier environment”. For more information, visit www.nwei.org. Facilitated by Westford resident Pat Hechmer. Contact Victoria at 878-5639 or westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us to register.

Monday January 9, 6:00-8:00 PM: A World of Health Discussion Course. See 1/5 for description.

Wednesday January 11, 6:00-7:00 PM: Book Discussion: Gone Baby Gone (Lehane).

Thursday January 12, 11:00 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Parades.

Thursday January 12, 6:00-8:00 PM: A World of Health Discussion Course. See 1/5 for description.

Wednesday January 18, 11:00 AM: Tai Chi for Arthritis for Ages 50+. This program contains all the essential principles of Tai Chi that support the improvement of flexibility and balance. For newcomers as well as those who took the classes this summer led by CVAA volunteer Judy Hayes. Class meets January 18, 20, 25, 27; February 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, and 29. Contact Victoria at 878-5639 to register.

Thursday January 19, 11:00 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Feeling Sick.

Libraries continued on page 6

Ongoing continued from page 4

reference points for old and new ED parents. For information, Peter, 899-2554.

TOWN GOVERNMENT & ORGANIZATIONS

Cambridge Area Rotary meets on the first Thursday of the month, rotating to local restaurants, 7:00 – 8:00 AM. For information, call Anita Lotto, 793- 0856, or Chuck Hogan, 644-8134.

Westford Fire Department, Mondays, 7:00 PM, at the fire station next to the Town Garage. For information, email John Quinn, jquinninv@aol.com

Jericho-Underhill Water District meets first Monday of each month at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats, 7:00 PM. For information, call 899-4076 or 899-3810.

Jericho Historical Society, second Thursday, 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho Underhill Park District Board meeting, first and third Wednesdays, 7:00

PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library project room, Jericho. Residents of Jericho and Underhill always welcome. 899-2693 for information.

Jericho Energy Task Force meets the second Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Jericho Town Hall.

THRIFT SHOPS & FOOD SHELVES

The **Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop** located just east of the Five Corners in Essex Jct. on Rte 15, the hours are from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tues. and Wed., 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Thurs. Please check us out.

Westford Food Shelf, open on the third Saturday of every month, 8:00 – 10:30 AM, United Church of Westford. All are welcome. Fresh produce, meat, and non-food items available.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

JUST MARRIED

CONANT - ROHLIN

Gillian Conant, daughter of David and Deborah Conant of Richmond, VT, and Travis Rohlin, son of Nancy Rohlin and the late Ronald Rohlin of Newark, N.Y., were united in marriage September 10, 2011. Justice of the Peace Denise Barnard officiated at the single-ring ceremony at the First Congregational Church. Hannah Dransfield and Emily Donovan, sisters of the bride, were the matrons of honor. The bridesmaids were Alison Kosakowski, Ali Conant, Jenna Dimmick, Erin Morton and Giuliva Avanzato. Todd Rohlin and Trevor Rohlin, brothers of the groom, were the **best** men. The ushers were Ransom Conant, Matt Dransfield, Drew Donovan, Brian Johnson and Adam Quku. Leveret Dransfield and Zell Donovan, nephews of the bride, were the ring bearers. A reception was held at Riverside Farms in Richmond, VT. Mrs. Rohlin is a teacher at Essex Elementary School. Her husband is an engineer at the University of Vermont. The couple resides in Burlington, VT.

DONOVAN - EDWARDS

Emily Donovan, daughter of Richard and Karen Donovan of Jericho, VT, and Khamal Edwards, son of Andrea Boothe of Queens, N.Y. and Dwight Edwards of Ridgefield, Conn., were united in marriage October 8, 2011. The Rev. Jonathan New officiated at the double-ring ceremony at First Congregational Church. Sarah Akins was the maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Emily Conant Donovan, Anya Farr, Katie Joyette, Mercedes Mack and Ashley Leavy. Kaedyn Edwards, daughter of the bride and groom, and Kennedy Joyette were the flower girls. Adalberto Lopez was the best man. The ushers were Andrew Donovan, brother of the bride, Khareem Edwards, brother of the groom, Kevin Africo, brother of the groom, David Matthew and Andrew Joyette. Zell Donovan and Malakai Edwards, son of the bride and groom, were the ring bearers. A reception was held at The Old Lantern in Charlotte, VT. Mrs. Edwards is a Chain of Custody Associate

at Rainforest Alliance. Her husband is a Kids and Fitness Preschool Teacher at The Edge. The couple resides in Jericho, VT.

VANZO - CHEVALIER

Mary Vanzo, daughter of Guy and Barbara Vanzo of Westford, VT, and David Chevalier, son of Jari Chevalier and the late Bhagat Singh of New York, N.Y., and stepson of David Chevalier of Portsmouth, R.I., were united in marriage September 4, 2011. James Vanzo, brother of the bride, officiated at the double-ring ceremony at The Back Bay Hotel, where a reception also was held. Bridget Vanzo, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Murray Flashner, grandfather of the groom, was the best man. Mrs. Chevalier graduated from Essex Junction High School and Boston University. Her husband graduated from The Thacher School of Ojai, Calif. and Boston University. They are co-founders of Chevalier Consulting Group and SalesBlend. The couple resides in Boston, Mass.

WILLIAMS - DILLION

Christine Williams, daughter of Dr. Robert Williams and Mrs. Karen Williams of Underhill Center, VT, and Christopher Dillon, son of Mr. William Dillon and Mrs. Linda Dillon of Albany, N.Y., were united in marriage October 8, 2011. Father James Fitzmaurice officiated at the double-ring ceremony at St. Mary's Church. Abigail Pyle was the maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Lyss Kostek and Stephanie Dillon. Steven Sgambelluri was the best man. The ushers were Patrick Glisson and Christopher Williams. The junior groomsmen were Michael Williams, Sean Dillon and Daniel Dillon. A reception was held at Spruce Base Camp at Stowe Resort, after which the couple took a honeymoon trip to Barbados. Mrs. Dillon graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School, St. Lawrence University, and received a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins. She works at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Her husband graduated from University of Virginia, and received a Master of Business Administration from Harvard. He works at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. The couple resides in New York City.

NEW KIDS IN TOWN

CAMBRIDGE

(Johnson) Harlene (Fletcher) and Hugh Johnson Jr. had a daughter, Hayleigh Raye, on November 9, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.

HUNTINGTON

(Genest) Launa (Jarvis) and Erik Genest had a son, Jayden Scott, on November 8, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.

JEFFERSONVILLE

(Rodger) Erin (Smith) and Christopher Rodger had a son, Connor, on November 16, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.

JERICOH

(Mayoille) Kearsten and Nathan Chaffee had

a daughter on November 8, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.

(Scott) Alicia (Lavanway) and Michael Scott had a son, Tucker Gordon, on November 15, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.

(Senter) Terra and Justin Heilenbach had a son, Sprout, on November 18, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.

RICHMOND

(Toussaint) Jennifer and David Buckley had a daughter, Violet Diana-Jane Buckley, on November 9, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, VT.



Bethany and friend on the savannah in South Africa.

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Thursday January 19, 6:00-8:00 PM: A World of Health Discussion Course. See 1/5 for description. Friday January 20, 11:00 AM: Tai Chi for Arthritis for Ages 50+. See 1/18 for description. Monday January 23, 6:00-8:00 PM: A World of Health Discussion Course. See 1/5 for description. Wednesday January 25, 11:00 AM: Tai Chi for Arthritis for Ages 50+. See 1/18 for description. Thursday January 26, 11:00 AM: Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Backwards Day. Thursday January 26, 6:00-8:00 PM: A World of Health Discussion Course. See 1/5 for description. Friday January 27, 11:00 AM: Tai Chi for Arthritis for Ages 50+. See 1/18 for description. Friday January 27, 6:00 PM: Strategy and Board Games for Teens and Adults. Hosted by Matt Taylor. New Additions to the Collection: Adult: *Habibi* (Thompson), *The Leopard* (Nesbo), *Locked On* (Clancy). Teen: *Chime* (Billingsley), *The Scorpio Races* (Stiefvater). Juv: Picture Book: *If You Give a Dog a Donut* (Numeroff), *Beatrice's Goat* (McBrier), *Goodnight Goodnight Construction Site* (Rinker). Early Reader: *Fancy Nancy and the Mean Girl* (O'Connor). Graphic Novel: *Amulet 4* (Kibuishi). Fiction: *War Horse* (Morpurgo). Nonfiction: *DK Eyewitness: Predator* (Burnie), *Arms and Armor* (Byam), *Flight* (Nahum), *Science* (Jackson). Magazine: *Wired*. The Library is open Wednesday, 1-7pm, Thursday 10-6pm, Friday noon-6pm, and Saturday 10-2pm. We can be reached at 878-5639, westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us, and www.westford.lib.vt.us. The library is open Wednesday

1:00-7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00-6:00 PM, Friday noon-6:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. We can be reached at 878-5639, westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us, www.westford.lib.vt.us.

DOROTHY ALLING
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WILLISTON

*Chess Club: 4-week series. Wednesdays at 3:00 PM. (January 4-25). For beginners or anyone interested in chess. Gr. 3-8. Pre-register. Food For Thought Library Volunteers: Thursday, January 5, 4-5 pm. Gr. 7-12 Teen Advisory Group. Pizza, discussion, and library projects for teens. 1st Thursday of each month. New members welcome. Story Hour: Tuesdays at 11:00 AM, January 10-31. Stories and simple crafts for children ages 3-5. No pre-registration. *Science Magic: Thursday, January 12, 3:00 PM, amaze your friends and family with science tricks using simple household materials presented by Kathy Fernee and Karen Cutler. Gr. 3 and up. Pre-register at 878-4918. Babytime Playgroup: Wednesdays, 10:30 AM-12:00 noon (except for the 1st Wed of each month). January 11-25. For infants and toddlers. Sponsored by Building Bright Futures of Williston. Call Marjorie Von Ohlsen for more information at 658-3659. *Reading with Frosty and Friends Therapy Dogs: Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 PM. New session starts January 17. Bring a book and read to a dog All dogs registered with Therapy Dogs of Vermont. All ages. Call 878-4918 to pre-register for 10 minute individual sessions. All ages. *Toddler Yoga and Stories: 4-week series. Fridays, 10:15 AM. (January 6-27). Simple yoga and books for children ages 1-5. Presented by Karen Allen. Pre-register at 878-4918.

Music with Raphael: Mondays, 10:45 AM. (Except January 2 and 16), Thursdays, 10:30 AM, and Saturday, January 21. Come sing, dance, and clap your hands with Raphael and his guitar Children participate and experience traditional and original folk music. Up to age 5 with a caregiver. No pre-registration. Limit: one weekday session per week per family. One Regiment's Story in the Civil War: The Ninth Vermont, 1862-1865. Saturday, January 21 at 1:00 PM. Civil War historian Donald Wickman offers the listener tales of the 9th Vermont, highlighted by the stories of some of the 1,878 Vermonters who comprised it, as it became one of the most traveled regiments in the Federal army. Sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. Free and open to all. * Pre-registration required. Sponsored by Building Bright Futures of Williston. Call Marjorie Von Ohlsen for more information at 658-3659. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston, VT. www.williston.lib.vt.us

Join Us For An Open House



Saturday January 14, 2012 9:30-11:30am

7 REDMILL DR. JERICOH, NEXT TO THE OLD RED MILL

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• JAN 23-27 SIBLINGS/ALUMNI
• JAN 30-FEB 3 NEW FAMILIES

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ENGAGEMENTS

LAROCQUE - CURLER

Stephen and Veronica LaRocque of Huntington, VT, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kari LaRocque, to Bradley Curler, son of Peter and Laurie Curler of Charlotte, VT.

A July 21, 2012 wedding is planned.

COLLEGE NOTES

Maura Spillane, a junior at Connecticut College, performed in the Music Department’s Student Voice Recital “Bach to Broadway” November 18 in Harkness Chapel.

Spillane, a 2009 graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School, is the daughter of Philip and Mary Spillane of Jericho, VT.

The afternoon’s program featured musical selections by Bach, Mozart, Handel and other classical musicians.

Achieving ideal weight

By Dr. Mary Kintner

What is ideal weight? There are many ways to assess. The old charts were of questionable use because they were derived from white middle-upper class men who had health insurance. From this limited pool, the ideal weight for everyone else was inferred. Other methods include body mass indexing (BMI) which involves a complex calculation that can give confusing results because an obese person may have the same BMI as a body builder. The most accurate methods of scientifically analyzing the body involve sophisticated equipment such as underwater scales and biomass resistance. In general I believe an ideal weight is one where a sense of vitality and energy is felt, where movement comes easily and health is maintained.

Our weight is determined in part by our metabolism which is the rate we burn calories. This rate is determined by the thyroid, a small gland in the front of the neck. Calories also influence our weight – both calories we consume and expend.

Some people are underweight because of accelerated thyroid function known as hyperthyroidism. All body processes are sped up including heart and respiratory rate and the metabolism. Hyperthyroidism requires medical attention. Being underweight can also be due to anorexia nervosa. This condition primarily affects young girls, although it is increasing in middle aged women and teenage boys. This is a psychological problem and can be life threatening because insufficient calories are consumed to maintain health. Anorexia needs treatment with health care professionals.

If you are underweight try to eat an extra 500 calories per day. Complex carbohydrates in the form of whole grains, fruits and vegetables or nuts and legumes are healthy ways to gain weight. Also remember to eat when hungry, eat regularly and eat snacks.

Problems with being overweight are far more common. Carrying too much weight stresses your entire body, especially the heart, lungs, joints and the endocrine (hormonal) system. Being overweight can be caused by a sluggish metabolism (hypothyroidism). Symptoms of hypothyroidism include depression, constipation, easy weight gain, and dry, thin skin and hair. This condition increases with age and is more common in women. In most cases being overweight is due to too many calories consumed, too few expended or typically both. Therefore to lose weight you should consume fewer calories (500/day), increase activity or typically both.

To lose weight, eat a healthy diet; thirty percent of calories coming from proteins such as fish, meat, eggs, dairy, nuts and legumes. Thirty percent of calories coming from fats such as olive oil, fish oils, flaxseed oils – sources of Omega 3 oils. Forty percent of calories should come from carbohydrates such as whole grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables.

Weight loss should be ½ to 2 pounds per week. Avoid refined foods – these are usually high in calories and low in nutrition i.e. “empty calories.” Drink 2-3 quarts of water per day. Often thirst is mistaken for hunger. Do not chew gum, it increase hunger. Ride out hunger pangs – do something other than eat, but don’t allow yourself to get ravenous. Eat frequent small, healthful amounts of food. Avoid eating large amounts of food later in the day when metabolism is slowing. And, don’t drink soda – even diet.

Besides decreasing caloric intake, increasing calories expended by exercising is important. Exercise is generally healthy but it also increases metabolism and can decrease appetite. Find an activity you like and that is readily available. Once you start, don’t stop. Finding a companion can also help you stay with the program.

Chiropractic care can also allow your body to function optimally and keep you moving pain free.

To maintain an ideal weight, eat a healthful diet, get plenty of exercise and stay well hydrated. In other words, live a healthy lifestyle.

Recycle your Christmas tree

Our Scouts are looking to convert your Christmas Trees into electricity.

Cub Scouts from Pack 620 in Jericho/Underhill are collecting Christmas trees and bringing them to the McNeil wood burning power plant in Burlington so they can be chipped up and used to generate electricity for local electric companies.

Our Scouts will be collecting trees at the Underhill Jericho Fire Department on Route 15 in Underhill on Saturday January 7 and 14 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM.

Out of respect for the fire department’s primary responsibilities and their generosity in allowing us to use their facility, please do not drop off trees outside of these collection hours.

Trees must be clean of all tinsel



Linda Kathleen Carey, 62, Huntington, VT, took the path to be with her Lord on December 17, 2011. Linda was born November 14, 1949, in Burlington, VT. She was the daughter of the late Hudson Carey and Lida Kenyon of E. Montpelier, VT. Linda graduated from Essex High School and went on to marry her fellow classmate, Rolon E. Smith. Together they had two daughters, Rolinda and Regina. Linda was a loving, caring person who played an active role in her community for many years. Linda could be found helping with harvest suppers or helping her good friend, Betty, with catering. She was always there to lend a helping hand or just sit and listen and offer her support. Linda enjoyed cooking, gardening, music, social gatherings and her beloved animals. The most important part of Linda’s life was spending time with her family and friends. Linda is survived by her best friend, soul mate and life partner, Gregory S. Harriman of Huntington, VT; daughters, Rolinda Ellen Goodrich and her fiancé, Alexander, Regina Evelyn Williams and her partner, James, all of Huntington, VT; mother, Lida Kenyon; sister, Janet and her husband, Donald Coffey, of E. Montpelie, VT; grandchildren, Samantha Lynn and her husband, John Roy, of So. Hero, VT; Meghan Sheree Goodrich and her fiancé, Shane Raymond, of Milton, VT; Cheyna Louise and Kolbi Rik-Emory Rocque, Nathan Robert, Jacob Mark, and Kathleen Elizabeth Williams, all of Huntington, VT; great-granddaughters, Skye Trinity Amore Raymond, Aiyana Kathleen, and Makaiya Elizabeth Roy; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and the following special people, Chuck Wein and his wife, Lindsey, Randy Williams, Terry Goodrich, Clayton Rocque, Craig Little, and Pam Bergeron. Linda was predeceased by her father, Hudson Carey; brother, Mark Carey; sister, Jennifer Blais; and her stepfather, Arden Kenyon. A service will be held January 7, 2012, at 11:00 AM at the Community Church of Huntington, VT, all are welcome to attend.



Charles J. Jacques, 66, Huntington, VT, passed uhjaway Tuesday December 20, 2011, in Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington after a brief illness. He was born September 9, 1945, in Burlington the son of Frederick and Agnes Zeno Jacques. Charles was avid hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman and made several hunting trips to Maine. He was a member of National Rifle Association. Charles was a self employed carpenter and worked in the area for many years. He went to Papa Nicks and had morning coffee with his friends. Also he enjoyed helping his good friend Leo with repairing his camp. Charles is survived by his sister Dorothy Little of Huntington, VT; two brothers Lawrence Jacques of Huntington, VT, Frederick Jacques of South Burlington, VT and their families. Funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his memory to a charity of your choice. Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol will be in charge of arrangements.



Howard Noyes Leighton, 79, of Underhill, VT, husband of Carolyn Lowe Leighton, died peacefully at his home December 23, 2011, surrounded by his loving family, after fighting a courageous battle with scleroderma. Howard, son of the late Howard M. (from whom he learned the value of hard work) and Ethel (Applebee) Leighton (from whom he got his love of literature and poetry), was born in Montrose, Md., where he attended a two-room elementary school and graduated from Richard Montgomery High School. Howard then went on to graduate from Bliss Electrical School, Takoma Park, Md., earned a BS in Electrical Engineering from George Washington University, and achieved his Master of Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Vermont. Howard began his career working for NSA repairing teletype machines, and then worked for Jansky & Bailey, a small R & D firm in Georgetown, D.C. In 1962, he began working for IBM’s Federal Systems Division in Maryland and Virginia. He was proficient in analog circuit design and his name appears on eight IBM patents, the first one being the modulator-demodulator circuit for IBM’s 4872 modem. Howard loved the quietness and tranquility of a mountainous, woodsy environment, and instilled that love in his family through vacations

and ornaments. A donation of \$5.00 is requested for each tree.

Thank you in advance for your support and helping us teach our young scouts about this form of renewable energy.

OBITUAARIES

to West Virginia. That love was made permanent in 1979, when Howard and Carolyn moved from Rockville, Md. to the foothills of Mt. Mansfield in Underhill, VT. He continued working for IBM in Essex Junction and retired in 1990. He returned for a time to work for IBM as a consultant writing invention disclosures. He briefly taught electronics for VTC, served eight years as a board member of Underhill Central School, and was a recent Director for the Vermont Electric Coop. Howard was an avid tennis player and played for many years, even teaching for a time at Smuggler’s Notch Resort. He was a devoted husband, and a wonderful father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and is fondly remembered for his great sense of humor and interjection of puns with scholarly wit. The ever adept handyman, his home projects are a memorial to his engineering acuity and a reminder that he embraced challenges with perseverance and dedication. His skills and helpful nature extended to his friends, neighbors and other family members. Howard is survived by his loving wife of nearly 60 years; son, Richard of Virginia and son, Lawrence of Underhil, VT; daughter, Karen Lestage and husband, Tom, and their children, William and Griffin, of Fairfax; and grandchildren, Shannon and husband, Duane, and their children, Brittany, Megan and Colby, of Maryland, Ryan of Virginia, Adam and wife, Katie, and their children, Mason and Leif, of Virginia, and Shayne Machova and husband, Frank, of Florida. He is also survived by his sisters, Alice Schmidt, Eleanor Cunningham and Jean Testerman, and their families, all of Maryland. The family would like to thank the VNA Hospice team for their attentive care of Howard. In keeping with Howard’s wishes, there will be no funeral, but a gathering of remembrance will be held at a later time to be announced. The family invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting www.awrichfuneralhomes.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Scleroderma Foundation www.scleroderma.org, 462 Boston Street, Suite 1-1, Topsfield, MA 01983-1239.

Leon C. Sweet, Melbourne, Fla. And Bolton, VT, 90, died on Thursday December 8, 2011, after a short illness at Carnegie Gardens Elder Care in Melbourne, Fla. He was born in Colchester, VT to Hobart and Martha “Rena” (Raymond) Sweet on September 15, 1921. Leon attended schools in Colchester. In his early years, Leon was a farmer, then he became a truck driver and this became his career. He drove for Marcel’s Express, Quinn’s, and finally Maislon, where he retired from. He was a proud member of the Teamsters and the Eagles. Leon is survived by his current wife, Dorothy M. Sweet of Melbourne, Fla.; sons, Russell and Joanne Sweet of Essex Junction, VT, and Ronald and Donna Sweet of Bolton,

VT; daughter, Robin and Craig Preavy of Milton, VT; brother, Robert and Carlene Sweet of Jeffersonville, VT; sister, Jean Menard of Burlington, VT; four stepsons, David and Anne Sweet of Arkansas, Wayne and Mae Sweet, Richard and Carol Sweet, and James and Sherri Sweet, all of Florida; grandchildren, Tammi, Stacy, Shawn, Wendy, Ronnie, Cory, and Kerri; and many great-grandchildren; great- great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Geraldine J. (Trayah) Sweet; his parents; brothers, Irwin and Roy Sweet; sister, Louella Zeno; and stepson, Larry Sweet. Russell, Ronald and Robin would like to give a very special thank you to Richard and Carol Sweet for what they did for our father. Visiting hours were held on Tuesday December 27, 2011, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the LaVigne Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 132 Main St. in Winooski. Graveside services were held at the Mountain View Cemetery in Essex Center. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to the American Heart Association, VT Affiliate, 434 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495, or to the charity of one’s choice. .

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CVAA offers Tai Chi classes for seniors in Westford

Tai Chi can improve balance, flexibility and muscle strength while relieving chronic pain in joints. In addition it may reduce anxiety and depression, improve sleep, lower blood pressure, improve cardiovascular fitness, increase energy, and provide an improved overall sense of well being.

CVAA is offering the Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi program at the Westford Public Library, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00 AM to 12:0 noon, January 18 to February 29, 2012. Classes are open to anyone age 50 and over. There is no charge for participating but donations are welcome. Call Cindy at CVAA 865-0360 x 1028 to register. Class size is limited so call early.

- Thursday January 5 - Bridge Street, Richmond, Check in 10:30 AM, Lunch 11:00 AM, Hot Hamburg with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots
- Friday January 6 - Hinesburg meal site, 11:30 AM.
- Monday January 9 - Covenant Church, Essex Ctr., 12:00 noon. Shepherd's Pie, French Style Green Beans, Marble Rye Bread, Fruit Filled Cookie
- Tuesday January 10 - Pizza Hut, Susie Wilson Road, Essex Jct., 10:30 AM check in, 11:00 a.m. lunch. All you can eat Pizza Buffet.
- Wednesday January 11 - Essex Grill, Essex Jct., 10:30 AM check in, 11:00 AM lunch. Hot Hamburg with Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables.
- Thursday January 12 - Holiday Inn, So. Burlington, 11:00 AM. check in, 11:30 AM. lunch. Turkey Dinner.
- Friday January 13 - United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon. Spaghetti & Meatballs, Italian Vegetables, Whole Wheat Roll, Chef's Surprise Dessert.
- Monday January 16 - Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday January 17 - Ponderosa, Williston, Check in 11:00 AM, Lunch at 11:15 AM. All you can eat Buffet.
- Wednesday January 18 - Dutch Mill, Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 10:30 AM check in, 11:00AM lunch. Baked Stuffed Chicken Dinner.
- Thursday January 19 - Pizza Putt, So. Burlington, Check in 10:30 AM, Lunch at 11:00 AM. Spaghetti & Meatballs.

RECIPE by Marian Tobin

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- ¼ cup soy bean flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup raisins (or dates)
- ¼ cup honey
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 tablespoons melted shortening
- 1 egg

Sift white flour, salt, baking powder and soy flour together add fruit and stir. Beat egg, honey, and milk together. Combine liquid and dry ingredients. Stir until blended; add melted shortening or salad oil.

(Do not beat.) Pour in greased muffin pans. Bake 350° oven 20 to 30 minutes. Makes 1 dozen.



Join the Mentoring Program at RES!

Richmond Elementary School is seeking adults interested in mentoring a child on school grounds every Thursday afternoon from 2:45-3:45 from January 2012 through May 2012. Training and



Browns River Middle School staff Noel Bumpas, Jackie Stoner, and Shelley Salzer wishing students a Happy New Year! PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Laura MacKenzie, reader of the Book Nook Project sponsored by IBM

CHITTENDEN EAST SUPERVISORY UNION #12

Position Opening

High School -

Director of Student Activities - Schoolspring Job # 63232

Mt.Mansfield Union High School is searching for a full time Director of Student Activities. Candidate should demonstrate ability to coordinate athletic, music, art, club and co-curricular activities. Applicants should have teaching and/or coaching experience. Masters degree and Administrative license preferred. Position starts July, 2012. Only completed, on-line applications at schoolspring.com will be accepted.

CESU -

Bookkeeper - Schoolspring Job # 63761

The Chittenden East Supervisory Union is looking for a hard working, organized and committed individual for a full-time position as Bookkeeper beginning February 1, 2012. Interested candidates must have an accounting background. Associates or Bachelors degree in Accounting highly preferred. Please apply on-line at Schoolspring.com.

Bus Drivers - Schoolspring Job # 56457

Full and part-time drivers needed. Experience preferred. CDL required, will train. Positive working conditions. \$700 bonus available for new drivers after completion of the first year. Please apply on-line at Schoolspring.com or call 434-2128 for an application.

Excellent benefits and a competitive compensation packet will be offered. Visit our website www.cesu.k12.vt.us for information about our schools. CESU is an EEO Employer.

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support are provided. Make a difference in a child's life in one hour per week!!

For more information, please contact Barbara Pawluk at 434-7972 or Barbara.pawluk@cesu.k12.vt.us

Open House at Copley Woodlands January 15

Staff and residents of Copley Woodlands invite you to attend their Open House on Sunday, January 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Tours of the facility will be available and residents will be on hand to talk about what life is like at Copley Woodlands. If you are thinking about making a move to an independent retirement community this is an excellent opportunity to see the spacious living, and variety of services and amenities that Copley Woodlands offers. Copley Woodlands is located at 125 Thomas Lane in Stowe. Refreshments will be served. More information is available on line at www.copleywoodlands.com.

“Everyone should live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer,” says Penny Davis, Manager of Copley Woodlands. “Our condos are designed to maximize independence plus we offer cultural and fitness activities, transportation, and a dining service in a setting that emphasizes the natural beauty of Stowe. We strive to provide worry-free service with safety and security, and pets are welcome.” Davis notes that residents have the option of purchasing or leasing.

Copley Woodlands consists of 40 condominium homes each with 1,100 square feet of living space. Each home features a combined living room/dining area, fully equipped galley style kitchen, master bedroom with bath, study/den with a full bath, walk-in closet and deck. The common area features a living room with a fireplace and a large meeting room for board games, cards, lectures and other activities. An onsite library, exercise room and storage facilities are also available to residents. Copley Woodlands is located within the village of Stowe, close to the Stowe Community Church, Stowe Town Offices, Library, Helen Day Art Center, shops and the Post Office.

Copley Woodlands is a partnership between Copley Health Systems and Fletcher-Allen Health Care. For more information visit www.copleywoodlands.com.

Copley one of Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in U.S.

Morrisville- Copley Hospital was recently named one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States in the first ever comprehensive rating of critical access hospitals.

The list was compiled by The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) using the Hospital Strength Index, an objective way of measuring 56 different performance metrics in three categories: market strength, value-based strength, and financial strength.

Only three Vermont hospitals, the others being North Country Hospital in Newport and Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, made the list. There are 1,327 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States, according to the Rural Assistance Center.

“Being recognized as one of the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the country is a testimonial to the patient-centered care Copley Hospital provides,” says Mel Patashnick, President of Copley Hospital. “This recognition honors the skill and dedication of our clinicians and employees as well as the guidance provided by our volunteer Board of Directors over the years.”

“Now is the time for us to advance the analytics and transparency of the rural health sector,” said Alan Morgan, chief executive officer of the National Rural Health Association. “We play such a critical role in providing needed care to Americans, yet our challenges are completely different in access while equally complex in delivery as urban hospitals.”

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and providing leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research.

The Hospital Strength Index™ incorporates 56 different measures of performance to help identify those hospitals that are best prepared for success under the new healthcare reforms. The Index includes a unique set of measures rating Market Strength, Value-based Strength (quality, outcomes, patient perspectives, and cost and charge indicators) and long term Financial Strength as key pillars for benchmarking and setting new goals under health reform.

A Critical Access Hospital (CAH) is a hospital certified to receive cost-based reimbursement from Medicare. This program is intended to reduce hospital closures in rural areas, promotes a process for improving rural health care, and focuses on community needs. CAHs must have a maximum of 25 acute care inpatient beds and provide 24-hour emergency services, with medical staff on-site. CAHs must be located in a rural area and be more than 35 miles from another hospital, or 15 miles from another hospital in mountainous terrain or areas with only secondary roads.

The complete list of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals is available at <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/top-100-critical-access-hospitals-named-130722698.html>.



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Deborah Rawson Library’s new calendar available for purchase.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regarding Morse appeals citation to remove display cases

To the Editor,

For the first time, the Mountain Gazette article describes the cases as an “accessory.” The citation reads “structure”. Morse contends that he does not need a permit.

I question the authority of the Development Review Board to legislate, make judgment calls, issue citations, threaten \$110 a day fine and the termination of permits. That is the function of the third branch of government, the Judiciary. Planning and Zoning has been developed way beyond the intent of zoning as defined by the Supreme Court. It is now collective public planning of other people’s private land, building, businesses, jobs and regulates the economy. These committees dictate hours of operation, issue non transferable conditional use business permits, regulate number of employees, meals that can be served, issue cease and desist orders on small businesses, require heat detectors, smoke detectors, direct links to the fire station, arches on garages among other things that are not defined in zoning. These new regulations change the intent of zoning, “from defining permitted uses” to a “prohibition of all uses not defined in zoning”. It allows the town through a hearing process to stop all commercial and industrial development. As a result Underhill is a bedroom community. The display cases existed prior to the adoption of the Unified Land Use and Development regulations, are not considered a structure just as metal storage sheds are not considered a structure, meets the set back requirements, should not have triggered a citation, are less than 100 square feet, and are on wheels and generate a significant amount of business for GMF.

I did not say I bought the cases from the state of Vermont. After an approval for use of the display cases at Interstate Rest Areas ... we built them at Green Mountain Foam Products. As a result of the closure of the rest areas, the cases remained in the yard for some time before being moved to the front of the parking lot.

Thomas J. Morse, owner
Green Mountain Foam Products
Underhill

Petition circulating for Jericho town tree

To the Editor,

An informal re-activated Jericho “Town Tree Committee” is currently seeking 385 registered legal voters’ signatures to petition the Selectboard of the Town of Jericho for a Resolution to appear as an Article in the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting on March 6, 2012 to see if the Town will vote to designate symbolically a Town Tree.

The Town Tree, an American Elm (*Ulmus Americana* L.), selected by the Committee to be so designated is located on the Robert and Elizabeth Strang property on Vt. Route 15, on the Jericho/Essex Town Line. This handsome Elm tree has miraculously survived the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease, the weather, ubiquitous road salt and the vicissitudes of VTrans to reach its current youthful majestic height.

The original “Town Tree Committee” members were Jessica Alexander, J. Brooks Buxton, Ann Squires and Prof. Hubert (Hub) Vogelmann, Emeritus Ret., and former Chairman, Botany Department, University of Vermont. Evergreen Erb and Tom Baribault have recently joined the group. The late Wilma Wisell Clark and Eleanor Schillhammer Merle were honorary members of the Committee.

Jericho citizens through the years have been proud and protective of their village and town road trees. For example, in the History of Jericho, Vol. I, 1916, pp. 324 – 326, “The Bennett Elm, is illustrated. Quoting further, “numberless elms about town adorn our highways and beautify the fields. These majestic trees.... suggest to all, the graces of character and symmetry of life...”

Interestingly Prof. Vogelmann resides on the former Bennett/ Goodhue farm on Schillhammer Road and both of our original honorary Committee members grew up on nearby farms and well remembered in their earlier conversations with Brooks Buxton “the Bennett Place, and, of course, the noted Bennett Elm tree.

The Strang family is supportive of this effort as are also the

Board of Directors of the Jericho Historical Society and the Jericho Corners Neighborhood Association. One of the Jericho Boy Scouts Troops is actively assisting in this Town Tree Petition project.

The Committee feels the designation of a symbolic Town Tree would be a unique historical and environmental gesture as the Town approaches its 250th anniversary celebrations in 2013. The Committee would also continue unofficially to monitor the health and the safety of this stately Elm Town tree from the possible concerns cited above.

Please contact Jessica Alexander (899 – 4936) and Brooks Buxton (434 – 8699) if you wish to sign the Town Tree Petition and/or for more information. The Committee hopes to obtain all 385 signatures necessary by January 31, 2012 and urges you to support.

J. Brooks Buxton
Jericho

Lamoille Union Middle and High School Vocal Program excels

To the Editor,

Last night at Lamoille Union High School, as the boys basketball team played in front of an enthusiastic crowd in the gym, I witnessed another display of excellence just down the hall in the auditorium; several displays of excellence, in fact. The Lamoille Union Middle and High School Vocal Program - a seasonal event that back in the day we called the “junior high and high school Christmas concert” - featured many outstanding individual and group performances. Every singer, director Jennifer Connolly, accompanist Patty Jacob, the production crew, and emcees Skylar Beddie and Michael Daley deserve credit for giving the audience a fast-paced, original night of singing entertainment.

I emphasize the word “original.” Who would think that in a mid-sized rural high school the unsuspecting listener would hear a breathtaking original composition by student Sarah Huff that conveys the story and spirit of Hannukah? And that the students could sing in both English and Hebrew with such feeling? “Impressed” and “moved” are overused words but certainly describe my reaction. The combined chorus also handled “Seasons of Love” from the musical “Rent” with skill and passion. And then, the finale, the Men’s Choir rendition of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” arranged by the choir founder and director, freshman (!) Arthur Schwab, and sung by him, Nathan Babcock, Keegan Farara, Joe Rocissano, CJ Wiltshire, and Thomas Meyer. Before singing the song’s melody, baritone Meyer graciously explained to the audience that Schwab is the new group’s musical and organizational leader. Dartmouth Aires and UVM Top Cats, keep your eyes on this one: Arthur Schwab not only organizes, arranges, and directs, he also sings a bright, masterful high tenor harmony, as evidenced by our hearty applause. So “rest ye” well over the break, merry gentlemen and ladies of Lamoille Union. Well done and well sung.

Guy Page
Cambridge, VT

Let us celebrate 2012 with actions

To the Editor,

Were you successful in 2011? Bushels of tomatoes, a return on your job or financial investments, increased business profits. For 2012, I wish you a wealth of family, friends, and good health.

Success often measures how much we are able to extract.

The new mantra is “Beneficial”!

In 2012, will you compost to build new rich soil, plant a tree, lend someone a helping hand or mentorship or heartfelt praise? Will you place sustainability in the forefront of your production and consumption decisions? Will you pick up littered trash while you walk, hike, or paddle?

In this New Year, what will you do to “Be a good neighbor to your fellow human beings and to our planet”?

Let us celebrate 2012 with actions that benefit the world we live in.

Happy Green and Clean New Year
Bernie Paquette

Visit my blog @ <http://www.litterwithastorytotell.blogspot.com/>

Mountain Gazette Publication & Deadline Dates 2012

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.

PUBLICATION DATE:
THURSDAY

January 5
January 19
February 2
February 16
March 1
March 15
April 5
April 19
May 3
May 17
June 7
June 21
July 5
July 19
August 2
August 16
September 6
September 20
October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15
December 6
December 20

DEADLINE DATE:
THURSDAY

December 29
January 12
January 26
February 9
February 23
March 6
March 22
April 12
April 26
May 10
May 24
June 14
June 28
July 12
July 26
August 9
August 30
September 13
September 27
October 11
October 25
November 8
November 21 – the day before Thanksgiving!
December 13

SPECIAL SECTIONS: Camping - January 19 • Bridal - February 2 • Home & Garden - March 15
• Senior Profiles - May 3 • Memorial Stories of Veterans- May - 17 • MMUHS Senior Photos - June 7
• LUHS Senior Photos - June 21 • Bridal - August 16 • Harvest Market - September 20
• Veterans Stories - November 1 • - Inspirational Stories - December 20

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS:

Northwestern Vermont Animal Resources Guide - Deadline April 1, 2012, Publication July 12 , 2012
Jericho Underhill Directory - Deadline July 25, 2012, Publication January 2013

For more information, please contact Brenda Boutin
Publisher of the Mountain Gazette

6558 VT RT 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

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